

## **Kansas Center for the Book Has New Projects**

by Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book

Following the December meeting of the Board of Affiliates of the Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB), activities increased and projects began to take shape.

Two projects had been implemented before the meeting. One is Letters About Literature (LAL), the national reading and writing initiative for students in grades 4-12. The deadline for entries was December 1, and at that time Kansas had 658 entries out of 48,000 from all affiliate centers for the book. The Kansas number was up from 146 in the previous year, an increase of 351%. Only 24 states or territories had more entries than Kansas, while 27 had fewer. Semi-finalist entries are being sent from the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to KCFB where judges who are Fellows of KCFB will determine state winners. State winners will be recognized and awards made at the Kansas Authors Dinner at Triconference.

Mark your calendars and prepare to request tickets for the Kansas Authors Dinner, which will immediately follow the "Give KLA a Leg Up" fundraiser. The Authors Dinner will be held on Thursday evening, April 6, 7-10:00 pm in Room 209A of the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. There will be about 20 tables each seating an author and up to 10 librarians; guests are welcome to circulate about the room. Over dinner, authors will discuss their books, talk about their writing and autograph books. Books will be sold in the room by Book Kansas! and Watermark Books & Café, both Affiliates of KCFB. Dinner will feature a "Southwestern Flavors" buffet from the Hyatt. Cost will be \$32, and for this event the public is welcome. They must register for the Triconference, but may acquire only the ticket for the Kansas Authors Dinner. Part of the program will include recognition of the state LAL winners.

Progress has been made since the December 13 meeting of the KCFB Board of Affiliates. At that meeting, representatives discussed three major projects: an adult one book, one state project, a notable books project, and a book festival.

"Kansas Reads . . . [Title of book]" was selected as the name of the adult one book project at the first meeting of the committee in Lawrence on January 19. More about the project is included in this newsletter.

Another committee, consisting of six representatives of the KCFB Board of Affiliates and Randy Scholfield of *The Wichita Eagle*, has been formed for the Kansas notable books project. This project will identify up to 20 titles of books by Kansans or about Kansas published in 2005. The list will be announced prior to October 1, 2006. Foil stickers will be produced for each of the titles for distribution to libraries, booksellers, and other interested parties or organizations. There will be a low charge for the stickers that will recover production costs. The committee will meet early in February.

Finally, the Kansas Center for the Book and the State Library of Kansas have partnered with other state agencies and organizations to produce a Kansas book festival. At a meeting on January 18, the date for the first annual book festival was chosen. It will be Friday and Saturday,

October 6-7, 2006. The next meeting of the Governor's Council on Cultural Affairs, the partners for the book festival, is scheduled for February 8.

For more information about these exciting KCFB projects, contact Roy Bird at 800/432-3919 or send e-mail to [royb@kslib.info](mailto:royb@kslib.info).