FROM THE PRESIDENT

What value, as the school librarian, is placed upon you by your students, faculty, administrators, school board members, and parents? If you don’t really know the answer to that question, you may want to begin seriously thinking about it. The most recent information from DESE indicates that funding for all areas of education is being reduced. This means that school districts will have to operate with less money from the state. Less funding means superintendents and school boards will have to make some very difficult decisions. So, I ask again, what value is placed upon you as a school librarian?

When funding is less and the budget must be balanced, is a superintendent going to say, “I need to reduce staff so let’s cut a librarian; the library can be staffed with a volunteer or the library clerk”? Will the principal respond, “The librarian is essential; my students and staff depend upon the librarian for teaching them how to access information”? The tough questions are going to be asked. The difficult budget decisions are going to be made. Are you preparing for the answer?

Begin by asking yourself some basic questions. What am I doing each day that has a positive effect on student learning? Are teachers more effective because I have helped them design their lessons? Are administrators more knowledgeable about curriculum and instruction because I have shared an up-to-date article? Are the MOREnet databases being accessed because I provided instruction to the students and staff? Did I read the draft of the Information, Communications Technology, and Media Literacy Standards? And, what am I doing to help my district prepare to implement these new standards?

The principal of Bueker Middle School in Marshall, Missouri wrote an article about the school librarian, Beth Chase. Principal Lance Tobin said, “Mrs. Chase strives to make the LMC a place to explore and expand student and staff learning for the 21st century.” Not every principal is going to write an article praising the school librarian for a job well done. But every principal can advocate for your position if necessary. Give your superintendent reasons to conclude, “School librarians have a positive impact upon student achievement so I’m not eliminating any of those positions.” Give your students and faculty reasons to stand up for you. And above all, give yourself reasons to be able to say, “I make a difference; I am indispensable.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE TO COMMISSIONER NICASTRO

February 17, 2010

Commissioner Nicastro
Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioner Nicastro,

On behalf of the school librarians in Missouri, I would like to thank you for making it possible for this group of dedicated educators to be considered for the Missouri Teacher of the Year Program. School librarians are teachers, first. They often teach as many classes per day as all other teachers in their school. In the past, a school librarian who had been selected to represent the district as Teacher of the Year was not allowed to compete at the state level.

Thank you for recognizing the school librarian’s role as teacher.

Once again, I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend the Missouri Association of School Librarians Conference, April 18 – 20, 2010 at Tan-Tar-A. I understand your schedule is very busy and that this is an especially difficult time at DESE because of the economy. If you have any message that you would like to deliver to the school librarians in attendance, I would be happy to convey that on your behalf.

Thank you for the work you do for the students and educators of Missouri.

Sincerely,
Margaret Newbold, Ed.D.
Missouri Association of School Librarians
President, 2009-2010

AUTHORS MEET AND GREET

Twenty Missouri Authors will be joining us at the Spring Conference this year. Plan to attend the Missouri Wonders Author Meet-and-Greet on Sunday, April 18, 2010 from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Stay for MASL workshops with many of these authors throughout the conference. You will get the opportunity to spend time with these WONDERful Missouri Authors.

Jennifer Brown ~ John Brown ~ Elizabeth Bunce ~ J.B. Cheaney ~ Brent Crawford ~ Shane Evans ~ Vicki Grove ~ Cheryl Harness ~ Bonnie Hinman ~

Laura Hiltiska-Beith ~ Veda Jones ~ Brian Katcher ~ Kate Klise ~ Laura Manivong ~ Katie Speck ~ Barb Stuber ~ Jenny Whitehead ~ June Wood ~ Judy Young ~ Deborah Zemke

MASL is excited to announce the launch of Author’s Alley on the MASL Website. Visit recent releases of Missouri’s most popular authors and request a school visit from your favorite author. Visit the website to see Author’s Alley and register for Spring Conference.

WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM?

This brochure was created by the AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee in 2008 and is available for download, duplication, and distribution. It describes why intellectual freedom is important in a school library media program, the difference between selection and censorship, what to do before a challenge occurs, where to obtain assistance during a challenge, why schools filter and how it affects students intellectual freedom, and how the ALA Code of Ethics affects school library media specialists.

http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/assl_intellectual_freedom_brochure.pdf

The Missouri Association of School Librarians is a not-for-profit educational organization that is “devoted to the improvement of learning opportunities through access to and utilization of information.”

CONNECTIONS is an official publication of the Missouri Association of School Librarians.

Published four times a year, its purpose is to provide information about association activities.

Send articles to the CONNECTIONS editor:

Cheryl Skiles
cheryl.skiles@fhsdschools.org

Winter 2010
Volume 2 Number 3

CONNECTIONS
Contributions

Members are encouraged to send articles of interest pertaining to news, events and ideas for publication.

The deadline for submission of articles for the Spring Connections is May 1, 2010.

-From The Editor

Have you had a book challenge?
If so, contact: Marianne Cole Fues
Intellectual Freedom Chair
707 Kingsbury Place
Columbia, MO 65203
573/445-0344 (H)
573/659-3085 (W)
Marianne.fues@jcps.k12.mo.us
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE NEWS

Intellectual Freedom. What images come to mind upon hearing those two words? “Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.” Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q&A www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif.cfm

This is the time of year that ALA asks for a report from each state as to the challenges that have occurred in libraries during the previous year. It is a reminder that libraries need to have certain policies in place before a challenge occurs. A Materials Selection Policy should have procedures for reconsidering challenged materials. Once the policy is created, seek approval of the policy by the school board. Develop a policy requiring a challenger to read the full book (or other material format) and complete a written form. Sample policies are available from the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom web site, state school board associations, and other school districts.

It is essential that school district personnel from school librarians to superintendents to board members follow the district policy. If a challenge occurs, one must review the district Materials Selection Policy and the procedure for reconsideration of materials.

Assistance is available from the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF). The OIF will help anyone who calls and does not ask if the caller is a member of ALA. All challenges reported are kept confidential. Libraries are never specifically identified in any public report. It is essential that this is understood by those who have challenges.

Additional support and guidance can be obtained from school and public library colleagues. Information is also available from the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Council of Teachers of English.

At ALA Annual in Washington D.C. in June, the AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee is sponsoring a session on self censorship. It will feature a panel of librarians from various libraries around the country. The ALA Code of Ethics embodies eight principles among which guide school librarians to: resist all efforts to censor library resources; distinguish between personal convictions and professional duties; not allow personal beliefs to interfere with provision of access to information resources.


Marianne Fues
AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee
MASL Intellectual Freedom Chair

EPISTOLON BETA NEWS

Calling all high school librarians who have a library club or a book club. You might be interested in Epsilon Beta. We will be having our Convention in Cape Girardeau on March 28-29, 2010. Cost to the kids includes their share of a hotel room, plus $35 convention fees.

We have our business meeting, at which we elect the officers for the following year, seniors can compete for scholarship money, each school can compete with a Quiz Bowl team, a scrapbook and new this year, students can compete in giving book talks.

We start on a Sunday afternoon - do some mixers, the Quiz Bowl, supper, then usually a physical activity. On the Monday, we have breakfast at the hotel, we tour a university and usually something else educational, have lunch together, have our business meeting, present awards and install our new officers.

If you’re interested in receiving more information, please contact Georganna Krumlinde, MASL Liaison to Epsilon Beta. (Krumling@troy.k12.mo.us) A mailing was sent in January with all the convention information, but will only to those librarians who requested information.

Convention Itinerary
3:00 Sunday until about 3:00 Monday.
Convention cost - $35.00 per person
Hotel - $82.00 per night, and up to 4 students can share a room.
Tour SEMO.
Take a guided tour of Cape Girardeau.
Meet other high school library club members from around the state.
Participate in the state business meeting.

Run for state office.
Quiz Bowl competition
Scholarship competition
Book talk competition
Scrapbook competition

Submitted by Georganna Krumlinde
ALAN MID WINTER, BOSTON—JANUARY 2010

Submitted by:
Marianne Fues
MASL Affiliate Assembly Delegate

AASL Affiliate Assembly meets twice during ALA Mid Winter Conference. This year, the first meeting involved discussion of current issues relevant to school libraries. The Affiliate Assembly Roundtable discussion evolved around problems encountered by school library media centers in differing environments. Roundtable discussion groups included urban, rural, suburban, large schools (1500 or more) and small schools (300 or fewer). Unique problems due to the setting or size of school were discussed as well as the most significant issue for the setting. Each group considered whether the issues were relevant to all school libraries and how the issue might be resolved.

During the second meeting of the Affiliate Assembly, information from AASL is shared. Agenda items include the AASL President’s report on action resulting from Concerns and Commendations as forwarded to the AASL Executive Committee from state region groups. Cassandra Barnett, AASL President, reported that a concern which focuses on pre-education has resulted in an AASL Educator Pre-service Task Force being appointed. It will focus on providing resources that may be used in talking to classes and educators. The concern originally came from our Missouri funny.

Ms. Barnett announced that the AASL Executive Council had voted at Midwinter to officially adopt the title school librarian for the profession. Since a recent AASL survey indicated confusion about various job titles, the Affiliate Assembly had requested that the AASL Board of Directors select a title that is clear. Read the article at http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2010/january2010/adopt_aasl.cfm

Ms. Barnett also announced that it is not clear right now where the Skills Act and No Child Left Behind legislation are going. There is new legislation; the Skills Act is not going away but it will be updated. It is not so important as to what the act is called; the point is to have a school librarian at each school.

Helen Soule from The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) updated the Assembly on this vision for education. It brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education. Julie Walker, AASL Executive Director and now Vice Chair of this Partnership, has served on the board of this initiative since its inception. This visionary framework “serve[s] as a catalyst to position 21st century skills at the center of US K-12 education by building collaborative partnerships among education, business, community and government leaders.” There are now 15 states on board with this initiative. Ms. Soule reported that Missouri is on the list of “we are working in this state to become a partner”. It is essential that school librarians become involved and sit at the table in every state as this initiative goes forth. P21 promotes information literacy, media literacy, thinking skills, problem solving, collaboration skills – all of the tools that we know students require for life skills to be successful and that we work with everyday as we teach students. Go to http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php

Dates for your calendar include Learning4Life [L4L] Webinars which will be offered every Wednesday evening in April by AASL to help celebrate School Library Media Month. Check the AASL web site: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/slmm/schoollibrary.cfm

ALA/AASL elections open on March 16. Sarah Kelly Johns, a former AASL President, is running for President of ALA. It is essential that school librarians VOTE!


AASL Fall Forum will be in Portland on November 5-6.

MASL EMERGING LEADERS

Submitted by:
Ashley Robertson
Bernie R-13 School District

I did not dare to dream that I would be chosen as a MASL Emerging Leader. When I received the news, I was both humbled and exhilarated.

During the ALA Midwinter meeting in Boston, I was able to meet other Emerging Leaders from across the United States. Many professionals spoke to our group outlining what good leadership is and about the qualities of good leaders. During the day we were divided into project groups. The group I am in has the task to organize a job shadowing program for YASL. This program will give young adults the opportunity to become familiar with the role of a librarian and also the daily workings of the library itself. Our group findings will be presented during the ALA meeting in June 2010 at Washington, D.C.

If you would like to learn more about the Emerging Leader program, please join me during my presentation at the MASL Spring Conference. Again, I would like to thank MASL for the sponsorship of me in this exciting program.
Assistant principal Chris Gray, from Troy Buchanan High School brought the information to my attention. He and I have both registered and are sharing the books we've read. One of the books on the list you are already familiar with is *Three Cups of Tea*. The one I am currently reading is *Blue Highways*. I recently finished a book of poetry entitled; *Some Haystacks Don’t Even Have Any Needle*. The list encompasses books that will appeal to everyone.

Let me know if you decide to get involved. Maybe we could have a forum on our new website to make suggestions of books to read next. You can contact me at Krumling@troy.k12.mo.us.

As our president, Maggie Newbold, would say, “Improve your mind – read.”

Happy Reading from MASL treasurer, Georganna Krumlinde

WEBJUNCTION MISSOURI

The State Library is pleased to introduce a new education and training portal for Missouri library staff, trustees and volunteers. This new portal, at mo.webjunction.org, is built to work in conjunction with the State Library’s official Web site and enhance the online resources already available for libraries at the national WebJunction.org site. WebJunction Missouri allows you to connect with your library peers, take mini-courses to update skills and keep up with Missouri library news – all at one central online location.

Our site’s main page includes a Missouri Library News discussion list. Libraries are invited to share their news and photos via the Missouri Library News Thread. This discussion list is a good place to post information about groundbreaking, new buildings and renovations; new library directors; election results; major donations and grants; or new services offered by your library. Several other areas of the site, such as youth services, adult services, grants, library management, technology tips, training resources and Missouri Digital Heritage among others, also host discussion lists.

Identify your areas of interest, connect with your peers and get the conversations started!

Missouri Courses offers over 100 online trainings available at a discount. Course topics cover multiple aspects of library service, including but not limited to, managing technology, software applications, services to various library customer groups, management and planning. Most courses are self-paced, which provide staff and trustees the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skill level at their convenience. Please review the course use policies posted at Missouri Course Policy.

Missouri Courses also includes a new CE Calendar listing the offerings of the State Library, MLNC, MOREnet and other training providers in Missouri, with links for registering for the selected events.

Anyone can view information available on WebJunction Missouri, but you must establish your affiliation as a Missouri member within 1-2 business days and a confirmation e-mail sent.

To join:

- Go to WebJunction Missouri and create an account. You will create a profile that includes the name of the library for which you work.
- On the ‘Affiliations’ tab in your profile, check the box to join ‘Missouri.’
- Your request will be processed to verify your eligibility as a Missouri member within 1-2 business days and a confirmation e-mail sent.
- To locate the Missouri Youth Services pages, the link is mo.webjunction.org; Missouri Central; Library Services; Youth Services.

State Library staff is eager to use our new online venue to engage with Missouri’s library community. Watch for more information on developments in WebJunction Missouri throughout the coming months. Your suggestions for expanding and improving this new means of learning, sharing ideas, and improving library services are welcome and encouraged.

Contact Marge Kudrna at 800-325-0131 ext. 17 for assistance or with comments.
THE SHOW ME NOMINEES CAN OPEN UP CAREER OPTIONS? NO WAY!

Submitted by Teresa Young

In the Middle School world, learning about careers is a major topic. Students research options and usually do not settle on one career. When a reading teacher asked to collaborate with me on this topic, I asked if I could share a picture book that reveals the “graying of the profession” in the library world. Using THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED BY LIBRARIANS, I read aloud to a small group of eighth graders. Throughout the story, the author portrays librarians as kind, positive and caring people who go out of their way to serve the patron. The author uses the phrasing like, “Librarians can’t help it; they are just like that.” As the reader and a librarian, I could not help but put a little emotion into each page.

After about the third time the author used that same phrasing describing librarians as being so helpful, one of my eighth grade students just could not stand it anymore and announced to all, “That is not true! Librarians really do not care and just treat me rudely.” Of course I stopped the reading due to the outburst and then clutched my heart in true pain. Did I think this student would make good use of the resources available in a library throughout his lifetime? Obviously, he was hurt by others repeatedly and could not even name one librarian that had a hint of compassion. I told him I was sorry to hear that was his experience in the past but perhaps he would have the opportunity one day to meet a librarian who really was interested in where his interests lie. Thankfully, he listened to the entire story to see the gray headed librarians at the end. When I explained how librarians are growing older and need “new blood” trained and ready for the job openings in the future. This student actually mumbled, “I never even thought about being a librarian.”

The next week during our Scholastic book fair, that same student pointed out a small, paperback basketball hero book that I should consider purchasing for the library. Well, I could not help it; I just had to surprise him and purchased the book for him! Inside the book, I wrote a short note explaining that books can take him anywhere! He stood in shock when I told him to add this book to his own library, either in his trapper, locker or even under his bed. He proudly walked away and sat down to read it. When class was over, he came back over to the counter to verify if he could keep the book. I do not think anyone ever gave him a book.

Then I started thinking, this Show Me nominee not only presented being a librarian as a career option but it also served as a reminder to me that my students are watching every interaction, the tone of voice, the mannerisms and behaviors I display. I am as visible as the books.

How do you make each patron feel when they come into the library? Do your students know that the library is a safe and warm place where they can meet their needs? Remember to stop your work on the computer and smile when talking to students because kindness really does count. You are making an impact on each person who comes into your library. Let’s aim to be positive, like the librarians illustrated in THE BOY WHO WAS RAISED BY LIBRARIANS.

SHOW ME READER AWARD NOMINEES 2010-11

The nominees for the 2010-11 Show Me Readers Award were announced recently. The titles on this year’s list are:

Breen, Steve. Violet the Pilot.
Crisp, Marty. Titanicat.
DiPucchio, Kelly. Grace for President.
Jeffers, Susan. My Chincoteague Pony.
Kerby, Mona. Owney the Mail Pouch Pooch.

Larson, Kirby & Mary Nethery. Two Bobbyes, a True Story.
Nelson, Denise Brennan. Willow.
Nielsen, Laura. Mrs. Muddle’s Holidays.
Polacco, Patricia. For the Love of Autumn.
Young, Judy. Lucky Star.
MARK TWAIN AWARD NOMINEES 2010-11

Twelve books have been selected to compete for the Mark Twain Award during the 2010-11 school year. They are:

Avi. *Seer of Shadows.*
Duey, Kathleen. *Margret and Flynn.*
Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found.*
Hobbs, Will. *Go Big or Go Home.*
Kehret, Peg. *Stolen Children.*
Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. *School Spirit.*
Lupica, Mike. *Safe at Home.*
Mills, Claudia. *The Totally Made Up Civil War Diary of Amanda MacLeish.*
Nelson, N.A. *Bringing the Boy Home.*
Nuzum, K.A. *The Leanin’ Dog.*

Students need to read at least four of the twelve books to become eligible voters.

TRUMAN AWARD NOMINEES 2010-11

The twelve books on the new Truman Award Nominee list are:

Anderson, Laurie. *Chains.*
Bodeen, Stephanie. *Compound.*
Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games.*
DeKeyser, Stacy. *Jump the Cracks.*
Goodman, Allegra. *Other Side of the Island.*
Grant, Michael. *Gone.*
Kogler, Jennifer. *Otherworldlies.*
Mackel, Kathryn. *Boost.*
Meehl, Brian. *Suck it Up.*
Pearson, Mary. *Adoration of Jenna Fox.*

GATEWAY AWARD NOMINEES 2010-11

Twelve books are in the running for the Gateway Award during the 2010-11 school year. They are:

Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound.*
Bradbury, Jennifer. *Shift.*
Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling.*
Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games.*
Dessen, Sarah. *Lock & Key.*

Katcher, Brian. *Playing with Matches.*
Lockhart, E. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks.*
McMann, Lisa. *Wake.*
Rhodes-Courter, Ashley. *Three Little Words.*
Scott, Elizabeth. *Stealing Heaven.*
Yoo, Paula. *Good Enough.*
Zarr, Sara. *Sweethearts.*

FIRST STEPS WITH STUDENT READER/SELECTORS

Submitted by:
Mary Jane Stiens
Horace Mann Lab School

The 2009/2010 school year was my first time to invite students to be student reader/selectors for the MASL reading award programs. I talked individually with several students who were avid readers in the spring of 2009, explained the process, offered to assist in locating the books, gave them copies of the reader selector letter, and told them to discuss it with their parents. I had 5 students who were interested enough to send off the forms and received replies to participate. Would they be up to the challenge of reading 25 books in a little less than four months?

A fourth level girl, a fifth level girl, and a sixth level boy were my reader/selectors for the Mark Twain program. The two girls started promptly, located a few books on their own at the local city library and purchased some paperbacks from the closest bookstore located about fifty minutes from our school. Remember—I’d offered to help locate the books. How difficult could it be? I was able to locate 7 books from local city and school libraries, but the remaining 18 had to be loaned through the nearby university library via the statewide Mobius system or Interlibrary loan. I broke the cardinal rule of “Don’t let anyone borrow a book that’s checked out in your name.” Things went smoothly for the most part, but with 3 people sharing the same books that were officially checked out in my name, I found the importance of keeping a list of who had what book, when they received it, which library it came from, when it was due, and which students still needed to read it. Would I get stuck with major fines and charges if book/s were overdue or—even worse—turned up missing?

A couple books had to be reordered a second time, but things went better than expected. I had to personally pick up the books since I’d requested the books, and the students didn’t have privileges at the university library. I soon got into the habit of a 10 to 15 minute walk 2 or 3 times a week for most of Sept., Oct., and Nov. to pick up or return books. Both girls would visit the school library frequently to return a finished book and/or check to see if I had another one available. I’d given up on the 6th level boy. He’d better show more interest if he hoped to finish all 25 books by December 1! He’d read several of the books I’d given him, but he kept forgetting to return them, and NEVER came to check with me. In early October I discovered that his parents had been finding many of the titles for him, so he’d read about as many books as the girls. All of a sudden a network evolved with the 3 students communicating among themselves and all 3 sets of parents and I started communicating via email and in the halls. Classmates became aware of all the books these 3 students were reading and became curious and tempted; some asked/begged to read this or that book before it was returned. A couple students expressed interest in the program, and asked to be reader/selectors next year. WOW!

We had one close call as the Dec. 1 deadline neared. All needed books had arrived on time for students to take home on Thanksgiving vacation, but 2 students needed to read the same title. However, both students were traveling over the holiday. Luckily an area school loaned us a second copy of the needed title; both students were able to take and read it over their Thanksgiving travels. I’m proud to say that all 3 students finished reading the 25 books and sent off their rating sheets by the Dec. 1 deadline.

Problems developed with the Truman and Show Me Reader/Selector students. The 7th level student completed some of the Truman nominee books, but did NOT want to read the “girl” books so decided to not continue. I made a wrong judgment call on the third level student who was to be a reader/selector for the Show Me Program. He was an avid reader who over the summer started reading books for 4th/5th level and was NOT interested in reading picture books. He’d have made an ideal reader/selector for the Mark Twain Reading Program.

Would I recommend that you try encouraging your students to be reader/selectors? Yes, if you feel confident in having a source for locating the twenty five books. This might prove to be quite the challenge for a rural or isolated school. I recommend these guidelines: talk to your avid readers in the spring months to gauge interest, make sure they will read books that have just a girl or boy main character, provide the forms but have them be responsible for mailing them in, stress the importance to start reading as soon as possible after the nominee list arrives and plan to read 6 or 7 books per month, keep brief notes on each book to help with rating the books, and communicate with other classmate reader/selectors and the librarian.

Will our school do this again another year? Yes, without a doubt. Being a reader/selector was a rewarding experience for the 3 students completing the process. An additional bonus was the interest from classmates in the reading award programs. Many classmates were inspired to read books from the current nominee list. Two or three students have offered to be reader/selectors for next year. I enjoyed the relationships that developed with the participating students and their parents. We all appreciated the efforts made in this team effort.
The Missouri Library Association (MLA) is the professional association that attracts most public and academic librarians. This “sister” organization has been a good friend to the Missouri Association of School Librarians, sponsoring the Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award, the early childhood complement to our own Readers Awards. They welcome MASL members to attend their conference each fall at the MLA member rate, and they have provided excellent professional development for their members who partner with school librarians across the state in many different ways.

As of January 1, 2010, because of budgetary constraints, MLA became an all-volunteer organization. This means that a professional manager no longer supports the work of MLA, but members have taken on all duties for running their association. Nancee Dahms-Stinson of the Springfield-Greene County Library District is the new MLA liaison to the MASL Board of Directors.

I recently met with Karen Hicklin to discuss how MASL might support the work of MLA members. She is chair of the MLA Transition Taskforce (their work is available for review at http://mlataskforce.wordpress.com/). Karen’s thoughts went immediately to the needs of members throughout the state for ongoing professional development. She recommends that MASL members invite their public and academic librarians and staff to professional development activities throughout the year. More specifically, the MASL Board of Directors encourages Region Presidents to invite area librarians to Region meetings and professional development training opportunities across the state. Remember these library partners when planning social and school events as well. We invite MLA members to attend at the MASL member rate the 41st Annual Conference of the Missouri Association of School Librarians, Missouri Wonders, April 18-20, 2010. If we work together, we can help ease the transition of our important library partners in MLA as they move toward a stronger professional association.

Patricia Antrim
1st Vice President, MASL

The Missouri Library Association has announced the nominees for the 2010 Building Block Award. Voting runs from September 1 through December 31, 2010. The ten titles on the list are:

Adams, Diane. I Can Do It Myself!
Braeuner, Shellie. The Great Dog Wash.
Darbyshire, Kristen. Put It on the List!
Diesen, Deborah. The Pout-Pout Fish.
Rash, Andy. Are You a Horse?
Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. Duck! Rabbit!
Spinelli, Eileen. Princess Pig.
Thomas, Jan. Can You Make a Scary Face?
Thomas, Jan. Rhyming Dust Bunnies.

The St. Louis Suburban Librarians Association will hold its spring meeting on Wednesday, March 31st. The meeting will take place at 4:30pm at Rockwood Summit High School. The program for the meeting will consist of two presentations, which are listed below.

National Board Certification
Joan Rigby, LMS at Francis Howell Central High School, will present an overview of the National Board Certification process and how we as librarians can become Nationally Board Certified. The presentation will follow with a question and answer session.

Collaborating with teachers to integrate historical fiction into the social studies curriculum.

As librarians, we know there’s a lot of great YA historical fiction that is perfect for supporting the study of U.S. history. But how do we get students and teachers interested in these novels? Margaret Sullivan, LMS at Rockwood Summit High School, will present overviews of two units she has created with her social studies teachers that incorporate historical fiction into the social studies curriculum.

Please join us for an evening of learning, sharing, collaboration, and camaraderie.

Mindy Siefert
V.P. of St. Louis Suburban Librarians
Get your 2010 MASL Spring Conference off to a great start!

Pre-conference workshops will be held Sunday, April 18th, from 9 a.m. to noon. Choose from the following fabulous offerings:

“Working with Spanish-speaking Students in the School Library Media Center” presented by Denise Adkins, Associate Professor, SISLT. This interactive workshop will cover some basics of working with English Language Learners (ELLs) and a brief overview of basic library Spanish.

“Can This Book Be Fixed?” presented by Karen Rumker, Librarian and Technology Coordinator at Logan-Rogersville Primary School. This practical, hands-on workshop is where you will learn and practice basic book repair. Be sure to bring along a couple books that need some TLC. Each participant will leave the workshop with a free book repair kit that’s been graciously donated by Follett.

“Using Children’s Books to Discover Nature and Conservation” presented by Elaine Callaway and Carol Mahan, Conservation Education Consultants from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Learn ways to enhance the use of conservation and nature-related trade books as teaching tools and concept builders.

The cost for each workshop is $50 and has limited space available.

Register at: info@maslonline.org

Graduate Credit Available from Lindenwood University

Lindenwood University is offering one graduate credit for the pre-conference workshops and an additional graduate credit hour for conference attendees. The cost is $60 for each graduate credit. All necessary paperwork can be completed at the Lindenwood table located near the registration table. Contact Shannon Vines at (636) 949-4612 if you have any questions.

20+ MISSOURI WONDERful Authors plan to attend our afternoon ‘Missouri Authors Meet and Greet.’ Stop by to talk with authors about their works.

July in April Summer Picnic

Celebrate our MISSOURI WONDERful School Librarians Sunday evening! Join us for a summer picnic and enjoy a MISSOURI WONDERful barbecue buffet. Show off your school pride: wear your school t-shirt and jeans.

Keynote Speaker - Allison Zmuda

Presentation of MASL Awards

Explore Missouri Wonders

Join our vendors in the Exhibition Hall of Wonders for a fun time as you explore the MISSOURI WONDERful products and services they have to offer. Shop in the MASL Store and win vendor prizes.

Register Now!

Go to the MASL website to register. Sign up to volunteer while you are there. LOTS of MISSOURI WONDERful volunteers make our conference run smoothly.

We’ll see you April 18-20, 2010, for our ‘Missouri Wonders’ celebration.

Make Plans to Attend
Spring Conference 2010
April 18-20

If you are attending Spring Conference, don’t forget to read Playing with Matches by Missouri author and school librarian, Brian Katcher.

In July, the MASL Board of Directors implemented a MASL One Read program. It gives librarians who might be attending Spring Conference as the only representative from their school district a comfortable way to start a conversation at meals.

The book was also selected as a Gateway Award Nominee for 2010-11.
NEW LIBRARIAN WORKSHOP STRAND

Are you new to the school library profession? Do you have lots of questions?
We have answers!
Take advantage of the New Librarians Workshop Strand provided at your MASL Spring Conference. Seasoned professionals present these workshops tailored to the new members of the school library community.
- Librarianship 101
- Information, Communications Technology, and Media Literacy...the new GLEs and CLEs
- Update from DESE
- Benefits, Privileges & Choices of Copyright
- ‘Disturbing Stuff’ Book Challenges & Censorship in School Libraries
- Library Media Specialist Education in Missouri-Programs and Possibilities
- What’s New with MOREnet’s Online Resources
- Personal Information Networks: Why You Need One & How to go About Creating One
- Readers Award Workshop for Your Grade Level
- MASL & You

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS RAFFLE

Attention all Members and Regions!
You are invited to participate in the Dollars for Scholars BASKET RAFFLE! For the past nine years, generous librarians have donated baskets of items for our raffle. We have had Christmas baskets, wagons with beach items, library themed baskets with throws, sample wine or coffee baskets, coolers with picnic items, Peter Rabbit baskets, St. Louis themes, KC themes, Award book baskets, baskets for boys, baskets for girls, and basket for teens. As you can see, it doesn’t have to be a basket—just use your imagination!

Last year 24 baskets were donated and those baskets raised just under $5,000 ($4832.00). Raffle tickets are sold for $1 each, or 6 for $5. All money raised goes into the MASL Scholarship Fund, which in turn is awarded to MASL members to assist with educational needs.

If you, your district, or your region plan to participate in the Basket Raffle, please contact me—so I can

REGION GET-TOGETHERS AT CONFERENCE

The Spring Conference Committee has set aside time on Monday evening of conference from 8:30 - 9:30 for region meetings. We are planning on using the ‘60’s’ meeting rooms for those regions that wish to get together. If we need more rooms we will use the ‘70’s’. This is a good time for regions to meet possible new members and encourage them to join the region.

Contact Linda Weatherspoon (lweather@catnet.gen.mo.us), conference co-chair, if your region wishes to take advantage of meeting time and a room will be scheduled for your group.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 20, 2010
Spring Conference Committee Meeting
Time: TBD

Epsilon Beta Convention
Sunday, March 28, 2010 thru Monday, March 29, 2010
Location: Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Time: 3 p.m. on Sunday – 3 p.m. on Monday

Sunday, April 11 thru Saturday, April 17, 2010
National Library Week

Saturday, April 17, 2010
Spring Conference Committee Meeting
Location: Osage Beach, Missouri
Time: TBD

Executive Council & Board of Directors Meeting
Location: Osage Beach, Missouri

Sunday, April 18, 2010
2010 Spring Conference Exhibitor Registration
2010 Pre-Spring Conference Registration

Sunday, April 18 thru Tuesday, April 20, 2010
MASL Spring Conference
Location: Osage Beach, Missouri

Monday, April 19, 2010
2010 Spring Conference Dollars for Scholars

Saturday, June 05, 2010
Executive Council Meeting

Thursday, June 24 thru Wednesday, June 30, 2010
American Library Association National Conference

DESE LIBRARY MEDIA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Library Media Centers
205 Jefferson St., P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Phone: (573) 526-4219 • Fax: (573) 526-0651
Web site: http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/lmc

Save the date

Spring Conference 2011
April 17-19
Theme: Focus on the Future