The South Dakota Library Association held its annual conference at the Ramkota in Rapid City, SD at the end of September. The theme was *Roll for Initiative, Everybody In*. Annual Awards are a highlight of the conference. This year, SDLA honored five recipients.

Friend of the Library Award was awarded to Springfield Mayor Scott Kostal, via the Evelyn Lang Public Library. Mayor Kostal is a champion for the library and helped to gain federal recognition.

Kostal’s nominator said, “Mayor Kostal is an excellent example of a public servant in a community. He selflessly gives his time to improve the community he has grown up in and has returned to. He is intelligent, resourceful, courteous, and professional. I appreciate all the encouragement and support he gives to the city employees.”

The Public Relations Committee next awarded the Trustee of the Year to Bonnie Guer of Hill City Public Library. Bonnie serves as the President of the Friends of the Library and Vice President of the Library Board of Trustees.

Guer works tirelessly to keep the Friend of the Library vibrant and relevant. The monthly meetings are well organized and there is always a presenter prior to each business meeting. Guer conducts the book talks and helps write grants for the HCPL. Bonnie’s nominator noted that she is a very humble person but she is indeed “the cornerstone of Hill City Public Library.”
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sarah Jones-Lutter

The SDLA annual conference has come and gone. It has been so great to be back in the routine of an annual in-person conference and unite as librarians. The dessert reception at Press Start was especially fun! Thank you to Local Arrangements Chair Terri Davis and committee members Juliet Heltibride, Jennifer Williams-Curl, Nicki Larrabee, Laurinda Tapper, and Sean Minkel for all your hard work. The Local Arrangements Committee came together as a team to put together an amazing conference.

Even though it is still 2023, it is already time to look forward to next year’s conference in Aberdeen. Next year’s conference theme is “Stronger Together.” Thank you to Kelly Henkel Thompson for creating the logo! Especially in today’s culture, we need to come together as librarians. This can happen in a multitude of ways. First, by participating in SDLA. Update your online profile to reflect which committees you would like to be a part of. Some committees require more time and some require less, but everyone should be part of a committee at least once. By becoming more active in SDLA, you will not only improve the association, but you will form deeper connections with other librarians across the state. SDLA is only as strong as its membership!

Second, we as librarians need to connect with our local legislators. By reaching out to your local legislators before the legislative session begins, you can demonstrate how important libraries are at the local level. Invite your state congressman to read at story hour. Have your county commissioner sit in on a book club. Encourage your mayor to build Lego with elementary students. The Library Issues committee will focus on local connections with legislators to build greater support of libraries in Pierre. Therefore, we will not hold an in-person legislative day in Pierre. Instead, build these local relationships. Reach out to the library issues committee or myself to help you. SDLA is here to help all South Dakota librarians become stronger together.

Sarah
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED

Brady Jones of Rapid City Public Library was awarded the Support Staff of the Year. Brady is currently responsible for the RCPL Pop-Up Library which provides outreach and library services throughout Pennington County.

Jones has expanded this service to new areas, provided training for staff, and demonstrated impeccable customer service. Brady’s nominator notes: “Brady is outstanding and anyone that is lucky enough to work with him realizes that pretty quickly. He is an excellent example of library support staff statewide.”

The committee chose Zackery North of Mitchell Public Library as SDLA’s 2023 New Librarian of the Year. North’s creativity and versatility have proven invaluable at MPL. According to his nominator, Zack is passionate about serving our library patrons and creating more lifelong readers and learners.

North believes that libraries should not erect barriers to service. In a few short years, he has established relationships with our patrons that allow him to understand their reading preferences. This helps him understand which topics our patrons are interested in when he selects new materials for our collection. Zack has championed numerous technology projects that have improved Mitchell Public Library’s services and decreased staff workload.”

The final award of the night was the Distinguished Service Award, given to an SDLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession, has significantly furthered development of libraries in South Dakota, or has performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. The 2023 Award winner was Kathleen Slocum of the South Dakota State Library.

Kathleen was nominated by several people who all noted that she works to empower librarians across the state and ensure librarians have the education to be successful in their roles.

One nominator said, “Kathleen’s dedication and commitment to the educational programs she provides through her position with the SD Library, is over and beyond expectations of those who participate in her learning opportunities.” Another nominator said of Kathleen: “She has changed so many lives and empowered us to be better and do amazing things in our libraries and communities.

Congratulations to the recipients and their libraries! For more information about the awards and how to nominate for next year’s SDLA Anual Awards, visit https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/AnnualAwards
CONFERENCE PHOTOS

Jeri Light doing a book talk

Keynote speaker Julia Lyon

Exhibit Hall

Kristin Echtenkamp presents: Bridging the Gap with a Library Led E-Textbook Initiative, SDSU’s program launched in 2020 and has already resulted in close to $500,000 in student savings.

Christine Waller presents her poster on The Four P’s of Keeping Children (and Parents) Engaged During Story Time

Sarah Jones-Lutter accepts the challenge from Jamie Formanek

A friendly air hockey battle between incoming SDLA Sarah Jones-Lutter and outgoing President Jamie Formanek... watch out for that big drop!!

Craig Johnson and Krista Ohrtman: Pinball Wizards
Greetings,

I enjoy working for the SDLA and look forward to representing you again during the upcoming legislative session. I was asked to provide a short explanation of the lobbying process.

Prior to the legislative session I work with legislators, fellow lobbyists, and administration officials to get a sense of what issues are likely to come up in the session and what bills are likely to be introduced. Once I have an idea of the issues likely to arise, I work with SDLA leadership to determine SDLA’s position on certain bills/issues and how best to ensure an outcome favorable to SDLA or to best mitigate any adverse effects of proposed legislation.

During session I am at the capital each day. My activities include: discussion of legislative proposals with legislators and other stakeholders; reviewing and analyzing each bill that gets introduced to work with the SDLA leadership to determine whether SDLA should take a position on the bill and, if so, how best to lobby for or against that bill; working to find allied organizations and stakeholders to join the SDLA in the SDLA’s positions on bills; preparing talking points and testimony for committee hearings; pre-committee lobbying and explanation of bills to committee members; and, educating legislators on how SDLA’s issues and positions affect constituents in their respective legislative districts. We maintain a tracking list of those bills of interest to SDLA, participate in conference calls with SDLA leadership on legislative issues, and provide regular reports to the SDLA membership.

I hope you’re able to visit Pierre during the legislative session. If you’re able to visit the Capitol when the legislature is in session, please email me at erice@cutlerlawfirm.com. I can then work to introduce you to your legislators and provide an overview of the activities occurring in the Capitol on that day.

Thank you for all you do for your communities!

Take good care,

Eric
Eric grew up on a farm near Summit, South Dakota. He graduated from South Dakota State University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration. Following graduation, Eric worked for Daktronics, Inc., as a salesman to the large sport venue market in Florida which included universities, municipal stadiums and arenas, and spring training baseball facilities. In 2007, Eric moved back to South Dakota to serve as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of County Officials. In that position, Eric represented South Dakota’s Auditors, Treasurers, and Registers of Deeds to the state and federal governments.

Eric graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 2013 with High Honors. While in law school, Eric was active in the Trial Team, served as president of the Moot Court Board, served as a graduate assistant to the Government Research Bureau during his second year in law school, and as graduate assistant to the General Counsel for the South Dakota Board of Regents during his third year. He interned with the Lincoln County State’s Attorney in 2011 and with Cutler Law Firm, LLP in 2012. Eric joined Cutler Law Firm, LLP as an associate in 2013. Eric became a partner in January 2018. Eric has lobbied for over 13 years, including as the SDLA lobbyist since the 2017 legislative session.

Eric and his wife, Hannah, live in Sioux Falls with their children Henry and Hazel.

**CROW CREEK TRIBAL SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT NIGHT**

*Submitted by Marilyn Mendenhall*

Students and staff enjoyed drawing a Step-by-Step Candy Corn Dracula at Crow Creek Tribal School’s Parent Involvement Night on October 25.

During class lessons at the library the children frequently draw to show what they have learned in the lesson.
YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN ME
Submitted by Jean Kirschenman and Kris O’Brien

Studies, books, memes—all have stressed the importance of professionals coming together to collaborate for student success. Two high school librarians Jean Kirschenman (Brookings) and Kris O’Brien (Watertown) recently presented to Danielle Harms SDSU combined class of Methods of Teaching English and Methods of Teaching Social Studies.

Kirschenman and O’Brien titled their presentation “You Have a Friend in Me” and talked about five major areas that the collaboration between school librarian and classroom teacher can happen: First, curriculum development including sitting on curriculum committees, purchasing books to support the curriculum and co-planning research projects and guiding staff and students in the use of State Library Databases.

O’Brien talked about the importance of having resources for every learner including audio, video, leveled readers, and graphic novels.

Second, Professional Development is another area where librarians can help teachers learn the things they need to learn to update their curriculum and teaching methods.

"When our English department went towards teaching literature circles, there was a lot to learn from choosing the books, to writing the lessons. I taught three book studies to help teachers make the transition: A Novel Approach by Kate Roberts, Better with Books by Melissa Mart and Mini-Lessons for Literature Circles by Harvey Daniels and Nancy Steineke.”

Reader Advisory was the third area the two presenters discussed. Jean Kirschenman pointed out the amazing resource the National Council for the Social Studies–Notable Book List. Kirschenman took the future teachers to this site and showed the wealth of resources it offered.

“If you take nothing else from this presentation, bookmark this link,” said Kirschenman. Reader Advisory and its many facets from curated lists, to displays, to book promotions was another way that librarians can cooperate with classroom teachers to help give students well-rounded access to materials.

Fourth, the library itself is a great facility that is full of cool tools and services beyond the book: the space alone is enough to attract the classroom teachers and students for presentations, parties, murder-mystery theaters, break-out activities, and presentations by Holocaust speakers, Vietnam veterans, and authors.
Finally, the librarians talked about collaborating on projects from beginning to end, projects like building classroom libraries, building lessons and assessments like book collages and reading BIPOC authors, and Hamlet paper dolls.

The teacher of the Methods Classes Danielle Harms commented, “The feedback from the group was great! They thought it was helpful, especially the Social Studies students—and they are definitely thinking about how to work with their future librarians.”

Kirschenman pointed out the reality that library services come in all different shapes and sizes: “Some schools have no librarian; some schools have shared librarians, part-time librarians, paraprofessionals or TAs. Some schools have full-time certified librarians with support staff. No matter what level of support your librarian can provide, these activities could be collaborations with other professionals in your school.”

Love children’s books? Looking for a great way to get involved?

WE NEED YOU!

Join the Children’s Book Awards Committee.

4 positions are open across different areas:
At-Large, Public section, School section

Contact Kristyn.LaBine@k12.sd.us for more information.
Rhodes Professor of History at the University of Oxford Pekka Hämäläinen leads off this collection of new perspectives on South Dakota history with a stunning interpretation of Lakota power in the Northern Plains.

With their mastery of the horse, the Lakota mounted “an expansive and constantly shapeshifting Indigenous regime that controlled human fates in the North American interior for generations,” writes Hämäläinen.

The essays that follow take up a variety of topics on South Dakota history:

- Borders, by Thomas D. Isern
- Railroads, by H. Roger Grant
- Weather, by Christopher R. Laingen
- West River Country, by John Henris
- Wildlife and Parks, by Frank Van Nuys
- Radical Tradition, by Jeffrey A. Johnson
- German-Language Press, by Samantha M. Litty
- Changing Foodways, by Sara Egge
- Sports, by Paul Higbee
- Hunting and Fishing, by Lance Nixon
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- Crystal Pawlus, Deadwood Public Library, Deadwood
- Joyce Maras, Huron School District, Huron
- Mikaela Neubauer, Brookings Public Library
- Michelle Schindler, Presho Public Library, Presho

Quick News:
- MPLA is hiring a webmaster. This is a contract position open to residents of the 12 MPLA states. Deadline Dec 8. Position details: https://mpla.us/jobs/jobline/mpla-webmaster
- SDSL: Training Calendar has several professional development events coming up
- Public Library grant for science kits - up to $2,000 to establish a circulating science kit collection. Submissions due January 16, 2024.
- South Dakota State Historical Society Speaker Series announced: https://www.sdhsf.org/events/
- Kathleen Slocum is now the Access Library Services Manager at the State Library
- Cheyenne Chontos has accepted the position of Director of the Harrisburg Public Library

Remember:
Report Book and Material Challenges

EST Report

September 2023

Wells Fargo Checking............. $25,560.80**
Wells Fargo Savings............... $3,028.19
Ameriprise Savings Cert....... $14,907.74*
Ameriprise Savings Cert...... $19,544.02*
Raney Endowment............. $100,000.84***
Total........................................ $145,003.52

*As of June 30, 2023
** As of Sept 8, 2023
*** $13,620.51 available to spend from Raney Endowment

Membership Stats
Total: 401
Institutional: 31
Personal: 370
Book Marks Subscriptions: 3

Please report Book and Material Challenges to SDLA via the form under "Members" on our website.

Challenges will be kept strictly confidential and no identifying information will be released without your express permission.