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Kansas Report to MPLA

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Submitted by Susan Moyer, KLA Representative to MPLA

Representatives of the Kansas Library Association (KLA) have met to discuss and begin planning for the 2009 joint conference with MPLA to be held in Wichita on April 1-3. This includes meeting with staff from the Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau to talk about local and area options for things to see and do. Frontier Airlines has recently added service from Denver to Wichita, which should help some of those travelling from the MPLA region.

KLA has also recently implemented the association management system, Affiniscape. It includes the facility for conference management such as listing program schedules and online registration. It was used for the first time with the recently completed 2008 Kansas Library Conference.

The KLA Educational Foundation has received and issued payment of more than \$35,000 in donations from across the country to the Greensburg Library from the [KLA Educational Foundation Greensburg / Kiowa County Library Relief Fund](#). 95 % of the community of Greensburg, including the library, was destroyed by an EF5 tornado in May 2007.

The 2008 Kansas Library conference was held in Wichita on April 9-11. It was very successful and featured a change in format to conference tracks, such as K-12, Academic, Leadership & Administration, Technology, Programs & Services, etc. Highlights included The State Librarian's Luncheon - Hats off to Kansas Libraries, The KLA Educational Foundation Talent Show – The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of, and an appearance by Don McMillan – The Technically Funny Comedian.

The new State Library of Kansas Board held its first meeting on March 7. This 11-member board was created by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in response to legislation adopted in 2007 and represents a merger of sorts of the State Library Advisory Commission and the Kansas Library Network Board. Membership consists of seven professional librarians, a trustee of a public library, two representatives of the general public and one qualified member of the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs. Additionally, the board includes the Executive Officer of the Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, and the State Librarian as ex officio members. Members will serve four-year terms.

A new web site has been introduced as a joint project of the State Library of Kansas, Dykes Medical Library at the KU Medical Center, and the Kansas Health Policy Authority. *Kansas Health Online* [<http://kansashealthonline.org>] is designed to provide information on diseases, hospitals, insurance, medicines, local resources, etc. Included among the goals of the project are to make it easier for consumers to make informed decisions about health care, and to provide reliable, accurate health information from trustworthy organizations. The site includes tip sheets, checklists and interactive tutorials on a variety of topics. This and other content has been selected and developed by medical librarians to ensure relevance and reliability.

The Gates Foundation and the Public Library Association sponsored an advocacy workshop in Wichita for those libraries eligible to receive the Foundation's Opportunity Online hardware grants. Everyone received a copy of *Libraries Prosper with Passion, Purpose and Persuasion! A PLA Toolkit for Success* as part of their conference materials.

The Kansas Center for the Book has announced the winners of its 2008 Kansas Letters about Literature program. In it, students write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. From the 1,300 entries submitted the awards went to: Jamie Yearout of Stilwell for her letter to Ann M. Martin, Corinne Andresen, of Overland Park for her letter to Madeline L'Engle, and Ammarah Usmani of Wichita for her letter to Firoozeh Dumas.

Kimberly Patton, Young Adult Specialist for the Lawrence Public Library, has been recognized as the recipient of the first Librarian of the Month Award sponsored by Macmillan. Ms. Patton recently served as chair of the Teen Manual Committee at the Collaborative Summer Library Program, and is co-author of *A Year of Programming for Teens* (ALA Editions, 2006).

The Johnson County Library has been named the 2008 winner of the American Library Association's Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award for its Literature in the Justice System program. The program includes three components: *Read to Succeed*, a literature program for teens incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center; *Changing Lives through Literature*, an alternative sentencing program for teens and adults; and *Stories about Women*, an adaptation of *Read to Succeed* for women in the Johnson County Corrections Adult Residential Center.