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Kansas Report to MPLA

October 19, 2006

Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

The President of the Kansas Library Association has appointed a Strategic Planning Committee to develop a plan to help guide that organization's development over the next few years. KLA has gone through a number of important changes recently and wants to continue that evolution in as positive and effective a manner as possible.

Patti Butcher is returning to Kansas as the Director of Statewide Resource Sharing at the State Library. She has recently held the position of State Librarian of South Carolina. Before leaving, she was an active member of MPLA, serving as the Kansas representative for a number of years as well as on the original Leadership Institute committee.

Author Rosemary Wells offered a program and book signing at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library on October 12. Wells' book *Bunny Cakes* is the featured title in the upcoming "Kansas Reads to Preschoolers" program sponsored by the State Library of Kansas. The goal of the project is for every child from birth to age five to have been read this title during National Children's Book Week, November 13-20, 2006. Governor Kathleen Sebelius is once again serving as honorary Chairperson for the event and kicked it off with a reading of *Bunny Cakes* at the Kansas Book Festival on September 29.

Downloadable video has been added to the "Audiobooks, Music and More" program. It joins the collection of digital audiobooks and music created through purchases made by participating libraries. Titles are loaned to anyone with a current Kansas Library Card. Additional information is available at <http://kansas.lib.overdrive.com>.

The first Kansas Book Festival was held in Wichita on September 29-30. It was very successful, drawing more than 4,000 attendees on the first day. The Festival also included the presentation of medals to the first recipients of the Kansas Notable Books award which included:

- Thomas Fox Averill, *Ordinary Genius*
- Eunice Boeve, *Maggie Rose and Sass*
- Michael J. Everhart, *Oceans of Kansas: A Natural History of the Western Interior Sea*
- Thomas Goodrich, *The Darkest Dawn: Lincoln, Booth, and the Great American Tragedy*
- Michael John Haddock, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide*
- L.D. Harkrader, *Airball: My Life in Briefs*
- Jane Kurtz, *In the Small, Small Night*
- Ande Parks, *Capote in Kansas: A Drawn Novel*
- Gordon Parks, *A Hungry Heart: A Memoir*
- Marcie Penner, *The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers*
- David S. Reynolds, *John Brown, Abolitionist*
- Steve Semken, *The Great Blues*
- Brad Sneed, *Deputy Harvey and the Ant Cow Caper*
- C. Hugh Snyder, *The Youngest Brother: On a Kansas Wheat Farm During the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression*
- Max Yoho, *The Moon Butter Route*

KCFB is also sponsoring a "One Book, One State" reading project for adults which will launch in January and feature *The Learning Tree* by the late Gordon Parks.

The State Library of Kansas and public libraries launched *HomeworkKansas*, an interactive online tutoring service for Kansas children in grades four through 12 and college intro students on September 6. The service can be accessed at www.homeworkkansas.org and is available for free to Kansas residents throughout the state.

With a grant provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, Kansas State University's Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy is conducting a series of four public forums to discuss the issue of freedom of information. The first two have already been held in Manhattan and Junction City while the remaining sessions will be in Colby and Kansas City.

The Kan-Ed program is in the process of awarding "enhanced meeting room" grants to public libraries for the addition of online conferencing equipment to their public meeting space. This equipment is said to be significantly better than the old polycom technology, including high-quality delivery of real-time action. As a result, the technology also requires a significant amount of bandwidth to operate successfully, including most of a T-1 connection.

Dr. Ann O'Neill, Dean of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University, resigned her position during the summer due to health-related issues. O'Neill will remain with the SLIM staff and serve as a faculty member. Dr. Robert Grover, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, has been appointed interim dean. Grover previously served as dean from 1981-1987 and 1998 – 2003.