

Kentucky Public Library Association
2011 Annual Report
September 2011
Galt House, Louisville, KY

The annual KPLA Conference in Lexington (March 2011) was our largest ever with over 470 registrants. This included 42 trustees. Martha White did an excellent job as Conference Chair. Award winners were: Katherine Davenport (Trustee Scholarship), Sophie Maier (Conference Scholarship), Kellie Scott (James Harrison Outstanding Bookmobile/Outreach Award), Sherry Bogard (Miss Pickle Outstanding Children's Services Award), Mark Griffen (Margaret F. Willis Outstanding Community Library Service Award), Robin Klaene (Public Relations and Marking Award), Friends of Kentucky Libraries (Public Library Advocacy Award), Robbie Dyche (James E. Gigeler Outstanding Library Trustee Award), Jessamine County Public Library Board of Trustees (Outstanding Board of Trustees Award) and Lisa Rice (Outstanding Public Library Service Award). Our next conference is scheduled for April 11-13, 2012 at the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green. Susan Nimersheim will be the Conference Chair.

Ashley Fowlkes, of the Warren County Public Library, was elected Vice Chair Elect at our April 12, 2011 meeting.

Library Trustee Certification was also approved at our April Meeting. Training will include 5 hours of course work in 5 core areas that can be covered at board meetings or at workshops or conferences. A certificate will be valid for 4 years. Trustees will benefit by having expert knowledge in critical areas of library management and policy making. This is a voluntary program open to all trustees. The first round of classes will be held at our annual conference in April 2012.

The Sister Library Program was officially approved in 2011. Kenton and Carter Counties were the first Sister Library pairing. We now have 11 libraries actively engaged in the program. April Ritchie, of the Kenton County Public Library, is the state-wide coordinator. A big thank you to all the Regional Librarians for their support and advocacy of this program.

Our Continuing Education Committee has sponsored numerous "Staff Day Out" workshops across the Commonwealth this past year. These workshops have been well received and have reached over 200 front line staff members who rarely get opportunities to attend training sessions.

The PR Committee produced a number of PSAs that have been aired on library Facebook pages, webpages and a few cable stations. KPLA is looking into ways to distribute these more widely on cable television throughout the Commonwealth. We were very excited that our PSAs won an award at ALA in New Orleans this summer. The committee is currently working on a piece that will feature library patrons explaining why library services are so important.

The Standards Committee entirely automated the form this year using Survey Monkey. Forms are due on October 15, 2011. As of this date two libraries, Kenton County Public and McCracken County Public both received exemplary ratings (the highest rating a library can receive). Many other libraries have also improved their rankings. Announcements of the rankings will be made at the April 2012 Conference.

Our Kentucky Library License Plate project experienced several road blocks during the year. Thanks to KLA, KPLA, several library systems and the Friends of the Kentucky Libraries for their generous donations. Now we need to raise 900 signatures and addresses to make the license plate project a reality. Thanks to Linda Kompanik for all her hard work on this project.

Our Advocacy Committee had another excellent year. Library Legislative Day in February was well attended, especially by counties along the I-75 corridor. In 2012, Legislative Day will be held on March 7. We hope to have better weather. The Committee will be sending members to all the regions to explain how Library Legislative Day works and to encourage more participation. The Committee, with the great assistance of Paige Sexton, produced a wonderful poster that included read posters for every constitutionally elected state officer and every member of the Kentucky General Assembly. It is believed we are the first state to do so. The committee also expanded the number of members of the Library Caucus in both the House and Senate. In October, the Committee will have informational booths at the conventions of the Kentucky Judge Executives and the Kentucky League of Cities.

These are only a few highlights for KPLA 2011. It was a pleasure to serve as Chair and to work with so many professionals from across Kentucky.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Schroeder
KPLA Chair