

State Advisory Council on Libraries
Nebraska Library Commission
Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, November 19, 2010

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Robin Bernstein, Pam Bohmfalk, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Ceri Daniels, Steve Fosselman, Joan Giesecke, Cindy Gitt, Jayne Hlavac, Pat Leach, Marty Magee, Ellen Weed, Glenda Willnerd, and Merrillene Wood, Commission Staff: Maria Medrano-Nehls, Richard Miller, Mary Jo Ryan, Rod Wagner, Laura Johnson, Dave Oertli, Beth Goble, and Kathryn Brockmeier.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Steve Fosselman opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of those present.

Approval of the Agenda: Rod Wagner distributed a revised agenda to include a report on the Library Improvement grant. A motion was made by Marty Magee and seconded by Merrillene Wood to approve the revised agenda with addition. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes (July 16, 2010): Ceri Daniels said her last name is misspelled. Pat Leach stated that in her report on Teen Read Week the theme name was reported wrong the correct theme is Books with Beat. A motion was made by Pat Leach and seconded by Joan Giesecke to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion approved.

Nebraska Library Commission Reports/Discussion

Federal Library Programs – Rod Wagner reported that the LSTA situation is ambiguous due to Congress not passing an appropriations bill for the full fiscal year. The LSTA funding is provided under a continuing congressional resolution. LSTA funding is yet to be determined for the year. Rod feels we will probably be funded at the same level as the last federal fiscal year.

Broadband Technology Opportunity Grant Program Update – Rod Wagner reported that at the July meeting we didn't know whether our application for the federal broadband program through the US Department of Commerce was approved or not. On August 18, we were notified that the Nebraska Library Commissions application had been approved. It was approved at the amount we requested instead of a higher amount. We are covered for a three-year period with 2.4 million in funds from the US Department of Commerce and 1.2 million in funds from the Gates Foundation. To see which Nebraska libraries are participating in the project you can go to www.nlc.state.ne.us/statistics/librarymapbtop.html.

Steve Fosselman commended the Commission staff for the great work and enthusiasm on the project. Marty Magee said the National Network of Library feels very fortunate to have an avenue to share their information through this project.

Rod Wagner stated that three new employees have been hired with grant funds to work on the broadband project. New employees are: Audrey York – Grant Compliance Officer, Joann

McManus- Project & Program Coordinator, and Holly Woldt – Information Technology Support Manager.

Digital Talking Book Program – Dave Oertli displayed the digital talking book machines and reported that for forty-years the talking book program was based on audio cassette. Dave stated that the Talking Book and Braille department received their first digital books and players from the Library of Congress in August 2009. A year later 1888 digital players have been distributed and there are 3,600 cartridges of which 49 of these are books from our own studio. In July 2010 we began circulating our own studio magazines on cartridge. We are the first or among the first talking book library to begin circulating magazines on disk.

We have taken out three ads in *Nebraska Life* magazine with current information about the digital books and cassettes.

Due to the One Book-One Lincoln book, *I Am a Man* by Joe Starita not being available in audio for individuals with a disability our volunteers and staff tackled the job and were able to expedite the books' production. This project generated several articles in the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

IMLS Grant- Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills – Mary Jo Ryan reported that this grant is a three-year project which began November 1. The grant is for approximately \$721,000 and funds will be distributed beginning 2011. The intent of the project is to educate Nebraska library staff at every level of development, promote and develop 21st century learning skills with a focus on library technology. 21st century skills are believed to be critical to the kind of thinking and acting that is needed in the 21st century.

The methodology for this grant is scholarships for students at all levels of library science education and student internships. A new area to this grant is the stipend program. Stipends will vary depending on the students needs such as a new laptop, and value added educational experiences. We will also assist with the teaching of 21st century skills by conducting special 21st century skill seminars.

There is also a recruiting and marketing component to the grant. Lots of communication activities will be developed to recruit promising students into the field and support the development of those already working in libraries. There will be a special focus on recruiting for diversity; Katherine Brockmeier has ideas about working with organizations that represent diverse and ethnic groups to recruit students. Katherine will also develop a [Facebook](#) account for this project which will allow people to post questions and remarks and will allow library science students to converse with each other or converse with others in the library field.

We will work other organizations and groups to identify prospective students and to have them assist in promoting the scholarship information. Visit [Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills Grant](#) for more information on scholarships.

Preservation Planning – Beth Goble reported that on April 2010 the IMLS awarded a 2-year **Connecting to Collections** grant to the Nebraska State Historical Society, partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission, State Historical Records Advisory Board, Nebraska Arts

Council, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Museums Association and Nebraska Library Association. The emphasis of the grant is a need for a national effort to preserve tangible print, graphic and digital collections.

The Nebraska project title is “**A Plan of Action for Nebraska Collections**”. The project purpose is to assess collection preservation needs of Nebraska Cultural Heritage Institutions and develop an action plan to address them. A steering committee was developed and have conducted an online survey and held a statewide meeting in Lincoln. There next step is to hold a regional meeting in 2011.

Library Improvement and CE & Training Grants: Richard Miller reported that past recipient grant winners and a short synopsis of their project can be viewed on the [Grants Recipients Data](#) page.

Richard stated that the Youth Grants for Excellence are completed for the year with 14 applications submitted. Winners are to be announced next week.

Richard stated that Library Improvement grant applications are online and due on January 7, 2011. The [Library Improvement](#) grants are funded by federal LSTA funds and the Continuing Education and Youth Grants for Excellence are funded with general funds. Due to the Library Improvement grants using federal monies there are specific guidelines for the applicants. Applications do not have to be technology related to qualify.

Laura Johnson reported that [Continuing Education](#) grants are being accepted until December 17, 2010 and awarded on January 21, 2011. Laura stated that due to these grants using state funds the funds must be dispersed by June 17, 2011 and project must be completed by September 30, 2011. Laura stated that CE grants have been used to send library staff to conferences out-of-state, and staff trainings. CE grants cannot be used for regional or statewide conferences. If you receive a CE grant you must be willing to share what you learned. Pat Leach stated that it would be helpful if a webpage for each grant showed a sample budget. Richard stated that several Commission staff and all System Administrators will be happy to review and make suggestions on your grant application if you would like someone to look over your grant application before submitting it.

Glenda Willnerd stated asked how their might be benefits from the grants for school librarians. Richard Miller stated that if the school librarians collaborate with the public library on a project or program then they can use grant funds. Glenda asked if there is any money from the broadband grant to add to the online resources that the Commission make available statewide. Rod stated that those funds cannot be used for anything but the specific purpose outlined in the grant description.

Nebraska Library Association

Pam Bohmfalk stated that the 2010 NLA/NEMA conference was held October 13-15 in Grand Island. A total of 535 people participated in the conference. There were 40 commercial vendors and 17 non-profit exhibitors. It was a great conference despite the hassle of using two hotels.

This will be the last time for that inconvenience. Keynote speakers Joe Murphy and Freedom Writers Maria Reyes and Sharaud Moore were well received.

New NLA officers took over at conference. The NLA Board adopted the new mission statement and shared it with members at the annual meeting during conference:

The Nebraska Library Association is the cornerstone of the Nebraska library community. We advocate for our members, enrich their professional lives, advance the lifelong learning of all Nebraskans, and advance all library interests in Nebraska.

Five action areas have been identified to be part of the strategic plan:

1. Advocacy and Public Policy
2. Member Engagement
3. Organizational Excellence
4. Building the Profession
5. Transforming Libraries

These action areas will be fleshed out with goals and activities over the coming year.

Pam named several upcoming events for next year.

- February 25, 2011 NLA Legislative Day
- March 24, 2011 Para Section Spring Meeting
- April 11 or 12, 2011 Public Library Spring Meeting – Alliance
- April 13, 2011 Public Library Spring Meeting – Lexington
- April 21, 2011 College & University Section Spring Meeting
- October 5-7, 2011 NLA Conference, Lincoln (The Cornhusker)

Nebraska Education Media Association

Glenda Willnerd reported that NEMA sponsored eight programs at the NLA/NEMA conference. The seventh edition of the *Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Programs* is available to all NEMA Members free of charge. Non-NEMA members can purchase a copy of the guide from Libraries Unlimited. Part of the funding for this guide was provided by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Thirteen NEMA Members attended the AASL Fall Forum in Portland, OR on November 4 & 5th. The theme of the forum was – The Essentials for the 21st Century Learning. The next NEMA board meeting will be held January 29, 2011.

Program Prioritization, Budgeting and a New Normal for Libraries: Survey Approach and Update

Steve Fosselman reported that Merrillene Wood, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, and he developed a survey to follow up on the work and talks held at meeting this last year. Kathryn Brockmeier from the Commission assisted with the project and put together some initial results of the survey. Steve stated that New Normal for Libraries refers to the norm of cuts in staff, budgeting, programming, materials and other areas of library services. Steve asked that the survey results be placed on the State Advisory Council on Libraries wiki or an announcement on the Commission webpage with a link to the wiki.

Steve stated that 23% of respondents reported that they will be getting an increase in their library budget while the rest are the same or lower. Staff and library hours seem to be getting reduced and almost all libraries reported that they were treated equally to all government agencies in budget cuts or increases. Steve said we need to work on how accreditation measures are working for or against libraries as budgets, hours, staff, and programs are reduced. Richard Miller stated that public libraries should keep in mind that if all areas of their local government get an equal reduction in budget the library can apply for a waiver on the maintenance of effort when completing their accreditation application.

Pioneer Consortium

Steve Fosselman reported that a session was held on the Pioneer Consortium. The consortium libraries currently consist of Grand Island, Gretna, Holdrege, Lincoln, and St. Paul. These libraries are all moving forward with Libline system. Lincoln City Libraries is a good business agent and will be in a position to help libraries who have technical issues with running the system; they will also be the go between libraries and the company. The group is happy to be moving forward with the migration process which started a couple of weeks ago. Migration is expected to be completed April 2011. The first year of the program will be targeting public libraries but this is a multi-type consortium. This program is very successful in other states. Steve said he has received approximately 15 or more letters of interest in the consortium.

Steve said the cost is affordable for any size library. The Grand Island public library will save conservatively \$10,000 a year. Steve stated that the Pioneer project is the result of federal grant funds received from the Commission.

21st Century Skills-Making the Learning Connection (IMLS)

Rod Wagner stated that 21st Century Skills has been an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services. Rod asked if anyone's school or library has implemented any of the tools made available by IMLS. Laura Johnson stated that we have been doing a lot of the things listed as part of the 21st century skills. People today are going to need a set of skills having to do with electronic information and evaluating electronic information, and libraries are in the position to help them. There is a plan to develop a seminar on 21st Century Skills in the near future. Mary Jo Ryan stated that there are two links on the State Advisory Council on Libraries [wiki](#) on 21st Century Learning Skills.

Roundtable

Cindy Gitt reported that the challenge at the Holdrege public library is the Pioneer Consortium because it's a new product. Cindy said the libraries success is that the children's area received new furniture that was purchased with funds from the Friends of the Library.

Pat Leach reported that Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) is working on several projects including their strategic plan. The library is getting a new bookmobile sometime within the year with funds from the Lincoln City Libraries Foundation and the Lied Foundation. The recent book sale held by the LCL Foundation netted around \$44,000. In October, Lincoln City Libraries begin to offer books for electronic readers.

Marty Magee reported that Medline Plus has been redesigned. Marty stated that mobile Medline Plus is now available due to a report that says 75% of the people will be getting their information from their phone. Marty mentioned that Spotlight on the National Library of Medicine Resources is a monthly session open to the public. Marty will be presenting the December session on Healthy Kids Resources.

Marty asked what she could do for the libraries because her department is getting ready to work on their next 5-year contract and with the National Library of Medicine and to work on a 5-year plan.

Marty Magee stated that this meeting ended her second term and stated she learned a lot and has enjoyed meeting people who have been associated with the group.

Mary Jo Ryan reported that on November 6, 2010 the celebration of the Nebraska Center for the Book was held in Lincoln. Mary Jo stated that the event was a huge success and received good feedback on the event.

Joseph Wydeven did a program on the *Home Place* by Wright Morris. *Home Place* was the chosen book for the 2010 One Book One Nebraska. The winners of the Nebraska Book Awards were also invited to speak and they all did a wonderful job. The 2011 One Book One Nebraska will be *Local Wonders* by Ted Koosier.

Laura Johnson reported that a free Trustee Academy will be offered via webcast from October 18, 2010 through June 30. This free program is for all Nebraska public library directors, and trustees. Laura stated that the Commission also offers free College of Dupage teleconferences on various topics. Continuing education hours are given for both programs.

Dave Oertli stated that after the meeting is adjourned he and his staff will be available to provide a tour of the studio and other areas of the Talking Book and Braille department.

Robin Bernstein reported that the Freeman-Lozier library at Bellevue University received an increase in their budget. The library started their Text the Librarian service which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The library also provides some downloadable databases to the student phones. There is a page on the libraries webpage showing all the mobile applications available for downloading. The library also offers Personal Librarian Service.

The library will be getting Discovery service sometime in January. Library staff, Beth Lighthipe, has been selected by ALA as one of the Emerging Leaders program. The university library is working on collaborating with other libraries in Sarpy County on programs. They would like to have a program that would allow citizens of Sarpy County to visit any library in the county and checkout books or other materials.

Dr. Joseph Whitagan presented on the *Home Place* by Wright Morris for their One Book One Nebraska program. Bellevue University is offering a \$500 scholarship to people who have never attended Bellevue University. Jerry Wagner, one of the Directors at Bellevue University has built some financial literacy software which he will be sharing with libraries. Jerry Wagner and Robin

are working with Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System, to implement a pilot program of the software in several libraries in the Eastern Library System and then branch out to other libraries across the state. There is not cost for the software or training for librarians.

Joan Giesecke reported that the University of Nebraska at Lincoln got a cut in their budget. The library continues to work on open access and digital publishing. Their institutional depository which holds faculty publications now has over 37,000 research articles housed in it. The library can show that in every county in Nebraska there are people accessing the research coming out of the university.

The university is archiving everything ever published by the University Nebraska Press and left over books will be donated to Lincoln City Libraries for their book sale. UNL is also working on making the out-of-print books available online.

The University also has a mobile application for their catalog. Joan stated that due to budget cuts they will be limiting their free services to non-students.

Ellen Weed reported that the HHS consortium have been told by their IP department that they will be changing the libraries over to Windows 7. The Follett software they now use is not compatible with Windows 7 so now they are going to have to find library software that will work with Windows 7. Ellen stated that Richard Miller suggested they investigate using Open Source. Steve Fosselman offered to send information on the Open Source software.

Merrillene Wood reported that the WNCC – Sidney campus has a new Campus Director who is making changes. The library is looking at patron services especially to the public, charging for printing and for cards. They will also be looking at charging students for some services. Merrillene is hoping to get a work-study employee because 24 hours a week the library is not manned.

Sidney public library recently held a Mystery Dinner Theater program that rose over a \$1,000. The Scottsbluff public library is moving along slowly with their building project. The Panhandle Library System is looking of a Director. They are looking at installing an automation system for the panhandle system.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook reported that the Lyons public library budget held steady this year. The library has a group that comes in a couple of times a week to provide tutoring to students. They recently received a Libre Foundation grant for 108 children books with the grant being matched by our Friends group. There will be a Christmas concert on December 11 with a county grass group that is very good. The Lyons library is one of the recreants of the Broadband grant and are looking at 8 new desktop computers with 19” flat screen monitors, updated software, security software, 2 new printers, a new scanner, handicapped equipped computer with a special desk and chair, and 4 new desk and chairs for patrons. Our librarian is applying for a grant to purchase a scanner and software.

Ceri Daniels reported that this is a busy time of the year. Staff are going through old files and destroying all the old files. The office is changing from Word Perfect to Net Documents. One of the major software programs in the office is going through a major upgrade.

Maria Medrano-Nehls reported that she was glad to be back to work. Maria thanked everyone for their prayers, best wishes and donations.

Kathryn Brockmeier reported that she just completed her second year at the Commission. Kathryn stated that she wears two hats; one is to work on specialized websites for the [Nebraska Center for the Book](#) and the Nebraska Library Commission. Kathryn also maintains the [One Book One Nebraska](#) website. Kathryn stated that she is currently working on the websites for One Book for Nebraska Kids and the One Book for Nebraska Teens. Kathryn stated she and Sally Snyder are working on the One Book One Nebraska Kids and Teens project and received a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council to do book groups with kids and teen on what they think about websites, reading, book discussions. They hope to make these book groups interactive. Mary Jo Ryan stated the Commission has book club bags that can be used by anyone to do a book club project.

Glenda Willnerd reported that Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) has developed a quick fact book. Glenda stated that Lincoln is looking at two new school buildings; one will be an elementary school and Roper Elementary school will be adding grades 4 thru 5 to their school due to a high increase in enrollment. LPS is renovating two schools.

Glenda stated that they had a very successful Mosaic display this year. The program displayed the best and most current multicultural titles. There is an upcoming conference who asked if they could use books from the Mosaic program to display at early childhood conference.

Glenda stated that they have purchased the book *21st Century Skills* by Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel to give to each media specialist and principal. Glenda stated that they started the school year with an in-service on the 21st century skills and our expectations are that our library staff will use these books. Glenda stated that they invited Jamie Mackenzie to visit and speak on essential questioning and how to develop those skills.

Glenda said several staff members have attended several conferences. One of the big topics was e-readers and the future of reading. This has prompted lots of discussion about what direction the school should take in terms of providing e-readers, would they be a class set, or would they circulate them.

Glenda stated that LPS coordinated with the Plum Creek Festival and brought in Patricia Pollock for three-days to visit different schools. Glenda stated that they also had the Stevens sisters present this year. The Plum Creek Festival people allowed Ashley Bryan to present to 2nd and 3rd graders.

Pam Bohmfalk reported that on the November ballot Hastings had an addition half-cent sales tax that passed. The library will receive 15% of the money for building renovations. The library foundation will now need to raise four million to add to the tax money in order to renovate the

library building. The Foundation has been doing quite private fundraising and will kick-off a citywide fundraiser soon.

Pam stated that the libraries successes are the increase in programs. The library recently held their third Pub Quiz and had 79 people play. The bar provides a \$20 gift certificate to the winner.

Jayne Hlavac, Schuyler public high school, reported that she has been collaborating with the English teachers on the school improvement goals. Jayne and one of the English teachers applied attend a seminar on primary sources at the National Library of Congress and they got to attend. The high school library received another mobile laptop cart. The school has an after school club in the library where students can receive homework help, use the computers, and get snacks. Jayne held her annual pep rally for Teen Read Week with cheer leaders and the cheer team. The principal and the Spanish teacher read the proclamation in English and Spanish.

Steve Fosselman reported that Merry VonSeggren recently retired after 20 years. Steve said he will not replace Merry but will fold her position into another librarian's job and change the job title to Youth Services Librarian.

New Business

Recommendation and Resolutions – No recommendations or resolutions where made.

Special Recognitions – Rod Wagner presented an Admiralship and Certificate of Appreciation to Marty Magee, Patty Birch, and Joan Giesecke for serving two-terms on the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Pam Bohmfalk received an Admiralship and Certificate of Appreciation for serving as the NLA liaison for two years.

2011 Meeting Dates – A motion was made by Merrillene Wood and seconded by Robin Borchman Hassebrook to hold the joint Commission and State Advisory Council on Libraries meeting on March 11, 2011 in Kearney. Motion was voted on and approved.

Rod Wagner and incoming Chair Merrillene Wood will work together to decide the dates and locations for the July and November meetings.

Adjournment

Chair Steve Fosselman adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.