

# WALA NEWS

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April 2009

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Editorial Production

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**Nan Myers at**  
[nan.myers@wichita.edu](mailto:nan.myers@wichita.edu)  
**phone: 316-978-5130.**

## From the President...

*Janet Fowler (jfowler@usd259.net)*

Spring has sprung (at least the calendar says it has) and the WALA Board and members have been busy!

The KLA/MPLA Conference was held in Wichita on April 1, 2 and 3. Many WALA members were involved in the local arrangements and volunteered their time to assist with making this conference a success! WALA had a display table promoting our organization. We provided a basket (many thanks to **Sharon Ailsiegar**) for the KLA Education Foundation raffle. On Friday, we had our "Dress-for-Success" Fashion Show that featured our members as the models. It was a lot of fun for everyone and the comments from the attendees were very positive. **Tom Taylor** with SCKLS hosted a bus tour of public libraries as a pre-conference activity on Monday, March 30. It was a great opportunity to visit the beautiful Andover, Haysville, WPL Alford Branch and McPherson Public Libraries. Overall I would say the conference was a big success thanks to a lot of hard work by many people. We really made our city shine!

The WALA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday,

June 11, 2009, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dugan Library and Campus Center at Newman University. Kansas author, **David A. Nichols**, *A Matter of Justice—Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*, will be



our guest speaker. Please invite your colleagues to join us at this luncheon. We will vote on the 2009-2010 WALA Officers at the meeting. We have one vacancy on the Board for 2009-2010. If you are interested in serving on the WALA Board, I encourage you to contact Sharon Ailsiegar, [sharon.ailsiegar@mcconneill.af.mil](mailto:sharon.ailsiegar@mcconneill.af.mil) or by phone at 759-4207. The June meeting is a good time to renew your membership and recruit new members. The membership fee is a bargain--\$15.00!

**The Book Buddy Program**, the WALA Community Service Project, has been implemented with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's



WALA President: **Janet Fowler**.

Department. Twenty-seven tote bags with books, along with tubs of extra books, have been delivered to Deputy **Travis Clinesmith** for placement in the Deputies cars across Sedgwick County. Many thanks to the Sedgwick County Department of Aging RSVP Volunteers for donating the materials and labor to provide us with the tote bags. Also, thanks to our partners who donated the books. The WALA Board will continue to work on sustaining and expanding this project.

As my year as WALA President is coming to a close, I want to thank everyone on the WALA Board and all of the WALA Members for their support, encouragement and hard work to make our organization a part of the library community of the Wichita area. I have made lifelong friends and connections serving on the WALA Board and look forward to assisting the new President next year.

Please contact me or any of the WALA Board Members if you have any questions, suggestions or news that we can share with other members. I hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting on June 11!

**Don't miss the WALA Annual Meeting & Luncheon on June 11th!  
See details in column above.**

# **WALA Fashion Show**



## Book Buddy

*Sharon Ailslieger*

WALA has undertaken a new project—Book Buddy. This long-term community project will be in partnership with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department.

WALA will be placing books appropriate for children, ages 2-18 in each Sheriff's patrol car. The purpose of the books will be to enable law enforcement officers to offer children something to read and hang onto while potentially volatile and traumatic situations are being resolved. The child's attention can be diverted to something more positive rather than the events taking place. The children will be allowed to keep the books and replacement books will be available.

Each officer will have a bag of books appropriate for children, ages 2-18. Thirty bags were made and donated by volunteers. Start-up books were given by



books filled with 8-10 books. Thirty bags were made and donated by volunteers through the Department of Aging. The Follett Publishing Company will be sought to assist with the continuing cost of the materials. The Wichita Police Department, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department and the unit for Missing & Exploited Children were initially contacted. At this time, the Wichita Police Department is the only entity not involved.



It seems very appropriate that the first books will be delivered during Library Week of 2009. For many of these children, this may be the first book they receive and with functional illiteracy seeming to be on the increase, WALA wants to be part of the solution.

## Treasurer's Report

### WICHITA AREA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Budget Report 2008-2009 Wednesday, April 15, 2009

INCOME	Budgeted	Actual
Dues (43 is the goal)	\$645.00	\$615.00
Planned activities	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
Contingency from bank funds	\$500.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,345.00</b>	<b>\$1,115.00</b>
EXPENSES	Budgeted	Actual
Planned activities	\$1,500.00	\$797.48
Miscellaneous expenses	\$845.00	\$233.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,345.00</b>	<b>\$1,030.48</b>
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$1,091.13</b>	
<b>Paid Members</b>		<b>41</b>

## Fowler and Hatfield Win KLA 2009 Presidential Awards

The Kansas Library Association has recently named four individuals as recipients of the Kansas Library Association Presidential Awards for 2009. The KLA Presidential Awards are given every year to individuals or institutions to recognize distinguished service to the Kansas library community and/or to librarianship.

The 2009 recipients are:

Library Advocate: **Vicki Tiarht**, Wichita, KS

Mrs. Tiarht, wife of U.S. Representative **Todd Tiahrt**, is actively involved in The Big Read – Wichita and is a passionate supporter of reading and children's literacy.

New Professional: **Eric Gustafson**, Library Technology Consultant, State Library of Kansas

Mr. Gustafson is noted in his work for providing the important human interaction for support of Kansas libraries' technological issues.

Meritorious Service: **Janet Fowler**, Supervisor of Library

Media Operations for Wichita Public Schools, USD 259. Ms. Fowler's dedication to library services spans her 30 years in the Wichita Public Schools. Among other activities, she has also been involved in connecting the Wichita Public Library and the public schools for The Big Read – Wichita.



Library Personnel:

**Jean Hatfield**, Alford Regional Library Branch Manager, Wichita Public Library



Ms. Hatfield is being recognized not only for her ongoing support of Spanish speakers and Hispanic literature on the state and national level, but also for her work with children's literature and the Trees for Life international charity based in Wichita.

The recipients were honored at the Kansas Library Association/

Mountain Plains Library Association Emerging Leaders Banquet in Wichita, KS, on Thursday evening, April 2, 2009.

## Clearwater public Library says "Goodbye" to Co-Directors

**Lee Steen** and **Sandy Wise** are retiring from the Clearwater Public Library at the end of May 2009.

Lee has been employed at the library since September 1989 and Sandy since February 1994. Sandy graduated from KPLACE in 1998. They took on the position of co-directors, as a job share in 1998.

*Sandy Wise*

## Seeking WALA Artifacts

Do you have artifacts from WALA years gone by? **Amy Ramsey** is looking for all newsletters, photographs, brochures, and any other artifacts that pertain to the Wichita Area Library Association so she may archive them. If you have any WALA items, please call or e-mail Amy Ramsey at 316-644-5811 or [amyrlramsey@yahoo.com](mailto:amyrlramsey@yahoo.com). She will gladly pick the items up.

*Amy Ramsey, Children's Center Section Manager, Wichita Public Library (316) 261-8594 [aramsey@wichita.gov](mailto:aramsey@wichita.gov)*

## Thank you, WALA volunteers

On behalf of the local arrangements committee I would like to thank all of the WALA members who helped make the KLA/MPLA conference a success. I think the attendees from the MPLA region were impressed with the friendliness and enthusiasm of the WALA members they met as they registered or attended sessions. Thank you to everyone who spent time at the registration booth, the ticket table, and helping with the programs. We could not have done it without your help.

*Jean Hatfield, Local Arrangements Chair*



Left to right: Amy Ramsey, Laura Loveless (President of KLA), Janet Fowler, Angela Paul.

*Photo Courtesy of Jean Hatfield*

## Soul of a People: Writing America's Story

Wichita State University Libraries has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce a series of five programs acquainting audiences with the Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, the largest cultural experiment in U.S. history. Grant partners are: ALA, Spark Media and Smithsonian Channel HD,

The programs will place the Writers' Project against the backdrop of the Great Depression and 1930s America, with particular emphasis on the project's work in Kansas. The programs will engage participants through discussion, documentary footage, music, film, literature, exhibits, and community celebration.

**Nan Myers**, Director of Public Services at WSU Libraries, is the project director. Four of the programs will be led by Dr. **Lorraine Madway**, Curator of Special Collections, who is the project scholar. Three of the programs will be held in Abilah Library at WSU, one will be hosted by the Wichita Public Library, and the final program will be hosted by the Wichita Sedgwick County Historical Museum. For more information, see <http://library.wichita.edu/soulofapeople/>

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m. - Wichita State University Libraries

"Celebrating America's Story: The Cultural Legacy of the Great Depression"

Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m. - Wichita State University Libraries

"Writing America's Story: The Federal and Kansas Writers' Projects"

Tuesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. - Wichita State University Libraries

"Telling America's Story: Oral Histories of the Great Depression"

Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. - Wichita Public Library

"One Writer's Stories: Discussing Selected Short Stories of John Cheever"

Sunday, June 28, 2-4 p.m. - Wichita Sedgwick County Historical Museum

"Finding the Sunny Side of the Street: Life in 1930s Wichita"



Nan Myers



### SCKLS 2010 Plan and Budget

The proposed 2010 South Central Kansas Library System (SCKLS) Tentative Budget of \$2,599,861 reflects a modest \$36,460 or 1.4% total increase in comparison to 2009 according to SCKLS Director **Paul Hawkins**. Main points of the proposed budget include the continuation of existing \$1,137,000 funding for all grant programs; an increase in the salary line item of 4%; contingency line item funding of \$44,000 for a new School Library Media Consultant position pending adequate 2010 funding; reduction of \$15,000 in contractual services and capital outlay line items; and anticipated reduction of 12.5% in state-aid and transfer of the proposed courier funding from the general fund to the state-aid fund. The 2010 SCKLS Plan and Budget also acknowledge the possibility of a 2010 budget increase that only qualifies SCKLS for state-aid and the necessity for later reductions and reallocations of 2010 General Fund line item amounts pending approval by the SCKLS Executive Committee.

"We recognize the importance of SCKLS grants and services to member libraries and are fortunate so far that we have not had to make any major reductions. Like many SCKLS member libraries, we want to be proactive in addressing any further potential reductions in funding," said Hawkins. (Cont.)

### Base Libraries

McConnell AFB Library is meeting the Air Force Throwdown Challenge!! All the libraries, within the command, will be riding stationary bikes installed in the libraries to see who can cycle the most miles and read at the same time. There will be trophies for 1) Most miles ridden, 2) Most pages read, 3) Most time on the bike and many others. Refreshments and library materials will be provided. The Air Force community can sign up as individuals and as teams and will continue throughout the whole week.

In addition to the Library Throwdown, McConnell AFB Library will have an Open House on April 14<sup>th</sup> which will include special programming, giveaways, and refreshments. April 16<sup>th</sup>, library staff will be involved in a luncheon for volunteers. The goal is to remind everyone libraries are a part of the solution to make things better! *Sharon Ailsleiger*

(Continued from left column) The plan and budget will be formally presented and recommended for approval to the SCKLS System Board at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27 at the Spiritual Life Center, 7100 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street North, Wichita.

*Tom Taylor*