

- Special to the Daily Leader

Liberal Memorial Library's board of trustees has attained credentials to be certified as Kansas Certified Public Library Trustees.

This certification is awarded by the State Library of Kansas in Topeka through the Reaching for Excellence trustee certification program.

The Library Trustee Certification program recognizes the importance of trained and informed board members and honors the Kansas citizens who give their time and talent to Kansas public libraries.

The seven members of the board of Memorial Library have completed training in all five trustee core skills.

The trustees who have received their certification are Juneil McQueen, Randy Scantlin, Don Hill, Jane Balman, Jody Holt, Kenneth Thompson and Olga Cisneros.

In 2006, the State Library of Kansas, with the aid of the Kansas Library Trustee Association Board and Kansas library leaders, initiated an effort to identify core skills needed for public library trustees and to create a certification program to recognize the achievement of those skills.

The resulting program, Reaching for Excellence: The Kansas Library Trustee Certification Program, incorporates training requirements drawn from the core skills for Kansas public library trustees.

This voluntary program certifies a library trustee for three years and encouraged re-certification through further continuing education.

The Memorial Library board spent the first six months of this year in workshops before each board meeting in order to become certified.

Director Jill Pannkuk said, "I am really proud of our board and their willingness to put forth the extra time and effort needed to achieve certification. They are a great group who work well together and bring an array of talents and skills to the board."

The library has completed a number of capital improvement projects in the past two years including remodeling the staff area, installing new shelving and signage in the adult section and replacing three air conditioning/heating units. And at the end of the month new handicapped accessible doors will be installed.

Over the next few months, members of the board will be continuing to learn more about libraries and their role as trustees by viewing and discussing "Trustee Trouble: The Misadventures of a New Library Board Member." They are also working on a strategic plan and are reviewing the library's policy manual.

Future plans include renovation of the lower level of the library and installing a new roof.

Shannon Roy, trustee certification coordinator at the State Library, said, "It is wonderful that this board was able to certify all its members in a timely fashion and it is wonderful that they will be studying more and doing strategic planning. We will be hearing more about Liberal's accomplishments."

