



## Chappell Public Library and Art Gallery



**Members of the Chappell family from Washington DC visit with Chappell residents on Aug. 20th. The Art Collection was donated to the library by Orianna Chappell beginning in 1936. The Art Galleries' impressive collection includes art works from all over the world including local artist Aaron Pyle and the works of world renown Dutch artist "Rembrandt" Harmenszoon van Rijn (1609-1669). His works are pictured below. Also the basement of the Library holds an extensive mineral, rock and fossil collection.**







Yours,  
Willa Cather

## WATCH NET TELEVISION PREMIERE

**Monday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m. CT**

Inspired by *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather*, this 30-minute documentary introduces Willa Cather, the person. Well known for her unforgettable novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including "My Antonia" and "O Pioneers!," Cather's funny, vulnerable and sometimes ruthless side is revealed in letters that survived, hidden away in drawers, trunks and archives. The 30-minute documentary features 11 letters, mostly from her friendships with a select group of women.

**LISTEN ON NET RADIO Saturdays at 9:35 a.m. CT**

**(Sept. 19 and 26) and Sundays at 4:35 p.m. CT (Sept. , 20 and 27)**

**Alliance 91.1 FM Bassett 90.3 FM Chadron 91.9 FM Columbus 89.7 FM Culbertson 92.7  
Fall City 88.9 Harrison 89.5 Hastings 89.1 FM Grand Island 89.1 FM Lexington 88.7 FM Lincoln 91.1 FM Max 93.3  
FM Merriman 91.5 FM Norfolk 89.3 FM North Platte 91.7 FM**



Nebraska's  PBS & NPR stations



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



HUMANITIES NEBRASKA

## Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians Schedule 2015

| <u>Dates of Class</u> | <u>Title</u>                           | <u>Registration dates</u> |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 9/28 - 10/9           | The Community and the Library *        | 8/21 - 9/18               |
| 10/19 - 10/30         | Management and Supervision             | 9/11 - 10/9               |
| 11/2 - 11/13          | Leadership                             | 9/25 - 10/23              |
| 11/30 - 12/11         | Library Services to Children and Youth | 10/23 11/20               |

## 2016

| <u>Dates of Class</u> | <u>Title</u>                     | <u>Registration dates</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/11 - 1/22           | Communication*                   | Coming soon               |
| 1/25 - 2/5            | Library Technology               |                           |
| 2/8 - 2/19            | Customer Service*                |                           |
| 2/29 - 3/11           | Library Governance               |                           |
| 3/21 - 4/15           | Organization of Materials*       |                           |
| 4/25 - 5/6            | Readers Advisory                 |                           |
| 5/9 - 5/20            | Intellectual Freedom*            |                           |
| 5/23 - 6/3            | Library Finance                  |                           |
| 6/6 - 6/17            | Reference—Instructor: Eric Green |                           |
| 7/18 - 7/29           | Collection Management*           |                           |
| 8/22 - 9/2            | Library Policy                   |                           |
| 9/12 - 9/23           | Program & Outreach               |                           |
| 10/3 - 10/14          | Community & Library*             |                           |
| 10/24 - 11/4          | Management and Supervision       |                           |
| 11/7 - 11/18          | Leadership                       |                           |
| 12/5 - 12/16          | Library Service to Children      |                           |

### \* Required Classes

For further information, contact Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator by phone, at 402-471-2694, or 800-307-2665 or Email: [laura.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:laura.johnson@nebraska.gov)

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### Upcoming Events

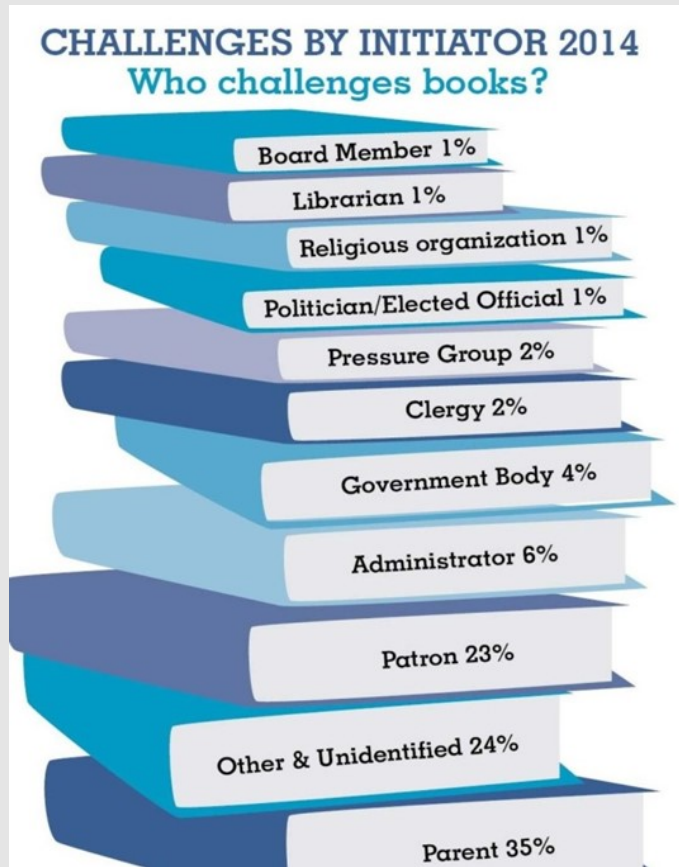
**September 23rd-25th** - Wyoming Library Association (WLA) and Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Joint Conference Cheyenne Wyoming

**October 7th** Job-A-Like Weeding & Preservation—Alliance Public Library 5pm-7pm

**October 20th** Job-A-Like Weeding - Hastings Memorial Library -Grant– 5pm - 7pm

**October 14th - 16th** NLA/NSLA - Cornhusker Hotel—Lincoln





In 2014, parents made up the largest group of people who filed a complaint against a book.



In 2014, one of the most reported reasons for challenging a book was offensive language.

Source ALA

**Western Library System Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday May 12 10, 2015**  
**Railway Office Plaza**  
**115 Railway St. Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

Vice President Stephanie Mika called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with quorum present. There were no additions to the agenda.

Board members present: Stephanie Mika, Michele Parks, Kathy Terrell, Sue Shaver, Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker and Roberta Boyd. Also present: WLS Coordinator Eric Green, WLS assistant Jeri Clapper, Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner, and Library Commission member Pat Gross.

Minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting were read and amended by adding Roberta to the attendance list. Ruth moved and Maryruth seconded the minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Reports:

District Reports:

Public Libraries – Roberta reported on Gering Library’s book sale; Maryruth reported on Morrill Library’s activities and the Nebraska Library Association’s PLTS meeting held in Alliance April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other Districts – Ruth Walker reported on Mitchell High School Library’s new mural created by the art students and also is busy wrapping up the school year.

Committee Reports:

Annual Meeting – Maryruth reported the meeting will be at the Legacy of the Plains Museum with program by museum staff, no final menu yet, and prizes will be gift certificates from the museum gift shop.

Nominating – Sue reported they had a candidate for each position. Election results: District A – Carole Matthews from Hay Springs Public Library, Public Library – Roberta J. Boyd from Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and School/Media – Jill Hurtt from Hemingford High School.

Public Relations – Kathy reported Bridgeport has requested both school and public performances for the Tim Smith aka Buck Wilder author tour planned tentatively in the last two weeks of September. Due to minimal scheduling responses she will email school librarians this week. Eric will resend the flyer.

Scholarship/Awards – Michele reported form was updated and deadline remains July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Technology – Eric reported he and Stephanie have reviewed the plan. Discussed the toll-free phone number - 888-879-5303. Apparently, some libraries have been unable to get through on it. Eric will check on it. Discussed updating tech devices in the office i.e., e-reader and camera. No board action taken.

WLS Coordinator Report: Eric’s report was presented in writing. Highlights covered teaching an on-line Basic Skills class, the Nebraska School Librarian’s Day in North Platte, Summer Reading Workshop in Sidney, Job-a-like in Chadron and the PLTS Spring meeting in Alliance. He plans to have a survey at the annual meeting and to send out for upcoming planning purposes. Upcoming coordinator travels he mentioned included Chautauqua, ALA, possibly WLA/MPLA, NLA/NSLA and possibly the Colorado Association of Libraries meeting.

Meeting Cout.

Nebraska Library Commission Report was provided in writing. NLC Director Rod Wagner summarized items covering NLC staff changes, funding, training, NE Book Festival, and grants.

Old Business:

Budget/Financial Documents – Yearly budget will be ready for presentation to the board at the annual meeting.

Annual Policies & Procedures Review – Eric brought up adding the two new districts under this order of business. It has to be voted on by membership at the annual meeting. Eric will present the proposal then.

Reconfiguration of Library Systems – Since the new by-laws are a result of the reconfiguration it was decided to handle it under this order of business and to vote on the WLS By-laws. It was moved by Kathy and seconded by Ruth to accept the new by-laws as presented in written form. Motion carried by voice vote. Eric will put the membership resolution on the system web site and provide it at the annual meeting as he stated that he is not going to visit every library. Plan of service and web-site blog also were discussed.

Board Attendance Policy – tabled until July board meeting after the annual meeting since materials were not distributed. Change to quarterly board meetings was also mentioned.

Elections – results were covered under the Nominating Committee report.

New Business: None

Upcoming Events:

Additional annual meeting discussion - Eric said he plans to give new board members pens instead of pins as no one ever wore the pins. Discussion ensued regarding annual meeting fee and free lunches. Ruth moved we change annual meeting fee to \$15.00 from \$10.00. Maryruth seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Board consensus was that board members get a free lunch this year retirees do not and the issue could be revisited next year.

Summer reading programs were discussed briefly prior to adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Next board meeting will be Wednesday July 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, Nebraska.

Roberta J. Boyd, Secretary pro tempore

***“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over ... and expecting a different result.”  
Albert Einstein***

## TOUGH TALK FOR TRUSTEES

By Dee Yost  
Self-Appointed Sermonizer

Recently I heard a trustee explain that the library world couldn't expect much from trustees since they are volunteers. He wasn't the first person I've heard express that idea. And some days I've nursed that viewpoint myself.

But today is one of my "get tough" days so I say, "Hogwash!" and "Excuses I'm tired of!" As they say in the army, "Lead, follow, or get the heck out of the way!" (Actually they say something worse but my mother doesn't let me talk that way!)

Any of us who volunteer whether for church, school, community or library has made a commitment to serve. We do it not for prestige or other rewards but because of how we can make a difference in each particular volunteer spot. We don't expect to be excused because we are a volunteer. This is something we should have all learned at our mother's knee.

You, as a trustee, said, "Yes," --now you either need to follow through or graciously bow out so a new person with time or fresh ideas or infectious enthusiasm can take your place.

I admire people who know when they are "burned out" or have fulfilled their mission in a particular position. Someone who was trying to make a point once said, "They also serve who only step aside!"

Trusteeship does carry with it some prestige and these positions can be sought after -- perhaps without realization of the duties that come along with it. Trusteeship is essentially, when done right, a substantial amount of work. And also, if done well, rewarding. There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing a library stretch and grow.

When you receive your new trustee manual which outlines the duties of a library board member or when you receive your next invitation to a trustee continuing education workshop, examine the reasons you became a trustee and consider giving it more of your time and devotion.

Our libraries and the patrons they serve need and deserve energetic trustee leadership! AMEN!

ParHandle  
SUN  
1990





Happy Halloween!

# ZOMBIE LIBRARIAN

Better undead than unread.

motifake.com

I need to know what happened...



In light of recent events, NO OREOS will be allowed in the library.



# US Rural Libraries in an Energy-Uncertain World

Eric R. Green MLS MA – July 2015

Many libraries in the rural United States are currently facing cutbacks and at the same time dealing with increased usage, resulting from uncertain economic times. When citizen patrons are in desperate need of information to deal with dramatic changes in their lives, they turn to libraries for the latest news to deal with these challenges.

One issue related to our economic downturn is Peak Oil. This simply means we have reached the point where we have used 50% of the known oil and that demand is increasing while supply is not. Peak Oil should never be confused with oil depletion. We will have oil for many years to come, but it's going to become much more expensive and scarcer.

So much of the oil we use is based on societal pressures; this is especially true for our personal transportation system in the use of a motor vehicles. What will happen to our personal transportation issues of getting to work, school and the library when this activity becomes too expensive? Many citizens will have less energy to use at home and will turn to their local libraries to use Internet service and other potential costly activities.

Peak Oil hard times, like during the current economic hard times, only mean budgets for libraries will decrease, meaning less staff and services. This will be especially true for rural public and college libraries, which currently struggle with these issues. Library hours might have to be reduced with less staffing and operating funds and the possibility of increased patrons' usage; libraries will be stretched to their limits even more than they currently are.

Other services that could become much more expensive could be interlibrary loans (ILL), which rely on courier services. With fuel costs rising, many libraries may have to limit the amount of ILLs they can receive, and some smaller libraries may cancel these services. Fortunately, with the advancement in online services, ILL's might be delivered in the form of E-books, which patrons can read online within a specified period of time.

Another valuable service for rural public libraries that may become too expensive is that of the bookmobile. With high transposition costs, many alternative energy sources will be needed to run the bookmobiles from electric-solar cell technology, vegetable oil powered engines and even the extreme possibly of horse driven bookmobiles.

Operational cost of lighting and heating libraries could be a challenge as well. For lighting, some of these solutions are solar panel, passive solar windows, sky-lighting, and even lanterns. For heating, fireplaces, geothermal and solar power batteries to run the furnace and air-conditioning are possibilities. Library staff will still use energy to run library computers, photocopies, and fax machines, but solar technologies and even wind turbines could be used.

Another cost issue for libraries will be maintaining and developing the collection. The cost of printing books will increase and paperback books, which are disposable, are a waste of paper. Hard backs, which cost more, will last longer and may be a better investment. Repairing books will be more of an option and fewer books will be thrown in the trash, even if they can't be sold in book sales.

One possible solution is an increase in volunteerism from patrons. It's possible some of these libraries will return to the practice of existing without librarians and must rely on others in the community to give time to the library. It's also possible that private community subscription libraries will blossom out of someone's house and grow from other private collections. City library systems may need to develop more and smaller community branch libraries to become more accessible to walking and bike paths as well as public transportation.

These new branch libraries, like rural libraries, will play an even more important role as community centers and the heart and soul of communities. Overall, citizens might appreciate their libraries not only as a source of information in turbulent times but also as a way to reconnect to local communities like never before.

## About the Author:

**Eric R Green is the Coordinator for the *Western Library System* in Scottsbluff. He has a master's degree in Sociology from American University in Washington DC and a master's degree in Library Science from Emporia State, Kansas. He also worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa in Community Development in 1989-90.**

# The Western Sun



## Western Library System

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## WLS Board of Trustees:

Maryruth Reed, President  
Stephanie Mika, VP  
Roberta Boyd  
Sara Brennemann, Secretary  
Michele Parks  
Kathy Terrell  
Ruth Walker  
Carole Matthews  
Jill Hurtt  
Allison Roberts

## Counties Served:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,  
Garden, Grant, Keith, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff,  
Sheridan, Sioux, Hooker, McPherson, Perkins, Chase,  
Dundy, Hayes and Hitchcock

## WLS Staff

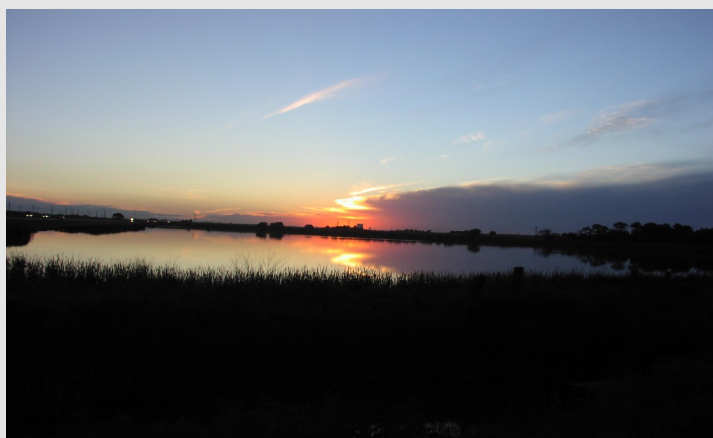
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Hwy 26 - Near Scottsbluff

\*All photos by Eric Green except page 8

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*WLS*