

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission
GoToWebinar Meeting
Friday, July 19, 2013, 10:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Deb Carlson (Chair), Robin Bernstein, Francine Canfield, John Dale, Ceri Daniels, Beth Falla, Denise Harders, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Sherry Houston, Beth Kabes, Cecelia Lawrence, Pat Leach, Christine Walsh, Kara Welch, Janet Stoeger Wilke, and Merrilene Wood. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Trine McBride, Betty Meyer, Vickie Retzlaff, and Ellen Weed. Also present: Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Laura Johnson, Christa Burns, and Linda Jensen.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Deb Carlson opened the meeting (held online via GoToMeeting) with a welcome and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and identify their locations.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Daniels and seconded by Hassebrook to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes (March 8, 2013): Motion made by Walsh seconded by Leach to approve the March 8, 2013, minutes. Motion approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Reports / Discussion:

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner updated the Council on Library Commission membership changes. Charles Gordon recently completed his second term and is not eligible for re-appointment. The Governor has appointed Michael La Croix (Omaha) to fill this opening. Governor Heineman re-appointed Pat Gross and Sherry Crow to second terms.

The Library Commission requested a state maintenance of effort (MOE) waiver from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the Library Services and Technology Act grants to states program. The Library Commission fell below the maintenance of effort requirement due to state budget cuts in recent years. The Commission was granted waivers the past two years, but waivers are difficult to obtain so there is no assurance that the waiver request will be approved this year. A response to the waiver request is expected sometime in August. Wagner said that he expected that the Commission will meet the maintenance of effort requirement this year due to the state's improved economy and slightly higher state appropriations.

Wagner said that the U.S. House and Senate have not made budget decisions on FY 2014 federal appropriations. There may not be a national budget in October, and appropriations will likely again be made on a short term basis under a Congressional continuing resolution.

The Library Commission's three-year Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) is nearly completed, extending through the end of September 2013. The 140 libraries involved have been supportive and successful.

Mary Jo Ryan briefed the Council about a FINRA grant which the American Library Association awarded to the Nebraska Library Commission in partnership with the Northeast Library System. This two-year grant, in its early stages, is funded by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Fund in partnership with the ALA. JoAnn McManus, the Library Commission's BTOP program manager, will manage the grant. The project includes twenty-three public libraries that will work with trainers (no one in the financial industry) to teach specific 21st Century learning skills about how to manage money. The audiences will be young adults, retirees and pre-retirees.

Comments: Kate Hassebrook said that the Money Smart Week has been a very successful learning experience for the youth of her community. Christine Walsh said that there was a similar program in Kearney that was very successful.

Nebraska Library Association Update – Christine Walsh

Early registration ends August 1st for the NLA/NSLA 2013 Conference. The conference will be October 9 - 11, 2013, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. The keynote speaker will be Stephanie Vance (The Advocacy Guru) and the theme this year is "Advocacy – Making the Connection."

The Nebraska Library Association's e-Journal was published and available in February and also in March. You may send your information articles to be included in the next release.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Beth Kabes

The NSLA Conference will be coordinated with the NLA Conference and held at the same time. Deb Levitov, Managing Editor of *School Library Monthly* and former Lincoln Public School media specialist/educator, will present a preconference on advocacy. The presentation will be video-conferenced.

Barbara Stripling, ALA President, and Marc Aronson of Rutgers University will present "Inquiry & the Common Core" at the 2013 Heartland School Library Conference (August 2- 3, 2013). Nebraska school librarians believe it is important to learn about the Common Core standards so they can be leaders if Nebraska adopts those standards. The NSLA Summer Retreat will be held August 1.

Nebraska Libraries – Common Cause

2013 State Legislative Session Results - Rod Wagner

Wagner reported that the legislature appropriated \$150,000 for the Nebraska eReads project for the purchase of eBooks and digital audiobooks. The funds will be available to support the Nebraska public libraries that provide these services. The funds will be allocated to the 140+ libraries of the Nebraska OverDrive Group, the Omaha Public Library and Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries.

Wagner thanked everyone for their efforts in promoting state funding for Nebraska libraries. He thanked Francine Canfield and the NLA Legislative Committee and NLA lobbyist Ken Winston for their leadership, and the many who helped promote the Commission's budget request.

John Dale asked about the funding amount requested for regional library systems. Wagner said that regional library system funding was not increased. The appropriation includes funding equal to last year's appropriation amount.

Beth Kabes asked if there is any research data for Nebraska public libraries representing what kind of digital devices they are using. Pat Leach said that there are national studies that would reflect Nebraska's situation. Wagner, Johnson and Leach added that at first the Kindle and Nook were being used, and have been supplemented by iPads, tablets, mobiles and smartphones. The Sony Reader has been discontinued.

Nebraska Libraries & Digital Literacy – Teaching, Coaching and Advocacy - Mary Jo Ryan

Digital Literacy Corps – This national project involves volunteers, mostly high school students and college students, who through their library, teach and coach digital skills. In Nebraska, Library Commission scholarship students have been offered stipends to provide classes through the Digital Literacy Corps. Ten students have signed up so far. Ryan said we are excited about the impact they will make.

Laura Johnson mentioned that the role of the public library in technical and computer skills is becoming high profile. The Digital Literacy Corps will prepare librarians for this. An interactive training Technology Clinic with Jessamyn West will be held on August 19.

Beth Kabes mentioned authors that work with adults are Marsha Tate and Sharon Bowman.

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Robin Bernstein reported that MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) has been started at Bellevue University, and a Kindle initiative began this spring. Funding the new initiatives, such as the MOOC, will be a future challenge.

Francine Canfield reported that the most enjoyable success is the summer reading program. The challenge is succession planning, and the library's strategic plan.

Sherry Houston said that the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference is scheduled for September 25-28 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Omaha. Keynote speakers are Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, and Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of the American Library Association's United for Libraries division. There will be tours including the Joslyn Art Museum, downtown Omaha, and Council Bluffs including the public library. Sherry said that everyone involved is pleased that the Library Commission has awarded scholarships for conference attendance.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook said that the Lyons Public Library summer reading program was very successful this year. Author Renee Hunt spoke at the Lyon's 4th of July celebration.

Beth Kabes said that she is co-chair of the Nebraska initiative for BlendEd, and the ESU Coordinating Council has purchased the search content software Safari Montage. This eLearning System will be used by all public schools this fall. She mentioned the fall Workshop for Northeast Nebraska Network Consortium School Libraries to be held September 21 at the Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Ceri Daniels said that the conversion to the new software system occurred April 1. While there were the usual glitches, things are up and running. She does continue to find and correct any conversion issues that appear. The largest one seems to be the contact lists where names have been divided strangely. We are working on cleaning out the file room – finding old files and sending them to “closed.” This needed to be done for a long time but is so labor intensive that it was put on hold. We have a former runner who will be going to law school in the fall in charge of the project. She is doing a great job, and together we are making progress.

John Dale said Wayne State College's Conn Library received \$12 million in allocations from the State and \$3 million from the state's Administrative Services 309 Task Force for Building Renewal towards a 3-year, \$20 million library renovation project.

Pat Leach said Lincoln's summer reading program is doing well. She has been collecting information to begin a community information process to establish the need for a new main library. Pat mentioned observations made by her summer interns and how they are good advocates for the library.

Denise Harders reported that the new public library accreditation guidelines have been a challenge for her as well as a success. Her success is that she has been working with two RVLS libraries that are not currently accredited, and it looks promising that they will become accredited this year.

Kara Welch said that she has been busy working on a grant to update the old part of the Ainsworth Public Library. She also mentioned that she and the new public school administrator are working together to initiate a reading program for students (grades 7-12).

Christine Walsh reported that Kearney Public Library's summer reading program was very successful, especially the adult program which included 300 participants. Some challenges include how to take the library outside the building and how to build on existing community partnerships.

Janet Stoeger Wilke reported that a portion of the library's roof was destroyed during a storm in April, and the roof will not be repaired until fall. The storm damaged about 6,500 books that are being restored. The library will present a program on emergency planning at the NLA/NSLA Conference. The Calvin T. Ryan Library presented its first Award for Undergraduate Research during Student Research Day.

Cecelia Lawrence reported the North Platte Public Library has had good attendance for its summer reading program. She mentioned the Friends of the Library are contributing \$20,000 for new external lighting and external embellishments, and \$9,000 for pallet shelving in the library. Her challenge is that the library has not cleaned out its storage space in 13 years and a 30-cubic-yard dumpster will be arriving next Tuesday.

Merrillene Wood reported that Western Nebraska Community College has completed its weeding project for both campuses. Director Curtis Brundy has left the college for a library director position in Iowa. Merrillene said that she will serve as interim director until the director position is filled. The library staff is considering space use and needs in relation to the college's plan to renovate some areas of the college in the next 15 years.

Deb Carlson reported that there are over 1,800 children in Scottsbluff Public Library's summer reading program, with 220 in the teen program. She reported that library activity is growing, including lots of classes expanded from the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities grant. Abby Yellman has been active in justifying the need for a part-time staff member to alleviate the need for more staff. Another challenge is that Nancy Escamilla, young adult librarian, will be leaving her position on July 31st and the library will need to fill that position.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions*

Rod Wagner encouraged everyone to support ALA President Barbara Stripling's presidential initiatives including "Declaration for the Right to Libraries." There is information about the initiative on ALA's website (Advocacy & Legislation page).

Wagner asked the Council to contact the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee and to the Governor to thank them for the \$150,000 appropriated for the Nebraska eReads Program.

Motion made by Carlson and seconded by Hassebrook for Rod Wagner and the State Advisory Council on Libraries to draft a letter to send to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee and Governor Heineman thanking them for the \$150,000 appropriated for Nebraska eReads Program. Motion approved.

2013 Council Meeting Schedule: **November 15, 2013** (Lincoln)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.