

# Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Kearney Public Library  
2020 First Ave, Kearney, Nebraska  
Friday, March 14, 2014, 10:30 A.M.-

## MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Ceri Daniels (Chair), Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Francine Canfield, John Dale, Beth Falla, Denise Harders, Sherry Houston, Beth Kabes, Betty Meyer, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Merrillene Wood, and Abbigail Yellman. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Robin Bernstein, Robin Clark, Cecelia Lawrence, Pat Leach, Trine McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, and Kara Welch. Others present: Steve Batty, Diane Boyd, Scott Childers, Sherry Crow, Molly Fisher, Michael La Croix, Gayle Roberts, Christine Walsh, and Matt Williams. Also present: Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, Richard Miller, and Jennifer Wrampe.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Ceri Daniels opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and identify their locations.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion made by Meyer and seconded by Dale to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes (November 15, 2013):** A request was made for corrections or additions to the minutes. A request was made to change “Janet Wilke reported that of the 7,000 books damaged in the April storm and sent to restoration, only about 1,000 will be returned to the UNK library shelves” on page five to “Janet Wilke reported that of the 7,000 books damaged in the April storm and sent to restoration, only about 1,000 will not be returned to the UNK library shelves.” Rod Wagner mentioned a couple of typos that will be corrected. Motion made by Canfield and seconded by Houston to approve the November 15, 2013, minutes with corrections. Motion approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### **Reports / Discussion:**

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner thanked Matt Williams and Christine Walsh for hosting the meeting at Kearney Public Library.

Wagner reported that there are no specific library issues to address during the current state legislative session, but there will be decisions made on tax policies that will have implications for all public agencies – state and local.

Wagner reported that LSTA funding was increased slightly, but the Commission's request for the LSTA state maintenance of effort waiver was not approved. The Institute of Museum and Library Services questioned some of the financial information NLC submitted. The figures were checked, and they were accurate. Recently, Wagner sent a response with financial documents verifying the submitted information. The IMLS did not change its decision and the Nebraska LSTA state program allotment will be reduced by about \$47,000.00 this fiscal year.

The Regional Library System Configuration Task Force was formed to provide recommendations to the Commission addressing the financial constraints in operating the regional library systems. The Task Force members include representatives of each of the six regions, a couple of system directors, board members and state advisory council members. Task Force members from the advisory council include John Dale, Francine Canfield, Vickie Retzlaff and Denise Harders. Deb Carlson, former council member and chair, also served on the Task Force. The Task Force was asked to consider different configurations for regional systems and develop options for fewer regions as an alternative to the current six regions. They recommended a four-region option and a five-region option. The options will be publicized for more general discussion, and a decision will be requested at the May Library Commission meeting.

The Third Annual "Big Talk from Small Libraries" online conference was held on February 28, 2014. Registrations were received from forty-one states, Canada and Australia. The conference was organized by Michael Sauers, Christa Burns, and Laura Johnson. The presentations were recorded and are now available via the NLC's website.

The Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities project, managed by JoAnn McManus, concluded on December 31, 2014. JoAnn has been appointed to serve as the Library Commission's Grants Coordinator. JoAnn is currently managing the Financial Literacy Grant (FINRA).

#### Nebraska Library Association – Gayle Roberts

"Motivate, Innovate, Integrate" is the theme for the 2014 NLA/NSLA Joint Conference in South Sioux City. Section and Round Table Meetings are noted on the NLA website. NLA will initiate a service audit of sections and round tables in order to provide up-to-date information to all members.

The ad hoc Branding Committee was appointed to look into how best to project NLA's new logo. The NLA lobbyist will work at building a deeper relationship with state senators through small group meetings with NLA officers and local directors. They will work with NLC in identifying a certain level of expected financial support from the state.

The Legacy Fund will be promoted at the NLA Conference this year. Discussion at the last board meeting indicated member interest in providing funding from the Legacy Fund for the "Books are Just the Beginning" project.

Nebraska School Librarians Association - Betty Meyer

Betty Meyer reported that even though the State of Nebraska has not adopted the Common Core Standards, school librarians are concerned how it would affect teaching of library skills and the school librarian's role. She also reported that school librarians would like to be involved with the Nebraska Educational Technology Association since school librarians play a role working with technology in the library.

Beth Kabes reported she and Becky Pasco are involved in a national school library review program process. They recently offered a successful virtual training in Region 9 to recruit reviewers.

**Nebraska Libraries – *Books are Just the Beginning***

Mary Jo Ryan led the discussion on how Nebraska libraries can use this campaign with target audiences. Although this campaign grew out of the BTOP project, it is useful for all types of libraries. It can help in three major areas: programming, communications and adapting these communication tools. The tools are created with the idea that they do not have a specific "call to action" so they may be useful to all libraries in the state. The "call to action" can be as general as, "Visit Your Library," or it can be as specific as, "Sign Up for Health Insurance." There are web pages available on the NLC website for this campaign including, printable resources, videos, activities, and a blog. Ryan provided printed samples of these materials.

Ryan asked Council members how they thought they could use these materials in their libraries. Several Council members offered examples. Ryan explained how to get the word out -- by distributing two pencils and asking the person to keep one and pass one on to another person. Roberts described how Blair Public Library modified the materials for their fundraising efforts for their new library building (including T-shirts, brochure, and video). In response to a question Ryan said that links will be provided on the Commission website for digital access and possible customization of these materials (poster, buttons, banner, etc.).

Ryan also asked Council members who they felt would be the best marketers for conveying the campaign message; some suggestions from the group included grandchildren, customers, library staff, book club kit participants, teens, board members, students and school librarians. Ryan talked about how the buttons might be used. Batty said that he thinks outreach is needed through organizations and businesses in the community. Yellman mentioned that forming partnerships with other organizations will help bring their clientele into the library; these are patrons that may not normally come into the library. Dale suggested using the theme, "Getting Beyond Google." Fisher suggested capitalizing on programs such as author luncheons, or spelling bees, to use as a springboard to this increased awareness. Wood suggested that libraries can provide tours for patrons so that they are aware of what resources the library has to offer, and access to a computer in the meeting rooms would be useful.

Ryan stressed using a planning model to meet the campaign objectives. Richard Miller said strategic planning fits into the process when trying to determine community needs and to which of those needs the library is in a unique position to respond.

**Lunch & Council Round Table – Successes and challenges**

**John Dale** reported that Wayne State College's Conn Library will begin an \$18-\$20 million renovation soon. It is necessary for the project to be conducted in phases because the library will have to remain in the building during the renovation.

**Betty Meyer** reported that a recent bond issue for Hebron Public Schools failed by seven votes. The plan was to connect three buildings and to enlarge the campus. The plan has been adjusted and updated, and the bond issue will come up again in May.

**Mary Jo Ryan** reminded the group of the Nebraska Book Festival to be held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni Center on April 25 and 26, 2014.

**Sherry Houston** reported there are 70,000 people in Sarpy County who do not have access to a public library without paying a non-resident fee. Papillion and Omaha schools are encouraging children to read by having Golden Sower book contests. She also mentioned that she was recently involved in a finance group that met at Omaha Public Library.

Mary Jo Ryan mentioned that JoAnn McManus will be managing the Financial Literacy Grant (FINRA) that will fund twenty-three Nebraska libraries, and there will be online training available for any Nebraska library customer.

**Francine Canfield** reported that as a result of community strategic planning, Leadership Ralston was developed. She will facilitate the initiative, and it will be launched by the Ralston Chamber of Commerce in 2015. "Books are Just the Beginning" has been very successful in Ralston for teen book clubs and movie groups. The Lego Club continues to be very successful.

**Denise Harders** reported that the Republican Valley Library System and Meridian Library System received a Youth Grant for Excellence from NLC. The author, Cowgirl Peg, visited small school districts and public libraries. Harders has developed twelve workshops described as "Workshops on Demand" from which librarians may choose the workshop of their interest and the day they want the workshop at their location. Conducting workshops in this manner makes it possible for librarians to attend workshops that they may not normally be able to attend.

**Abby Yellman** reported that the Scottsbluff Public Library is converting its old computer time-management system. Continuing free training has been provided to patrons following the free BTOP grant training. This training, provided by AIM, is dedicated to teaching the importance of technology.

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is starting a Lego Club. There is a possibility the Omaha Conservatory of Music may be bringing its Violin & Viola Program to Scottsbluff; the library has offered a space in the library on Saturdays for this. Author Craig Johnson will visit Scottsbluff on October 4, 2014.

**Scott Childers**, Director of Southeast Library System, said the Conversations Among Small Town Librarians (CASTL) Meetings in SELS have been very successful. Becky Baker, Lisa Olivigni and he will be repeating their ARSL program on “Community Connections” via WebJunction on March 20, 2014.

**Gayle Roberts** reported that she is excited about plans moving ahead for a new library in Blair. She also said library staff has been working with students of all ages at the public schools. The school has been very supportive in promoting the new library building campaign.

**Christine Walsh** reported that Kearney Public Library continues to partner with the Department of Parks and Recreation and with Central Community College. The knitting club and book club at the library continue to grow.

**Beth Falla** reported that the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program that they were going to start in January will be delayed and will begin in April. Beth said she got many ideas from the Big Talk from Small Libraries webinar. The Lied Imperial Library is partnering with MidPlains Community College to start a quilting class in September. The library is weeding to create a “maker space” available for patrons to use tools for a craft they are interested in.

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook** reported that Lyons Public Library was accredited at the gold level for 2014, and the library director was recertified with a level 4-L certification. She said that the initial proposal for a Kruetz Bennett Grant was approved, and the library will be submitting the full application. The \$10,000 would be used to digitize a newspaper collection, purchase large print books, and buy genealogy software. OverDrive has been continued for another year. The library is starting work on a new website.

**Beth Kabes** and Neligh’s media coordinator have formed a group of eight school librarians to meet and talk about their library needs. Interacting among themselves and other school librarians nationwide with their Twitter Chat group has been very interesting. One of the school districts in her service area is offering incentives to students who read Golden Sower books. Beth mentioned that she is co-chair of Nebraska’s BlendEd initiative, which encourages students to take courses that combine education through face-to-face instruction and/or online instruction.

**Janet Stoeger Wilke** reported that the Calvin T. Ryan Library is currently sharing space with another academic department, and she is working on acquiring that space for the library. She mentioned that as a result of the library’s roof damage last year, “Buy A Book from the Library” was started. Funds are donated to the library in honor or memory of someone who has had a beneficial influence in their lives. The funds will be used to buy materials for the library.

**Matt Williams**, Kearney Public Library Director, said that the library is utilizing the great spaces at the new library by offering numerous programs. He described a number of the programs and services including: technology classes (uploading and editing photos; database classes; computer applications; Windows); tax help; Stuffed Animal Sleepover; knitting class; Legos; book clubs; reference databases; Pub Quiz; and concerts. The library issues a monthly

online list of programs. Williams said that the security system has been resumed due to heavy loss of DVDs. He also mentioned that the library is using and/or installing hearing loops in the meeting rooms to help patrons who have hearing impairment. He acknowledged all the work his library staff has done involving programming in the library.

**Molly Fisher** thanked all the members for their work and the participation with Center for the Book. She welcomed Christine Walsh as a new Center for the Book board member. Fisher invited everyone to the upcoming Book Festival (April 25 & 26 at UNO) and the Celebration of Books (book awards event) this fall. She also encouraged everyone to read the 2014 One Book One Nebraska title, *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*.

**Michael LaCroix** reported Creighton University is receiving a lot of publicity due to three Creighton University students (Doug McDermott and two college student dancers) appearing on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* this month.

**Merrillene Wood** reported that she has been visiting other resource centers to see what other facilities are doing in their libraries. She also reported that the student testing area is no longer sharing a temporary wall with the library reference area. The new testing area provides a more suitable space for students. WNCC Library and WNCC Student Services are partnering to provide programs for the students.

**Robin Bernstein** was not able to attend the meeting. She is attending meetings involving the Bellevue University's reaccreditation. Robin reported some news prior to the Council meeting to Wagner. The BU Library has redesigned its blog and has also set up an Instagram account.

**Ceri Daniels** reported that she will retire this year after fifteen years as the librarian at the Cline Williams law firm. She expressed disappointment that her librarian position has been replaced by a records management position. Her challenge is to train the new records manager.

### **New Business**

#### Election of Council Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Wilke to nominate Beth Kabes as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Council. Daniels asked for the vote; the motion was approved unanimously.

#### Recommendations and Resolutions

No recommendations or resolutions were presented.

#### Special Recognition

Rod Wagner thanked Christine Walsh for serving as the NLA Representative for the last two years.

#### Next Meeting: July 18, 2014 (online), November 21 (Lincoln)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 1:45 P.M.