

## **Kansas Center for the Book Projects Move Forward**

by Roy Bird, Director, Kansas Center for the Book

Activities for the Kansas Center for the Book (KCFB) have moved rapidly forward during February. At the February 17 meeting of the KCFB Board of Affiliates, staff and committees were able to report on development of bylaws; a KCFB quilt being made by Rosanne Siemens as a fundraiser; progress toward determining the three state winners of the Letters About Literature project; the meetings of the one book, one state project for adults; the notable books project; the development of the KCFB website; the Kansas Authors Dinner at Tri-Conference; and the role of the KCFB with the Kansas Family Festival of Books, Arts and Heritage.

The nine judges invited from among Fellows of KCFB to determine state winners of the Letters About Literature have worked to identify the best letters from the semifinalists returned to Kansas from the 658 entries. Final decisions will be made by March 1, 2006, and the winner at each level—elementary school, middle school/junior high and high school—will be invited to the Kansas Authors Dinner on April 6 at Tri-Conference to receive their awards and meet Kansas authors. The state winners will also move forward to national judging by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

The one book, one state project has been named “Kansas Reads...[insert title]”. The committee members invited to work on this project are going over lists of titles from one-book projects nationwide, as well as adding their own. The notable books committee has met once, and began by outlining plans for operations, identifying criteria and viewing an initial bibliography of books published by Kansans or about Kansas in 2005. Since the first meeting, the bibliography has been expanded by many contributions from the committee members, which include booksellers; a publisher; a media representative from *The Wichita Eagle*; and representatives from academic, public and system libraries. Both committees will recommend the results of their work to State Librarian Christie Brandau for final determinations.

The new KCFB website, which is now in draft form, was approved by the Board with a recommendation to have it on Blue Skyways sometime in March. It is considered a living and growing project, and as such even the draft has been changing almost daily. The KCFB bylaws were presented by a Board committee and tentatively approved; they are being revised with input by the full Board. Rosanne Siemens, the KLA representative on the KCFB Board of Affiliates, volunteered in December to create a quilt similar to the KLA quilt made during the KLA Centennial. As with the KLA Centennial Quilt, this one will have books stitched to a quilted book shelf and institutional and individual contributors will have their names attached to the book spines.

Since the December meeting of the Board, the proposed book festival has come under the umbrella of the Governor’s Council on Cultural Affairs, which includes other state agencies and organizations. A new name, the “Kansas Family Festival of Books, Arts and Heritage,” has been selected, and the date for the event has been set for Friday and Saturday, September 29-30, 2006, in Wichita. The KCFB has direct

responsibility for a pavilion and a gala on Friday evening. A breakout group of the Board discussed the pavilion with plans for Friday, a children's day, and for Saturday, a family day. Another breakout group of the Board discussed what the gala might look like. The Family Festival of Books, Arts and Heritage will be the first of its kind in Kansas.

Progress on these projects will be reported in future issues of the *Kansas Libraries* newsletter. The KCFB welcomes suggestions. Also, if your library is interested in becoming an Affiliate or if you would like to become a Fellow, watch for the announcement of the KCFB website on Blue Skyways. Information on participation in the Center will be available on the website.