

## **Julie Tomlianovich Elected to Newbery Award Committee**

by Paul Hawkins, Director, South Central Kansas Library System

Julie Tomlianovich, Youth Services Consultant at the South Central Kansas Library System, has been elected to the 2009 Newbery Award Committee.

“Election to the Newbery Award Committee is a prestigious national honor for a youth services librarian. We are proud of Julie’s work within our region, the state and at the national level,” said Paul Hawkins, SCKLS Director.

Election to the Newbery Committee is a one year commitment which began at the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 11, 2008. Half of the fifteen person committee is elected and the remaining half is appointed. Participants represent all areas of the United States. The Committee selects the Newbery winner and honor books from hundreds of titles. The Newbery Medal was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery and the first medal was presented to *The Story of Mankind* by Hendrik Willem van Loon. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Tomlianovich was a member of the 1996 Caldecott Award Committee for the ALSC and is a member of the William Allen White Book Award Committee for the state of Kansas.

When asked about her appointment, Julie commented: “This is a job that I have dreamed of since childhood. Working with both librarians and children brings me joy and fulfillment. Sharing literature, both serious and comedic, through booktalking and storytelling is what I believe to be the major work of a youth services librarian.”

“As a young reader, I read *Miracles on Maple Hill* and *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* over and over, never knowing they were Newbery Award winners. All that was important was the power of the stories, the words so carefully crafted, to transport a child from Illinois to a Pennsylvania sugaring season or to Colonial America. Many years later, very little tops opening a box of books to discover what treats lie within.”

“When my nephew was in first grade, he proudly proclaimed to his class, ‘My Aunt Julie is a librarian and she knows books.’ Seven years later, he still e-mails me to hear about new titles to read.”

“Yes, this is one of my major accomplishments. Serving on the Newbery Committee will be a great adventure.”