

## Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Atrium Conference Room  
1200 N Street Lincoln, NE  
Friday, November 15, 2013, 10:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

### MINUTES

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

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Deb Carlson opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and identify their locations. The meeting was recorded via GoToMeeting.

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

**Approval of Minutes (July 19, 2013):** A request was made for corrections or additions to the minutes. It was requested to add “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 continues to find and correct any conversion issues that appear. 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.” Also Vickie Retzlaff was added as absent from the July 19, 2013 meeting.

Motion made by Borchman and seconded by Houston to approve the July 19, 2013, minutes with the additions. Motion approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

#### **Reports / Discussion:**

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner reported that Congress enacted appropriations for a portion of the federal fiscal year from October 1, 2013 to January 15, 2014. The most critical federal funding for libraries is the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, (IMLS) Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program Grant funding was reduced from \$20 million last year to \$10 million this year. Susan Hildreth, IMLS director, recently mentioned that LB 21 grant funding priorities will now focus on continuing education for library workers.

Wagner said that in the past funding has significantly contributed to professional education, and Nebraska has benefited from the scholarship funding.

Wagner also mentioned that state tax legislation will be a significant issue in the next State legislative session affecting all publicly funded entities in Nebraska.

Nebraska Library Association – Christine Walsh

Christine Walsh provided a report including NLA/NSLA conference statistics. There were 476 registrations with 86% of those registering online. Keynote speaker Stephanie Vance was well-received, and the Thursday social hour replacing the traditional banquet was well-attended. Gayle Roberts was elected NLA vice-president / president-elect. All NLA election results are posted on the NLA website. Contact Robin Clark, NLA president, if interested in serving on a committee. Conference dates for the next four years have been set. Contact Lindsey Tomsu to submit information to the Nebraska Library Association's online journal *Nebraska Libraries*.

Francine Canfield reported that Nebraska Library Advocacy Day will be held on February 5 at the Cornhusker Hotel and the State Capitol. Library volunteers will be acknowledged during the morning legislative session. Francine will accept nominations for volunteer recognition until December 15. The agenda has not been finalized but emphasis will be on community involvement and libraries partnering with local organizations. The legislature will be thanked for Nebraska eReads project funding. There will be information promoting the American Library Association's Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Betty Meyer

Betty Meyer reported that school librarians continue to have difficulty getting time off to attend conferences, but there was good attendance at the Heartland Conference in August. The conference focused on advocacy to make the public aware of what school librarians do and the school librarians' role in aligning with curriculum standards.

Beth Kabes will be the next NSLA president following current president Dr. Sherry Crow. Janet Stoeger Wilke asked if school librarians receive financial support to attend conferences. Betty responded that she does not receive financial support, but some districts offer limited assistance to school librarians to attend conferences.

**Nebraska Libraries – Common Cause**

Library Broadband (BTOP) Project – JoAnn McManus

JoAnn distributed a BTOP project report. The BTOP Project ran from August 1, 2010 to September 30, 2013, with a budget of \$3,668,289. The grant funds provided enhanced public computer centers in 147 public library locations statewide.

JoAnn said that the project met or exceeded nearly all of its goals and objectives. She noted that the target number of public access computers provided to libraries was exceeded by 26%. The project reached three times the goal for broadband upgrades. Electrical upgrades were provided

to 47 libraries. Community colleges provided 484 technology-related classes at 79 libraries. There were 1,452 public computer work stations deployed with 663 replacement stations and 789 new stations installed.

A survey of the 147 libraries receiving BTOP funding support indicates a very positive response to questions about the project's impact and what these libraries anticipate for the future. In the survey of top ranking items for recipients, libraries included computers, community classes, broadband/internet upgrades and electrical/wiring upgrades. JoAnn noted that the final project report will be completed before the end of December.

Vickie Retzlaff said that BTOP funding provided six computers for the Grant County Library in Hyannis. The library obtained additional space in the Grant County courthouse for the public access computers and center. She thanked the Library Commission for the grant funding.

Deb Carlson said the BTOP project grant computers have made a big difference at the Scottsbluff Public Library. Funding for community college computer classes has been so well received that the library decided to contract using foundation funds to provide more classes.

JoAnn McManus said the Department of Labor has been working in the Wayne Public Library computer lab to help people who have lost jobs as a result of the recent tornado in the area.

John Dale said the BTOP project has had a big impact on communities, and he hopes it will lead to local initiatives to replace equipment and furnishings instead of depending on outside grants.

Pat Leach commented that the Lincoln City Libraries has remodeled space in the Bennett Martin library for its public access computers. She said many of their partners came to the Bennett Martin library's open house.

Beth Falla said the Lied Imperial Public Library will replace some of their computers, but not all of them. Patrons purchased other devices in the grant time frame so they didn't have the need for as many computers as they thought. Patrons are coming into the library to use those devices.

#### Books Are Just the Beginning – Mary Jo Ryan

The Library Commission staff formed a work group to begin a marketing initiative named "Books Are Just the Beginning." The initiative focuses on sustainability. Programming, communication and raising visibility in the library are key aspects to sustainability. An advertising firm was hired to design a web page and other graphics for this initiative. Mary Jo presented a demo video and mentioned the blog that all Nebraskan librarians are welcome to contribute posts. She distributed folders with examples of campaign items.

Mary Jo suggested focusing on demographic groups of library users as marketers for libraries. This could be library staff, trustees, advisory boards, youth boards, book clubs, and friends.

#### FINRA Grant and 2014 Money Smart Week – JoAnn McManus

The Library Commission and the Northeast Library System received a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Grant for \$100,000 to run through June 2015. The grant program is jointly administered by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. The grant will provide financial resources and training for young adults and age 55+ adults in 22 Nebraska libraries. Trainers will include extension agents or instructors from UNL.

Deb Carlson asked if after the 22 libraries have received their training will it be possible to continue with training for other libraries. JoAnn said FINRA receives funds from fines from the financial industry so there may be more opportunities to apply for another FINRA grant in the future.

One Book One Nebraska 2014 – Marketing and Programming – Mary Jo Ryan said that Bob Greene's *Once Upon a Town* has been chosen for One Book One Nebraska 2014. There will be a Governor's proclamation signing ceremony in January as part of the promotion for the One Book One Nebraska program.

#### **Lunch & Council Round Table – Successes and changes**

Ellen Weed said she has retired and she is confident that Lisa Weible, her replacement, will do a good job. The library has new furniture, new paint and the original bookcases have been refinished. A challenge will be for Lisa to continue to learn everything she needs to know about the library.

Pat Leach reported that Lincoln City Libraries has hired some new employees. Nancy Escamilla (formerly a long-time Scottsbluff librarian) is among the new employees. Pat mentioned a recent training event in Omaha with David Vinjamuri, a marketer who presented information about libraries and the importance of promoting and supporting reading. Pat continues to work on the new main library project having conversations with the community about their needs.

Merrillene Wood has new responsibilities serving as Interim Library Director at the Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. A new charging station has been added to the library. She is working with EBSO Discovery Services and the Pioneer Consortium to resolve problems that occurred when downloading information to their library search system. The library circulation desk and the college's testing area are now in the same area with only a half wall to separate them, and this is a distraction for the testing area. She has been working with the finance officer and an architect for a solution to this issue. Merrillene said that she is working with a student organization to have a study session during finals week.

Ceri Daniels reported that it is time for the annual weeding of old files which occurs every November and December. The process has become systematic and more manageable. They are working on budgeting and year-end reports. Ceri mentioned her first year at the law firm. The chair of the law firm's library committee said they needed an executive summary report. (She was used to preparing long, education-background reports.) Luckily the chair said he would do the executive summary for the first six months.

John Dale reported that it has been six months since a category F4 tornado hit the Wayne community and it has been a community-wide challenge to recover. He also mentioned that a construction project at Wayne State College's Conn Library will begin in March.

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. She anticipates that it will be next summer before all the salvageable books are returned. The repair work will be completed in December. Janet said that the Dean of Academic Affairs has asked her to determine the service capacity of the library and its staff, that is, the number of students (on-campus and online) that it can handle. She also mentioned that the library is assessing EBSCO Discovery Services.

Vickie Retzlaff reported the Grant County Library's successes have been the Summer Reading Program and the BTOP project. Proceeds from a bake sale provided funding for the library's participation in the OverDrive Libraries Group. One of the challenges for library staff and patrons has been downloading OverDrive books to reading devices.

Cecelia Lawrence reported that the exterior renovation project has been completed. The library foundation is the beneficiary of bequests from two patrons who passed away recently. The foundation plans to invest those funds for a future new library. Her challenge is replacing retiring staff and providing training for new hires.

Sherry Houston thanked the Commission for providing scholarships for the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Omaha and helping to make it a successful event for Nebraska. She said that one of her concerns involves discussion of closing the Saint Paul Library to the public during the day. Another challenge is the 70,000 people living in Sarpy County who do not have library services without paying for an out-of-district card.

Deb Carlson reported that the Jan Brett presentation at the Midwest Theater in downtown Scottsbluff was very successful with 700 attending. One of the challenges Scottsbluff Public Library has is the loss of three staff members. Melissa Pohl has replaced Nancy Escamilla as Teen Librarian.

Francine Canfield reported that the first book club held this fall had an overwhelming attendance of 60 to 80 middle-school-aged students. These students have participated since pre-school reading groups. Another success was bringing the Omaha Lancers hockey team players to the library for pre-school story time. Some other successes at the library include the installment of security cameras in the library, planning for digitization, and budget restorations for 2014.

Christine Walsh reported that she is pleased that the Kearney Public Library's media room has a lot of activity, even though it has been a challenge for library staff. Partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department and the library foundation continues to be successful. Christine said that she is working with the library foundation to develop a legacy project to bring a noted author to the library once a year.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook said the Lyons Public Library has been fortunate to receive an endowment fund contribution of \$160,000. Some of those funds will be used to match funds for a Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund Grant to buy large print books and to digitize the local newspaper. The BTOP Grant provided software to update the ADA computer's visual and hearing package.

Betty Meyer reported the ongoing challenges for the school are replacing computers at an affordable cost and budgeting for eBooks. A bond issue is needed to consolidate and update the Thayer Central Community Schools. One success has been the children's author presentation by Henry Cole. Betty stressed the importance of advocating for school librarians in the areas of school curriculum and reading.

Beth Falla reported that she attended the ARSL Conference and returned with ideas to implement at the Imperial library. They are partnering with others to start a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program in January 2014.

#### Library of Congress Veterans History Project – Richard Miller

Richard Miller provided handouts for the Veterans History Project. A "field kit" is available to gather information from veterans in a structured interview process and organized documentation. Richard said that Representative Jeff Fortenberry's office in Lincoln can be contacted for more information. (402-438-1598)

#### Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force

Rod Wagner reported that after years of meetings discussing budget cuts and constraints, the time has come to consider reorganize regional system changes with options for fewer regions. A task force was appointed consisting of system board members, system directors, and State Advisory Council members. Richard Miller and Rod Wagner are meeting and working with the task force. The five State Advisory Council members include Deb Carlson, Francine Canfield, John Dale, Denise Harders, and Vickie Retzlaff. The task force will meet in January to discuss recommendations for regional configuration, and in March they will present their recommendations.

Richard Miller named the other task force members: Jessica Chamberlain (Northeast), Gail Formanack (Eastern), Kathy Thomsen (Meridian), and Dorothy Willis (Southeast). He also said John Felton has been supplying statistics and maps for the task force's work.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### SACL Letters to Appropriations Committee and to Governor Heineman re Nebraska eReads Appropriation

Rod Wagner presented a draft thank-you letter to be sent to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee members and to Governor Heineman for the Nebraska eReads state funds appropriation. The letter will include a list of the SACL members and a statement about the purpose of the SACL.

**New Business**

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.

Wagner recognized Deb Carlson for completing her second Council term and expressed thanks and appreciation for her service on the Council and as Council Chair.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2014 (location – TBD)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 2:15 P.M.