

# State Library of Iowa

## FY09 Annual Report

July 1, 2008 to  
June 30, 2009

### State Library “Geeks” the Gates Foundation/OCLC community-based awareness campaign

*Geek \ Verb. 1: To love, to enjoy, to celebrate, to have an intense passion for. 2: To express interest in. 3: To possess a large amount of knowledge in. 4: To promote.*



At the Indianola Public Library are director Joyce Godwin (left) and State Librarian Mary Wegner.

The State Library had an exceptional opportunity in 2009 to partner with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the national OCLC library cooperative on a pilot campaign to heighten awareness of the needs of local libraries and increase financial support for the services they provide.

Although more than two-third of all Iowans are public library cardholders, many do not know if their local library is adequately funded or that they have an influential role in how well their library is supported.

In spring 2009, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$5 million grant to the OCLC library cooperative to develop a public awareness campaign that highlights what people are passionate about and how libraries can support them, in an effort to heighten understanding about the critical funding issues that public libraries face.

Only two states were selected to take part in the initial “Geek the Library” campaign – Iowa and Georgia. Libraries in four central Iowa communities – Dallas, Polk, Story and Warren – were asked to participate in the campaign, which featured advertising, e-mail marketing, a campaign Web site ([www.geekthelibrary.org](http://www.geekthelibrary.org)) and grassroots community initiatives.

“The State Library of Iowa is very pleased to be a part of this important national project. We know that Iowa’s public libraries are key partners in their local communities, and we welcome the opportunity to work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and OCLC to develop more effective ways to tell the library story,” said Mary Wegner, State Librarian. “Libraries are working harder than ever to provide the services their communities need, but resources are strained. The State Library is excited about helping Iowans better understand the challenges of library funding and how every individual is part of the equation.”

# Kids First 2009 draws record crowd

Nearly 250 public and school librarians were drawn to Kids First 2009 in Ames to hear well known keynote speakers and attend diverse breakout sessions.

Karen Randleman, State Library Youth Services Coordinator, and other State Library staff provided

a remarkable

Kids First Conference.

The April 27 preconference featured Jane Cobb, author

of *I'm a Little Teapot: Presenting Preschool Storytime*. The information she shared provided attendees with critical early literacy programming skills.

One person who critiqued the conference said it was "wonderful. The keynote speakers were all just fabulous, educational and inspiring. I also enjoyed the break-out sessions, and heard great things from friends and colleagues about the sessions I didn't attend. Thanks for all the work you folks put into planning this."

From left, Michele Gorman, co-author of "Connecting Young Adults and Libraries," and Randleman

## Summer Library Program workshops combine children's and teen's program ideas

### State Library also underscores importance of early childhood literacy

Hundreds of children's and teen librarians took advantage of attending Summer Library Program workshops, which the State Library held in October 2008 rather than the following February and March as in previous years. A total of 10 workshops were held with 520 attending. Each workshop had information in the morning for children's programs and the afternoons were spent on developing ideas for teen events.

The State Library also emphasizes working with librarians on early literacy, so librarians can work with parents and kids on developing the knowledge and skills that are forerunners to later success in reading and writing. Karen Randleman offered two ICN sessions in March 2009 on early childhood literacy fundamentals - "Early Literacy for Story Hour" - which were attended by 70 librarians.



From left, Karen Randleman; Laura Vaccaro Seeger, 2008 Caldecott Honor Award winner for "First the Egg;" and State Librarian Mary Wegner





## Update

Thirty-eight libraries got new Web sites in FY09 through the State Library's PLOW (Putting Libraries on the Web) project, bringing the number of PLOW libraries to 328. All PLOW Web sites were upgraded to Plone 3.3, which enhanced the capabilities of the Web sites. A new class, "Plow Training for Library Staff" was introduced for those who did not receive initial PLOW training, but who needed to be taught how to add new content and keep their Web sites updated.

One librarian mentioned that, "PLOW has not only enabled us to have a much more professional Web site, but more importantly we can offer a much greater service to our patrons. A week doesn't go by that someone doesn't discover something on our Web site that enhances their lives."



**Iowa Publications Online**, a State Library program, captures the digital documents produced by state government for public use. This service allows Iowans and others to have online state documents at their fingertips.

In the past fiscal year, 881 new documents were added to IPO, with a total nearing 8,000. There were over 81,000 hits to the Web site each month.

Examples of some IPO documents are: *Working with Iowans Building a Culture of Conservation*, 2009; *Iowa's Changing Labor Force Dynamics*, 2008; *The Fox River Needs Your Help*, 2007; *Commercial Driver's License in a Nutshell*, 2009; and *Brushy Creek Lake: Improving Our Lake for the Future*, 2006.

Visit IPO at <http://publications.iowa.gov>.



## Law library review

The law library digitized important legal documents in FY09, including the debates of the Iowa Constitutional Convention.

Iowa has had three constitutional conventions, all held in Iowa City. The first was in 1844, the second constitution was drafted in 1846, and the third was in 1857, which drafted the document still used today.

The latest constitution was drafted over 39 days from January 19, 1857 through March 5, 1857. It was narrowly approved at a referendum in August and went into effect by proclamation of the governor on September 3, 1857. Since that time, Iowa's Constitution has been amended 46 times but the basic document still remains. It is now one of the older state constitutions in America.

Anyone can read and search the debates that took place during the drafting of the third constitution in the scanned versions of *The Debates of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Iowa, assembled at Iowa City, Monday, January 19, 1857.*

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/law-library/iaconst>.

## Other digitized documents

In response to numerous requests over the years, the law library digitized all of the Iowa Court of Appeals unpublished opinions dating back to the inception of the lower court in 1976. After five years of continuous effort, the law library completed converting close to 100,000 card catalog records into an electronic database that enables users to search for Iowa appellate court briefs by case name, docket number, date or reporter citation.

## By the numbers

Law library staff answered almost 500 requests each month for legal information. The nature of the questions has begun to reflect the state's economic crisis.

Staff has observed an increase in the number of requests for information regarding legal and illegal debt collection practices; the rights of tenants who cannot pay their rents and landlords who cannot collect rents due; questions about student loans, particularly how bankruptcy affects them; health insurance coverage laws; and many other topics that appear to be linked to the economy.



*The above two books, part of the debates of the 1857 constitutional convention of the state of Iowa, were damaged in a January 4, 1904 fire in the State Capitol in Des Moines.*



## Record number of state employees sign up for State Library classes

*State Library offers numerous subjects during National Library Week classes*

*Marie Harms, left, shows students how to use the ICN*

The State Library celebrated National Library Week teaching classes on everything from “How to Raise a Reader” to “Trademark Empowerment” during National Library Week, April 12-18, 2009.

Eleven instructors, mostly State Library staff, taught 17 classes (10 new ones) to 232 state employees.

According to Barb Corson, program director for library services, evaluation forms were very positive. “Almost all said they would recommend the class they took to someone else.”

### **Classes included:**

- Digital Sanborn Maps
- Get the Most from EBSCOhost
- How to Raise a Reader
- Iowa’s Population: Past, Present and Future
- More than Just Google: Internet Searching
- Open Meetings Law: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities
- Patent Searching Made Easy
- Public Records Law: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities
- Reliable Health Information - Where Can I Find It on the Internet?
- Save Your Documents: Iowa Publications Online
- Searching FirstSearch Databases
- State Archives and Records Program
- Survey of Popular Social Networking Web Sites
- Trademark Empowerment
- Using an ICN Classroom: An Overview
- Using the Iowa Administrative Code Online
- Using the Legislative Web Site



*Mike and Mary Wegner at the October 2008 ILA Conference*

## State Librarian Mary Wegner named Iowa Library Association's Member of the Year

State Library staff were thrilled to learn that their boss, Mary Wegner, was named the ILA 2008 Member of the Year at the annual conference in Dubuque. But it was Wegner who was the most surprised.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this award from the Iowa Library Association. Working with the Iowa library community is a continuing joy. I especially want to thank the creative and talented staff of the State Library, who make it possible for me to be effective in my job," said Wegner.

Wegner was selected for this prestigious award not only because of her outstanding service to the Association, but also for her distinguished service to libraries throughout Iowa.

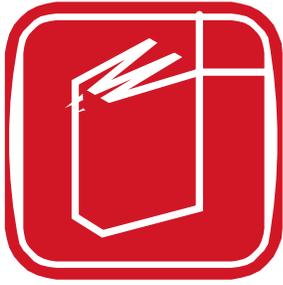
The person who nominated Wegner wrote, "I can think of no other ILA member whose dedication to Iowa libraries so comprehensively fits the criteria for this award."

In a letter supporting Wegner for the award, another nominator wrote:

"Mary has displayed extraordinary leadership. Examples include financially supporting the Iowa Library Association Leadership Institute; having the vision to have Iowa as one of the first states to subscribe to WebJunction so that Iowa librarians had more access to online learning; persuading the Gates Foundation to allow Iowa to execute a different kind of Staying Connected grant so that the State Library could give Iowa public libraries their own Web sites.

"Personally, I appreciate Mary's collaborative style of leadership. She brings out the best in other people by affirming them and encouraging them to express points of view different than her own. Only a true leader would have the internal strength to do this."





## Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook updated

The *2009 Iowa Library Trustee's Handbook*, last published in 2003, has been updated and includes new topics such as the special library levy, the library's relationship with the city, library funding inequities and library salaries. The purpose of the handbook is to give trustees a basic understanding of their responsibilities and power. It contains useful, practical information about developing policy, the board/director relationship, funding, intellectual freedom, library laws and many other topics. The handbook is available online at <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/Trustees/trustee-handbook/view>.

## 425 librarians and trustees attended 2008 Town Meetings

"The Engaged Library: Getting to Know Your Community" was the topic of the September 2008 annual Town Meetings. State Library staff, with help from Library Service Area staff, held the meetings in Mason City, Storm Lake, Creston, Iowa City, Waterloo and Urbandale. Librarians spent time in the morning thinking about groups in their communities they could connect with to become more engaged in their city's economic, cultural and civic arenas. Afternoon breakout sessions included "Getting the Most from Ebscohost 2.0," "Collection-Driven Services," and "Money Matters."

The State Library Town Meeting Players presented a skit on "The Engaged Librarian," which described the important connections a librarian can make within his or her community. Below are some pictures from the meeting in Iowa City.



*The Town Meeting Players, from left, are Michele Leininger, Mary Wegner, Scott Dermont, Marie Harms, Jay Peterson, Sandy Dixon, and Iowa Library Association preseedent-elect, Ellen Neuhaus.*



*A group of "engaged" librarians in Iowa City seemed to be enjoying the Town Meeting.*

## State Data Center has active year as 2010 census approaches

In April 2009 the State Library's State Data Center convened the first 2010 Census Iowa Roundtable, a monthly meeting for anyone who wants to help make the census the best it can be in Iowa. The Roundtable is an opportunity to share information, get updates on census activities, ask questions of Census Bureau staff, and brainstorm new ways to increase Iowans' participation in the census. The meetings are held in the State Library as well as eight ICN locations around the state.

In FY09, the State Data Center added a variety of historical census publications to its Web site, <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/sdc>, none of which had been available outside of a few libraries in the state: Censuses conducted by the state of Iowa between 1836 and 1925; the annual demographic compendium of Iowa's counties produced by Dr. Willis Goudy at Iowa State University between 1989 and 2001; and Census 2000 data profiles produced by Iowa State University.

## State Library becomes heir to Iowa Heritage Digital Collections



The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections (IHDC) Web site is an online repository of Iowa history and culture created by presenting digital documents, images, maps and other media from collections of libraries and museums throughout Iowa. The purpose of IHDC is to enhance access to and preserve the life of these valuable historical materials.

IHDC was created in 2003 through a collaboration involving the libraries at Iowa State University and the University of Iowa as well as the State Library. Fifteen institutions have contributed online collections to IHDC. In early 2009, the State Library assumed management of the Iowa Heritage Digital Collection and is currently developing plans to involve additional libraries and cultural heritage institutions in adding to the collection.

The goals of the collection are:

- to create an open, publicly accessible, virtual collection relating to Iowa history and culture;
- to identify ongoing and planned digitization projects relating to Iowa's cultural heritage;
- to establish basic criteria and standards based on best practices;
- to provide the technical infrastructure for the persistence and sustainability of electronic collections;
- to develop training assistance and other resources necessary to enable a diverse range of organizations of varying size and means from throughout the state to participate in the initiative;
- to encourage preservation of original materials selected for electronic distribution.

## **Partnership born between State Library and Iowa Workforce Development**

The State Library and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) began developing a partnership in FY09 between themselves and public libraries in order to better serve unemployed Iowans. Activities will include an ICN session to help libraries connect with local IWD office staff; training library staff on how to provide basic help through the IWD Web site and when to refer unemployed Iowans to IWD; and jointly providing job-related online information to libraries and IWD offices.

## **Library certification increases**

The number of librarians certified by the State Library increased to 1,109 in FY09 compared to 910 in FY08. Sixty-three new staff became certified in the past fiscal year through the State Library of Iowa's Certification Program for Public Librarians. Iowa public libraries are required to have a certified director in order to be eligible for state aid. Those who earn their designations improve library service in Iowa; acquire, maintain, and develop more skills through basic and continuing education; and enhance the public image of librarians and libraries in Iowa.

## **EBSCOhost and FirstSearch update**

EBSCOhost invested a lot of time and money into the development of a major redesign of its Web site, EBSCOhost 2.0, in FY09. The new look and feel of the database has been well received by librarians and customers alike. The database is more user friendly and uses a large search box and easy to view lists while adding even more journals and magazines to its huge collection. The State Library is happy it can offer this product to Iowans and hopes to offer more EBSCOhost products in coming years. In FY09, there were more than 12 million logins and 3.5 million searches conducted by Iowans.

FirstSearch, another database provided by the State Library, has seamless electronic access to dozens of databases and more than 10 million full-text, full-image articles. Iowans logged into FirstSearch more than 330,000 times and did almost 650,000 searches in FY09.

Library users expect high quality information they can trust and use in their daily lives. Much of this information is available only in for-fee databases. But Iowa libraries provide it for free to their customers for use in the library, at home or at work.

# Iowa Center for the Book has exciting year

*The mission of the Iowa Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, literacy and libraries. It is a program of the State Library of Iowa and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.*

## All Iowa Reads

Now in its eighth year, All Iowa Reads encourages Iowans statewide to read and talk about a single book in the same year. The 2008 book was *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler and the 2009 selection was *The Rope Walk* by Carrie Brown. Libraries plan programs and book discussions throughout the year to talk about the selection.

## Letters About Literature

Nearly 60,000 children nationwide participated in the Letters About Literature (LAL) program in FY09.

In Iowa, 1,716 Iowa students in grades 4-12 participated. Students write a letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Research supports the link between reading and writing: children who read, write better; children who write, read more.



*Most of the Iowa winners, along with parents and teachers, attended a reception at the State Library in May, 2009..*



*Katherine Perkins at work at IPR*

Having been a judge for the Iowa Letters About Literature contest for five years, Katherine Perkins seemed a natural fit to judge students' letters at the national level in March 2009. Perkins is producer of Iowa Public Radio's "The Exchange."

"I loved the experience," said Perkins. "I'm always impressed with the letters submitted at the state level. It's a whole different ballgame to read the best letter from each state," said Perkins. "These young people were writing about losing a parent, or a sibling, dealing with issues of racial identity, suicide, eating disorders... so many problems. And, I'm always astounded at the comfort you can find in a book that describes how a character has dealt with a similar challenge, or that comforts or inspires, simply through the written words."



## Comings and goings at State Library



Katherine Von Wald retired from her highly successful career as coordinator of the Iowa Center for the Book (ICB) in June 2009. She was instrumental in organizing the ICB, setting up the All Iowa Reads and the Letters About Literature programs, and maintaining the ICB Web site.

Michele Leininger, State Library continuing education coordinator, took a new position in Tacoma, WA on October 16, 2008. She said, "I have grown to love and respect the Iowa library community and will miss the support and camaraderie of such a remarkable group of people."



Mark Bockenstedt joined the SILO team on August 25, 2008 as a systems analyst and is responsible for developing and maintaining SILO's Web hosting services of the PLOW project. He also maintains Web-based applications, including the continuing education catalog and the SILO library directory.

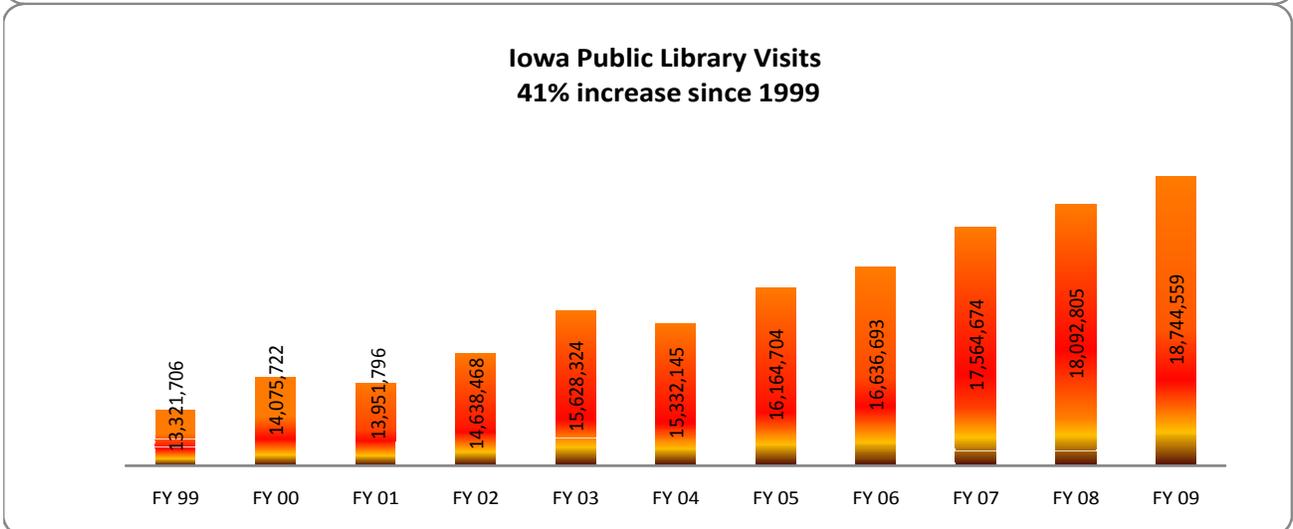
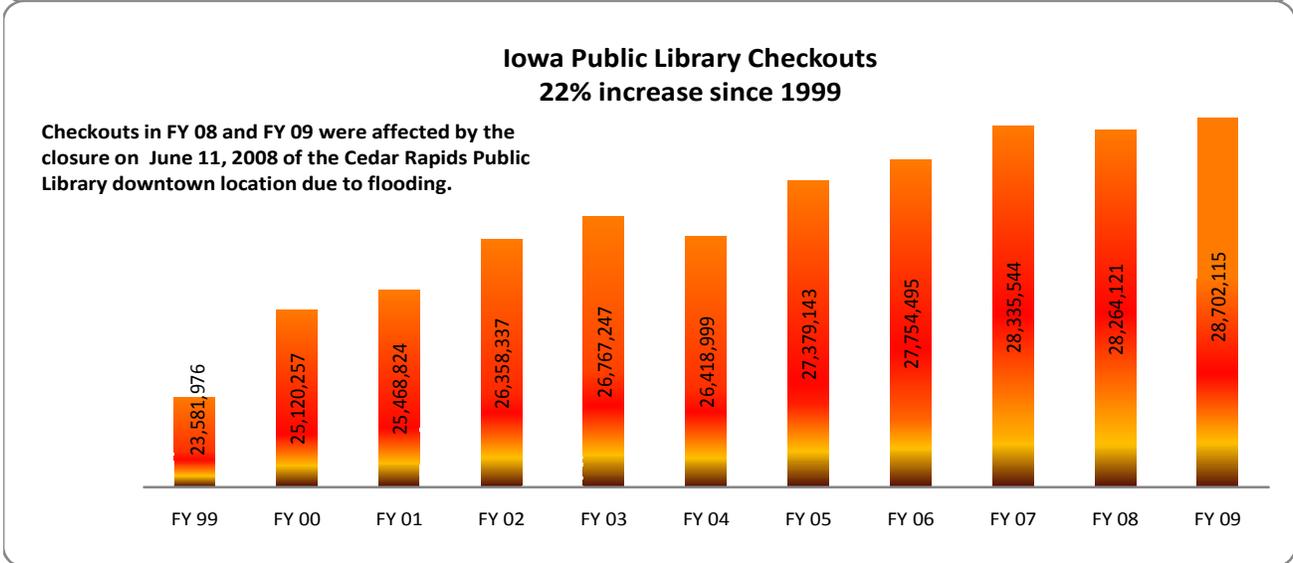
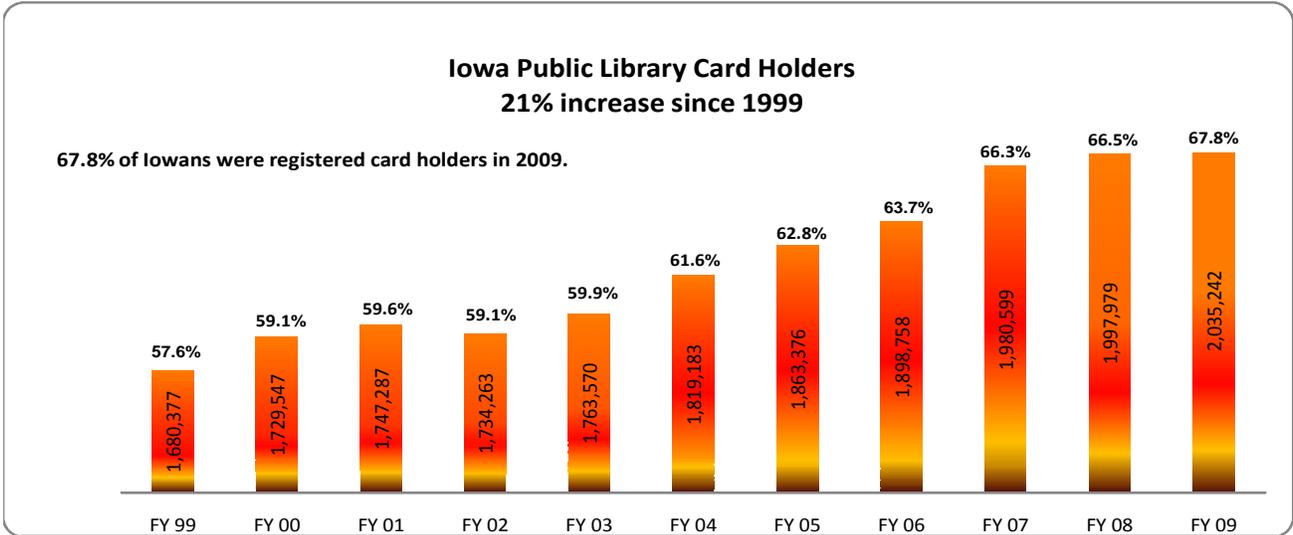


Scott Dermont came to the State Library on September 8, 2008. He administers the public library standards and accreditation, and oversees the collection, analysis and publication of Iowa library statistics.



The State Library welcomed Alysia Peich on July 1, 2009. Her work assignments include coordinating Public Library Management I & II, overseeing the CE catalog, providing public libraries with training and consulting on library services for Iowa's adult populations, and teaching information literacy.

# IOWANS USE THEIR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN RECORD NUMBERS



Source: State Library of Iowa Public Library Statistics Publications, FY 99 to FY 09

12/18/2009

# State Library of Iowa

## **Main Library**

1112 E. Grand Ave.

## **Law Library**

1007 E. Grand Ave.

## **Mary Wegner**

State Librarian

## **Barbara Corson**

Program Director, Library Services

## **Sandy Dixon**

Program Director, Library Development

## **Beth Henning**

State Data Center Coordinator

## **Alan Schmitz**

SILO Coordinator

## **Annette Wetteland**

Communications Coordinator  
and Annual Report editor

[www..statelibraryofiaowa.org](http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org)

## **Iowa Commission of Libraries**

Daniel Boice

David Boyd

Jann Freed

Monica Gohlinghorst, Chair

Kevin Fangman

Thomas Martin

Janet Mohs



*Top photo, left, Commissioners Tom Martin, Jan Freed, Dan Boice, Monica Gohlinghorst, Janet Mohs, and David Boyd; middle photo, left, Commissioners Dan Boice, Tom Martin, and Jan Freed; photo below Commissioner David Boyd*