Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Kearney, Nebraska
March 9, 2012

DRAFT MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Pat Leach, Beth Falla, Jayne Hlavac, Francine Canfield, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Vickie Retzlaff, Merrillene Wood, Deb Carlson, Denise Harders, Christine Walsh, Sherry Houston, Frank Zimmerman, Ceri Daniels, Steve Fosselman, Kate Borchman Hassebrook. Commission members: Sherry Crow, Steve Batty, Patricia Gross, John Dale. Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Sue Biltoft, Mary Jo Ryan. Public: Matt Williams.

Welcome and Introductions
Chair Pat Leach opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of those present.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Frank Zimmerman and seconded by Merrillene Wood to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: (November 18, 2011): A request was made for corrections or additions to the minutes. It was requested that under the Nebraska Library Association section on page 3 that "UNL" replace "UNO." A correction was requested on page 7 to indicate that Pat Leach will become chair in 2012 and not 2013. An additional correction was requested on page 7, line 5, to replace "is" with "it." Deb Carlson requested that under the Council Round Table section, "service hours have been reduced" be removed since that happened in the past.

A motion was made by Ceri Daniels and seconded by Deb Carlson to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was approved.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Reports/ Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner reported a reduction in LSTA funding as a result of Congressional action on the federal budget. Nebraska's LSTA allocation was reduced by $17,000. Nebraska's LSTA allocation was reduced $70,000 last federal fiscal year. LSTA funding after this year is, as usual, uncertain. There is some activity going on with the re-authorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act to include funding for school libraries. Wagner mentioned the petition that solicited names to support the school library legislative and budget initiative.

Mary Jo Ryan reported that the IMLS funded 21st Century Librarian Scholarship grant program opened for another of applications. In addition to scholarships, applications for intern projects have been received and funded. The Commission has also applied to a private foundation for intern support. The foundation wishes to remain anonymous, but each year has provided internship funds. This is a way to build a private funding base for this program that will be beyond the federal funds.

Mary Jo said that another part of this program is the value added education component and what can be done to help these students. A survey was sent to the students and one of the things asked was how they can help their library customers with e-reader devices. The Commission has bought several e-reader devices. Susan Knisely and Michael Sauers have held workshops in different areas of the state to provide e-reader training. The training is for those interested in learning how to help their customers.

This summer there will be a "Tech Rodeo" training program provided for the scholarship students but librarians can also participate (on a space available basis). It will be a Thursday-Saturday retreat on a college campus where they will spend three days on projects. The teams will have a scenario sheet and will build the whole project with ideas for programming, funding, and marketing. Teams will present their projects at the end of the retreat.

Mary Jo said that the *Nebraska Librarians Learning Together* Facebook page has expanded beyond what it was first intended. Students and librarians are searching on the web, finding resources and posting them for others to use. They are also attending trainings and then sharing their knowledge through forum discussions.

Richard Miller commented that more internship grants will be awarded and it is hoped that libraries that have not received one in the past will apply. Application information can be found at Now hiring @ your library® along with some of the other projects and the parameters of the internship program. Applications are not limited to public libraries, but in many cases priority is given to public-school libraries or public-special libraries or a combination or collaboration of both.

Pat Leach asked about LSTA funding cuts and what level of worry the council should be concerned. Rod Wagner said that LSTA funds are uncertain beyond the current year and especially so due to federal debt legislation and future budget cuts. On the state side, Wagner said that at the midpoint of the biennium, during the short legislative session, the legislature considers adjustments to the state biennium budget. State agencies can submit deficiency requests which are intended for expenses that were not anticipated earlier and funding is needed. The Library Commission requested funds to cover expenses for Digital Talking Book supplies (flash memory cartridges and mailers). This is a new expense incurred in the last couple of years with the change to digital talking book players. The appropriations committee did include funding for this request. The Commission also requested state funds to bring state aid to libraries program funding back to the FY 10/11 state funding level. This request was not supported by the appropriations committee in its recommendations to full legislature. Thus, the state aid appropriation remains the same for this year and next and at the reduced funding level. Wagner said the state budget seems to have stabilized, at least for now, to the point where there may not be further cuts and the hope is that the state economy will continue to improve. State tax revenues in recent months have been at or above projected levels. The Commission's next budget request, for the 2013-2015 biennium, is due in mid-September.

A question was asked about budget cuts, the Commission's actions to achieve efficiencies and if the Advisory Council could help. Rod Wagner said that state budget cuts made since the November 2009 special session have resulted in operating and state aid program expense reductions. Changes include leaving four staff positions vacant; reducing travel expenses; purchasing fewer titles for the library science professional collection; more use of webinars and

conference calls in place of in-person meetings; scanning and emailing items rather than printing and then sending through the US Mail; newsletters sent via email; contract services reductions, and more.

Nebraska Library Association Update – Christine Walsh thanked everyone who attended Nebraska Library Advocacy Day. She said there were 97 library supporters, 6 honorees and 38 senators involved in activities throughout the day. Christine said there was also library presence at the League of Municipalities Conference, held the same day in Lincoln, with the Library Association, Library Commission and regional library systems exhibiting at the League conference. The joint programs allowed for higher visibility for libraries to the municipal officials and administrators and seemed to work to their advantage.

Christine said that program proposals for the Tri-Conference are due by the end of April. All NLA section spring meetings are in the planning stage. Nominations are open for new board positions including vice-president/ president elect, secretary, and MPLA representative. All sections and roundtables are responsible for recruiting their own nominees and that deadline will also be at the end of April. The next NLA board meeting will be in June in LaVista, the site for the NLA, NEMA, MPLA Tri-Conference October 17-19.

Nebraska Educational Media Association Update – Sherry Crow reported for Betty Myer. Sherry said that NEMA currently has 336 active members. The NEMA board is getting ready for elections for 2012-2013. Sherry is a candidate for president-elect. NEMA will ask members to vote to change the organization's name to Nebraska School Librarians Association.

NEMA is working on an online membership directory to replace its CD directory. The online directory will be more current and easier for members to use. There will be a school librarian retreat at UNO to be held this summer. Sherry said NEMA is planning to start a series of these retreats. There will be one this year with intention for future retreats at UNO, UNK and UNL. Sherry said that NEMA board members are excited about the upcoming NLA/NEMA and MPLA conference. She said that the keynote speaker will be Tom Osborne. NEMA has a scholarship program but being able to give those out hasn't been easy, nor has it been easy to fund. NEMA continues to offer the continuing education scholarship of $800 and the deadline for applications is March 15. NEMA also awards the Karla Wendelin CE Scholarship for $300. The NEMA board will next meet on April 28.

Library Services and Technology Act Program Evaluation and Five-Year Plan – Rod Wagner said that the Commission's five-year evaluation of Nebraska's LSTA state program is due the end of March and he thanked council members for their prior discussions about the state program. The Commission must also submit a new LSTA five-year plan by the end of June. Wagner said that council members should have received a questionnaire from the Library Commission that was emailed earlier this week. This is part of the evaluation. Kathryn Brockmeier and John Felton are the two lead staff members conducting the evaluation.

A set of questions was distributed for discussion with the council divided into three groups. The questions and results are attached.

Council Round Table

Kate Borchman Hassebrook reported that the Lyons public library had lots of programming activity in November and December. The festival of trees is a popular activity and brought in about $1,000 for the library. A Santa visit was attended by about 90 kids. The librarian is searching for new genealogy software to replace the current version.

Mary Jo Ryan –The nomination process for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska program has started. This year the book is Joe Starita's *I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice,* one of the most popular books chosen. The Nebraska Library Commission book club kits are checked out continuously. Help is needed to select another book just as good and nomination cards are available to take to libraries. Mary Jo encouraged all to sign up for the NLC weekly Monday morning newsletter. This is a way to get more current information with headlines. Ryan also reminded the council about the book club kits sharing wiki. It has a lot of book club kits, not just the ones checked out through the Library Commission or the regional library systems. Other libraries are adding their book club kits.

Mary Jo mentioned Nebraska's state membership for public libraries and regional systems in the Association for Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF). Membership allows library trustees and directors to participate in ALTAFF's Trustee Academy available as an online webinar. Reports from academy program participants have been very favorable.

John Dale stated that his term on the Library Commission will end in June 2012 and he will greatly miss his involvement with the Commission. John said that his library activity will continue. He is serving on a planning committee for the renovation of Wayne State College's Conn Library.

Steve Fosselman reported that the Grand Island Public Library is blessed with proximity to College Park. Because of this, the library was able to get a fiber optic cable connection to College Park and then on to the Network Nebraska backbone. There is some bandwidth not being fully used and the Grand Island library is planning to use it for HD quality video. Examples will be available to show how public libraries can broadcast programming for the benefit of the other members of Network Nebraska. The Grand Island library just completed a long range plan including a new mission statement with eight guiding principles and goals. The first concern is from people outside of Grand Island requesting to re-start free service. The library is receptive to this proposal and will be working with the Library Commission to make sure all laws are abided by in creating the contracts.

Matt Williams said the Kearney Public Library is working to get back on track after disruption due to the building expansion and renovation project. Williams reported the library has a new app in development and a new logo is being designed. Programming and budgeting are other current activities. Matt said the library received donations totaling $10,000 from the library friends group.

Ceri Daniels stated that after fire destroyed the Lincoln Public Schools District Office building, her office is now developing a disaster policy. One option that is beginning pursued is electronic client files. One of several reasons for starting this new process is the need to decrease paper

storage due to the storage and maintenance costs. Another factor is that it would be easier to recreate files from an electronic version stored offsite.

Frank Zimmerman reported that when the Auburn Public Library was built over a decade ago (1996) the thought was that the library had more space than could ever be used. But after moving in, it was realized that there wasn't enough space. Frank said that plans are being made for an addition that will be primarily a children's area with some additional office space. The addition will enhance the children's program which has grown in the last few years. Even with financial constraints at this time, donations for the addition continue to grow.

Sherry Houston mentioned that she had served on the Nebraska Center for the Book board and traveled three times to Washington, D.C. for the National Book Festival. She said the book festival is a wonderful experience and that if anyone ever has the chance to attend that they should do so. Sherry said that the Association of Small and Rural Libraries will hold its 2013 conference in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. She also said that the Sump Memorial Library in Papillion will be going live with the Pioneer Consortium integrated library system.

Steve Fosselman commented that the Pioneer Consortium libraries use open source (Koha version) software. The consortium started with 4 libraries and there are now 16 of various sizes with Lincoln being the largest member. This is a web based system that does not require the library to house its own server. A technology committee is working with system development. Participating libraries have committed funding for the project. Fosselman said that the project is possible due to the funding and support of the Library Commission. Fosselman projected that in the future the consortium could develop into a multi-type library consortium.

Christine Walsh commented on the Kearney Public Library's re-opening and the excitement of their patrons when first seeing the new building. The public grand opening is scheduled for April 15th, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Invitations will be sent.

Denise Harders reported that the Republican Valley Library System services' survey has been completed. Responses included e-reader workshops and basic computer training as the most common requests. Denise has been traveling to libraries to assist in weeding processes. She visited the Elwood Public Library and was given a tour of the new building. The Sutherland Public Library has a new director and is also working on getting a new automation system. The following libraries have joined the Pioneer consortium and went live this week: Hildreth Public Library, Superior Public Library and the Hastings Memorial Library (Grant).

Deb Carlson said the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library was named one of the Top 10 children's libraries in the nation by Livability.com. This organization highlights the 500 best places to live in America and the Scottsbluff library was considered fourth in the Top Ten library list. Deb referred to an article published about the library that can be found at: http://livability.com/scottsbluff/ne/lied-scottsbluff-public-library-top-library-children. The library just completed six weeks of the Prime Time Family Reading Time program. Carlson said that Prime Time was extremely well received. She said there were 27 participating families and nearly 100 attendees with people from several ethnic communities. Deb said this is a great way to use the new library. The Scottsbluff library hosted an OverDrive e-book training and 52 adults attended.

Merrillene Wood reported that Curtis Brundy is the new library director at Western Nebraska Community College. He is promoting technology in the library including incorporation of new databases. The faculty has becoming engaged in this process. WNCC library has also started use of LibGuides (reference websites) to help students access databases. The guides have been very well received by the faculty and students. The college's technical services librarian will be retiring at the end of the academic year. The library is looking at revamping its strategic plan. The library is also investigating library automation systems including the Pioneer consortium. Merrillene said that plans are being made to check into new ideas for better access to research, information and databases available at the library. Merrillene said that she assisted the Sidney Public Library in re-barcoding all of their books.

Vickie Retzlaff stated that the Grant County Library in Hyannis big news is the BTOP grant the library received and the new addition to the library that is a public learning center. Not all of the BTOP equipment has been received but it has put the library in the forefront and people are visiting the library and checking out the new equipment and waiting to use it. The other exciting news for the library is that it has joined the Panhandle Library Consortium purchase of Alexandria software. Vickie thanked the Nebraska Library Commission for the LSTA grant that enabled the library to become a part of this consortium. Due to the BTOP grant, the new learning center, the Alexandria software, the library is now automated. Patrons are really excited about the software since the library now has an online catalog. This enables patrons to look at the Grant County library's catalog and the other 14 libraries in the consortium and also allows them to see their profiles and track what they have read.

Francine Canfield stated the Ralston public library has completed its action plan for 2012. The library chose to hold a half day of staff training once a month. The library has scheduled trainings and EAP programs during the morning hours on these half days with the library opening at 1:00 p.m. Francine said she attended the League of Nebraska Municipalities conference in February. Francine mentioned a session about after-school programming done by cities and involving libraries. Francine said that another way the Baright library partners and collaborates is in hiring library science students on a part-time basis.

Jane Hlavac stated that Schuyler's middle school, through its principal, received a grant to purchase 24 iPads that will be divided between the middle school and high school. Several students made requests to Jane to write letters of recommendation for them to assist in their application for the internship positions at the Schuyler Public Library and two students were selected to share the position.

Beth Falla said the Lied Imperial Library staff participated in the Big Talk from Small Libraries program last week. Staff also visited the new library at Grand Island and attended the Every Child Friends of Reading program. The Imperial school has a new reading program and the feedback is that many of the kids don't like to read. The library has noticed that 2nd grade to 6th graders are not checking out books like they used to and there is hope that can be changed.

Steve Batty said the McCook Library Foundation bought property next to the library that will be used for a parking lot. The foundation has funding to install an elevator but it is uncertain when the work can be done. The children's section will be moved downstairs with plans to expand the upstairs area for adults and large print books.

Patricia Gross reported that the One Book One Nebraska *I Am A Man* book club kits are available at the Panhandle Library System office. The book is very popular with a waiting list of three groups. The system office also houses a video collection that is on a three month rotation to libraries that are members of the consortium. There are 13 DVD collections available to patrons. Pat said this is helpful to smaller libraries that can't afford to have their own collection. The cost is $50 per library and the project runs from February through November. Each year more DVDs are purchased with the membership fees.

Pat Leach said Lincoln City Libraries will receive its new bookmobile soon with expected delivery from North Carolina in early May. One of the branch libraries will host a BTOP open house on March 11. The library is planning a Main Library Vision and Concept Study, asking people questions about their preferences for a new main library, what should it be like and where should it be located. Lincoln City Libraries along with the local Audubon Society, Nebraska Game and Parks, and other groups hosted an event named "The Bird Encounter." The event was a whole backyard bird count week and was held in two branch libraries on a Saturday with over 600 people attending. The library is currently working with NET Television to allow people to come to the libraries and be videotaped asking questions about ballot issues. This would then be presented in programing with candidates responding to those questions. Pat also commented on the tax help that is provided at the libraries, the increase in the number of people needing help and the money that comes back to the community through this program. Pat said this has been a good community collaboration for Lincoln City Libraries.

New Business

Election of Council Vice-Chair - Rod Wagner explained that the Council Vice-Chair facilitates council meetings when the Chair is not able to attend. The Vice-Chair becomes Chair the following year and then has responsibility for working with the Library Commission in scheduling and planning council meetings.

Sherry Houston moved and Francine Canfield seconded the nomination of Deb Carlson for Council Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Deb Carlson was elected by voice vote.

Recommendations and Resolutions – Rod Wagner thanked Matt Williams and Christine Walsh for hosting the meeting and for use of the Kearney Public Library. Pat Leach thanked Merrillene Wood for her leadership this past year.

2012 Council Meeting Schedule – Rod Wagner suggested dates of July 20 or 27 for the next council meeting and asked if there were any conflicts for these dates. Mary Jo Ryan mentioned that the Tech Rodeo program is planned for the end of July. It was also noted that the Panhandle Library System annual meeting is scheduled for July 20. The decision was made to research other dates for the summer meeting that could include the months of June, July or August. The fall meeting will be on November 16.

Meeting Adjournment – 2:14 p.m.