

2024 Ballot
Northeast Kansas Library System Executive Board

Atchison County Representative (*Choose one*)

Gordon Myers

Johnson County Representative (*Choose one*)

Sara Eccles

Shawnee County Representative (*Choose one*)

Brenda Hough

At Large - Representative (*Choose one*)

Rachael Hissong

At Large - Academic Representative (*Choose one*)

Amber Ovsak

At Large - School Representative (*Choose one*)

Lori Franklin

Signature

Printed Name

I am representing: (Select one)

County Appointee, _____
(County Name)

Executive Board

Member Library, _____
(Library Name)

Nominee Information

Sara Eccles, current leader at the Olathe Public Library. She started as a page 36 years ago and along the way has been a Reference Librarian, Electronic Resources Librarian, Outreach manager, and Building Manager. She believes strongly in the importance of libraries as a place for people to learn and grow, and in her heart will always be a reference librarian on the hunt for that book or answer to a question for a customer.

Lori Franklin is a retired educator, serving 30 years in both Kansas and Florida. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, public librarian, school librarian, and was the library media coordinator for Olathe Public Schools, overseeing 50+ school libraries, librarians, and a textbook department. She loves reading books of all types and enjoys working with community members.

Rachael Hissong is a public library director who holds a Master of Library Science degree with a concentration in leadership and administration from Emporia State University. Rachael has experience as the director of three separate NEKLS member public libraries with progressive levels of responsibility and leadership and as a library media specialist with Lawrence Public Schools. She is passionate about the positive impact libraries have on communities and eager to continue giving back by serving on the executive board as someone who has benefited immensely from NEKLS training opportunities and overall support for libraries. Rachael is proud to have recently accepted the position as Director of the Basehor Community Library.

Brenda Hough has worked in and for libraries for over 25 years, primarily in roles focused on the provision of learning and development opportunities for library staff. She is currently employed at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library as the Staff Development Coordinator.

Gordon Myers educational background includes Kansas Wesleyan University (BA, Education), Washburn University (MEd) and Kansas State University (graduate studies in educational administration). Gordon began a 48-year career in the field of education in 1972, serving as a teacher (3 years), principal (19 years), assistant superintendent (3 years) and superintendent (23 years). His tenure included positions in Topeka U.S.D. No. 501, Seaman U.S.D. No. 345, Santa Fe Trail U.S.D. No. 434, Garnett U.S.D. No. 365, Henry County R-1 School District (Windsor MO) and Midway R-1 School District (Cleveland MO). He retired in 2020. Gordon has served on the Atchison Public Library board of trustees since May, 2023. Gordon and his wife Susan, the retired superintendent of Atchison U.S.D. No. 409, have three grown children and eight grandchildren. In retirement, Gordon enjoys traveling with his wife, reading and yardwork.

Amber Ovsak received her MLS in 2011 and has worked in public, school, and academic libraries. Her current position focuses on serving undergraduate students at the University of Kansas, implementing programming and information literacy instruction. She hopes that her commitment to lifelong learning and experience would provide valuable insights to support the library system. Additionally, she would like to apply any learning and cross disciplinary experience to advocate for inclusive, community-driven services that address the diverse needs of Northeast Kansas.