

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries
Nebraska Library Commission, Atrium Conference Room 206
Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Sky Seery (chair), Jessica Chamberlain (vice-chair), Scott Childers, Sherry Crow, Susan Franklin, Pat Gross, Joy Harvey, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Lori Long, Laura Marlane, Lisa Olivigni, Julie Pinnell, Allison Reisig, Michael Straatmann, and Matthew Williams. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Amanda Sweet, and Linda Babcock. Commission members present: Lois Todd-Meyer, Julia Tye, and Kristin Wiebe.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sky Seery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No additional agenda items added. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2019 Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 15, 2019 minutes. Motion approved.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Library Advocacy Day Comments

Michael Straatmann asked for comments about the day. Pat Gross expressed her appreciation for Michael's efforts, especially the briefing for participants to have an informed idea of what to talk to senators about. Gail Irwin suggested that for future volunteer recognition, to announce the recognized volunteers before Advocacy Day because the selection time wasn't long enough for volunteers to make travel plans to attend. Michael said the pacing for events was off this year, due to the NLA Board switching their calendar year. An evaluation survey will be sent to all who registered for Advocacy Day 2020.

Reports

Nebraska Library Association

Michael Straatmann

Michael reported that the C & U and TSRT Spring Meetings are scheduled for May 15, 2020 (virtual). He reported that activities are planned for NLA/NSLA celebrating the Nebraska Library Association's 125th anniversary. Members have started planning the NLA/NSLA Conference 2020, scheduled for October 7-9 in Kearney. There will be changes, including the Golden Sower presentation. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for the conference, contact Michael.

Nebraska School Libraries Association

Joy Harvey

Joy reported that she is preparing for the Future Ready Conference 2020 at Lincoln Southeast High School on June 15-16. The featured speaker will be Jennifer LaGarde. The Fall Spectacular date has not been set. School Librarian's Day is April 25, 2020 at three locations, Omaha, Kearney, and Scottsbluff. Next year the Fall Spectacular and School Librarian's Day may be combined with more locations being offered. She reported that the Rule 10 Revisions are in progress, and they are of particular interest

because they dictate many aspects of libraries and education. She reported that Lincoln Public Libraries has seven library positions open this year.

Nebraska Library Commission

Rod Wagner

Rod report that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the Library Commission \$185,000 for an additional year, through June 30, 2021, for the Innovation Studios Grant project. The libraries selected for Cycle 8 of the project are St. Paul, Bellevue, Cambridge, and Randolph. The Library Commission is seeking to fill four more of the remaining openings to complete the last participants of the project.

In January, Governor Ricketts presented a proclamation for the 2020 One Book One Nebraska selection – *All the Galant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor*, by Donald Stratton. Mr. Stratton recently passed away.

The deadline for nominating books for the One Book One Nebraska 2021 is June 15, 2020. The nomination form is on the Nebraska Center for the Book website: <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>. The Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, and/or set in Nebraska. The award winners will be announced during the 2020 Celebration of Nebraska Books at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln on October 17, 2020.

Christa Porter

Christa reported on the four grants offered by the Library Commission this year. Those grants are Continuing Education and Training Grants, Internship Grants, Library Improvement Grants (Federal LSTA Funds), and Youth Grants for Excellence. This year the Continuing Education Grants are being offered specifically for librarians to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Wichita, KS in September 2020. Each person will receive \$500 for conference expenses. The Internship Grants offered totaled \$24,000 at twenty-two locations, including five for Innovations Studios. The Library Improvement Grants included seven libraries for \$26,180.

Fourteen Nebraska libraries were awarded Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund grants (administered by the Nebraska Community Foundation). Those grants are available to public libraries with a population of 3,000 or less. Several of the Nebraska libraries receiving the grant were involved with the Innovations Studios Grant, and they are using the funds to buy Makerspace equipment.

The Library Commission received an Offering More Great Books (OMG) Book Awards Grant from the First Book Organization. The \$28,000 grant award will be available to eligible school libraries, public libraries, Head Start Programs, Native American communities, and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Nebraska. They may purchase books and eBooks from the [First Book Marketplace](#) for the children and teens residing in their communities.

The Big Talk from Small Libraries web conference was held February 28, 2020. All sessions will be recorded and available at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>. Big Talk for Small Libraries 2021 is scheduled for February 26, 2021.

Emerging Technologies & Tech Kits

Amanda Sweet, Technology Innovation Librarian

Amanda described technology kits that can be checked out from the Library Commission, and she brought some for the council members to see. She provided handouts in worksheet form. She stressed the importance of knowing community demographics in order to provide their technology needs. The technology kits may be checked out for a month so librarians and staff may learn how to use the equipment. There are online resource materials (preparation guides and instruction lesson plans for each kit) available to prepare for the kits before receiving the kits in the mail. The information and kits are designed to help librarians tailor the equipment for the different audiences in their community. Some of the kits to check out are Snap Circuit Extreme, Virtual Reality kits, Google Home Hub, and The Q.

Council Round Table – Success and Challenges

Lori Long – Lori said that she has been working extensively with the school’s language arts department to create new curriculum at Gothenburg Jr/Sr High School. She sees it as a success and a challenge.

Laura Marlane — Laura said that she is pleased that the City of Omaha has removed the library from their FOX Communication’s contract starting November 21, 2021. The move has interfered with her initial E-Rate application, causing every subsequent application to be under audit. She is working on bids for Internet connection. The big challenge for the Omaha Public Library is the library’s budget that has been cut \$232,000. Some library positions are on hold until September, and plans for the new Omaha Public Library branch is on hold.

Gail Irwin — Gail commented that Ainsworth Public Library was closed the entire day for the Big Talk for Small Libraries Conference 2020 so she and her staff could attend. There is a lot of interest shown in her library for the One Book One Nebraska Book since the passing of the author, Mr. Stratton. One of her staff members received the Continuing Education and Training Grant to attend the ARSL Conference 2020 in Kansas. She looks forward to her involvement with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program that provides books for children, birth to five years old.

Joann Jackson - Joann said that she visited Wanda Marget, director at Fairmont Public Library. The library purchased a Bernina sewing machine for their makerspace. Wanda organized the Fillmore County Librarian’s Group that meets monthly. Joann reported that she recently visited Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, NY, and she was very impressed with their displays.

Susan Franklin— Susan reported that Hastings College president has resigned, and the college is seeking a replacement. Her challenge continues to be vital librarian positions not being filled at her library.

Julie Pinnell — Julie said that Nebraska Wesleyan University had a Higher Learning Commission Accreditation visit recently. She and her staff have worked on accreditation for a couple years and it has been one of her successes. A challenge for Julie is the strategic planning process. She thought working with the University with its strategic plan would be helpful, but it has turned into a two-year process.

Jessica Chamberlain— Jessica reported that Norfolk Public Library works closely with Read Aloud Norfolk. In December, they gave away a huge amount of books in the Norfolk community. A \$2,000 donation provided funds to purchase a book for nearly every elementary student in Norfolk at Christmastime.

The library received funds from First Book National Book Bank, and they were used to purchase books for school libraries students pre-school through K-4. Books were also purchased to give to local Head Starts and a couple of low-income medical clinics.

Jessica's challenge is organizing her staff in their new library. She is conducting surveys with the staff to find out where their favorite places are to work at the library. She wants to place them where they enjoy working, making them more productive, and providing improved services.

Sherry Crow — Sherry reported that all the libraries in the UNL System have joined to form the University of Nebraska Consortium of Libraries. The consortium is working on moving and improving their ILS integrated Library Systems. Michael Straatmann said he has been involved with the preparation of the move, which will start July 1, 2020.

Pat Gross — Pat reported that Becky Henkel, Bayard Public Library director, is starting a Teen Advisory Board. Christie Clark, Youth Services Librarian at Gering Public Library has started a successful program for youth called LEAP (Learn, Explore, Achieve, and Play).

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library started an Adult Summer Reading Program and a jigsaw puzzle collection. Lied Scottsbluff Public Library will host a book signing on March 14, 2020 for Captain Doug Chamberlain, author of *Bury Him: A Memoir of the Vietnam War*.

Allison Reisig — Allison commented that since moving into her renovated library at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff in September 2019, library usage has increased tremendously. Students are utilizing the library spaces and the online resources. Her challenge is working through the accreditation process.

Scott Childers — Scott reported that Tami Thiem is the new Three Rivers Library System Director. Cindy Osborne has been hired as Western Library System Director. Central Plains Library System has moved into a larger office at the Landmark Center in Hastings. Odell Public Library is looking for a different location for its library. Rising City Community Library is planning to build a new library.

Joy Harvey — Joy reported that one of her exciting successes at Lincoln Public Schools is the Digital Library through SORA, integrating OverDrive on their website. OverDrive has filtered content for elementary, middle school, and high school. The biggest challenge for Lincoln Public Schools is that the library budget was cut by \$20 million, while the librarians are taking on more responsibilities.

Lisa Olivigni — Lisa reported that twice a week volunteers clean the computer stations for the thirty public computers at Lincoln City Libraries-Eiseley Branch. She is looking into options for all the Lincoln libraries to disinfect shared equipment. She mentioned her concern for what products should be used to sanitize keyboards, screens, and mice. Laura Marlane said the disinfecting process varies from branch to branch at Omaha Public Library. Matthew Williams said they use Clorox wipes to clean keyboards at Kearney Public Library.

On February 4, 2020, the Eiseley Branch hosted "Mayor's Night Out." The event was very successful. This was the first time Mayor Baird visited the library, as well as a few others who had never been to the

library. Two full-time professional positions and three library service associate positions are open at Eiseley Branch, due to budget cuts.

Matthew Williams — Matthew reported that the “Gay Display” issue at Kearney Public Library has been resolved. The board said they are not going to change the present library policy, and they trust the library staff as professionals in dealing with the issue. The group opposing the library policy have set up a “Pro-Life Display.” He also reported that Kearney Public Library Board is working on their continuing education credits, watching videos.

Sky Seery — Sky reported the makespace area at North Platte Public High School library continues to be very popular. The students have asked for a 3D printer.

Unfinished Business

Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force Recommendations & LB-992

Rod Wagner reported that the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force submitted its report to the Governor and the legislature at the end of October. In early December, the legislature’s Telecommunications and Transportation Committee held a hearing, where a number of people testified. Scott Childers, Lola Seitz (Pawnee City Public Library), Rod, and others were among those testifying. In January, the Committee introduced legislation (LB-992) recommendation by the Task Force for provisions related to schools and public libraries. The recommendation for public libraries states that the Nebraska Library Commission have staff positions for regional technology support. These employees would assist libraries in upgrading their broadband capabilities. The Library Commission prepared a fiscal note to the legislature because there would be an expenditure impact. The Library Commission requested \$400,000 to staff and support the proposed positions. There is reluctance to fund the positions. The Committee will probably remove that language, as it is an unfunded mandate. Regardless, the Library Commission has assigned staff to work with libraries needing broadband services. Christa Porter is the State E-rate Coordinator for libraries, and she provides counseling, training, and advising. Holly Woldt and Cynthia Nigh (Nebraska Library Commission staff) are helping libraries identify their needs for ways they can improve their broadband services. Regional system directors advise on technology as part of their work.

Wagner reported that the second part of LB 992 related to libraries is an E-rate opportunity for funding. It is to assist in creating a special fund through the Nebraska Public Service Commission to provide matching funds for libraries to acquire network components. Christa reported that the E-rate Program would match that state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis, adding 10 percent to the E-rate Program discount. She is optimistic for this to happen in 2021.

LSTA Grants to States Program - \$1 Per Capital Campaign

Wagner reported that the LSTA One Dollar Per Capita Campaign could increase the funding for projects in Nebraska significantly. In December, Congress adopted the federal budget for the current fiscal year, and there was a \$10 million increase in the Grants to States program. It allowed for about \$100,000 per state increase. Unfortunately, Nebraska did not meet its state maintenance of effort requirement for last year. Nebraska’s allocation was reduced resulting in a federal grant increase of \$30,000. If that funding appropriation is maintained for the coming federal fiscal year, Nebraska’s allocation will increase.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries – March 5, 2020

Rod thanked the State Advisory Council on Libraries members for the adoption of the resolution to support the campaign for the Dollar Per Capita initiative.

Rod recognized NLA for its successful Nebraska Advocacy Day event and luncheon with state senators, and library volunteer recognition.

Upcoming Meetings

The next proposed meetings dates will be July 17 (TBA) and November 20 (Lincoln).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.