

Straighttalk

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

January/February 2012

Cheers to Good Health

By Jessica Chamberlain

The new year often brings about new hopes and promises, and for many of us, New Year's Resolutions. Most resolutions focus on ending bad habits and starting good ones. Whether it's quitting smoking or losing weight, many people's resolutions involve improving their health for the coming year. With this in mind, libraries have a wonderful opportunity to showcase their health-related collections at the beginning of the year.

In addition to making a book display of your "in house" health resources, you may want to print a flyer or bookmark that points your patrons to the many online resources available for health information. Many people know about WebMD, but do they know that they have access to quality medical information through NebraskAccess? Not just great databases like Medline and the Wilson Omnifile, but a comprehensive list of websites that have been reviewed and recommended by librarians. And if those sites aren't exactly what your patrons are looking for, there are links to a couple of sites that help patrons evaluate the quality of health information they find other places on the web. Point your patrons to <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/healthfitness.asp> to show them the many quality resources they can use.

You may also want to consider doing some health-related programming this year. A local doctor or nurse may be able to provide a workshop on living with arthritis or coping with a diabetes diagnosis. Perhaps the local grocery store would provide a demonstration on cooking heart-healthy meals. Involving local businesses in your programming will boost the health knowledge of your patrons and create valuable partnerships for your library.

For your own training on how to help your patrons find medical resources they need, consider watching one of the following NCompass Live sessions dedicated to health resources and libraries: [Get Out and REACH! Outreach Projects and Health Information](#), [Healthy Kids Resources](#), [Birds Do It, Bees Do It: Sexual Health Resources](#), or [Mental Health Resources: A Conversation About the Website Network of Care](#).

I hope that this New Year finds you all happy and healthy. From the Northeast Library System, I say, "Cheers to good health!" ◇



In This Issue

Northeast News	2-4
Upcoming Events	5
Website Recommendations.....	6
Election Resources	7
New Items for Loan.....	7
NEMA Award Winners	8
Performer Database.....	8
Winter Workshop.....	9
SRP Workshop.....	10
NELS Grant App.....	11-13
Scholarship App	14
NELS Board Minutes.....	15

Northeast News

Welcome and Congratulations!

- Marge Stottler is returning to the position of Library Director at the Bloomfield Public Library. Former Director Jennifer Lauck has taken a new position with the Bloomfield Public Schools.
- Stacy Petersen is the new School Librarian at Newman Grove Public Schools.
- Heather Kavan is the new School Librarian at East Butler Public Schools.
- Jennifer Norton, formerly the Youth Services Supervisor for the Neligh Public Library, is the new Director at the Neligh Public Library. Former Director Kate Ostenrude has relocated to North Dakota.
- Heather St. Clair, former Head of Reference for the Columbus Public Library, is the new Director of the Ashland Public Library.

Successful Halloween Party in Pierce

The Lied Pierce Public Library had a great turnout for their annual Halloween party where Middle School students run carnival games and crafts for younger kids. The only cost to participate? Bring a bag of candy! Thanks to Dawnn Tucker, director of the Lied Pierce Public Library, for submitting these great photos!



Stories of Outlaws in Atkinson

By Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library Director

The Atkinson Public Library held an open house on Thursday, September 15th, featuring items recently received with a BTOP program grant. Throughout the day 125 people stopped by to see the 12 new public access computers, 2 printers, LCD projector, and 16 computer chairs. That afternoon 65 students and adults attended a book talk and signing by Marita Placek, from Lynch, who wrote the book *Legends & Lore of the Outlaw Trail*. The book is a collection of stories submitted about outlaws and vigilantes along the 231 mile stretch of the Outlaw Trail in Nebraska.

There were also over 40 paintings on display by Doris Vogel, local artist, for everyone to enjoy. Her art was on display at the library until September 30.



Author Linda Wostrel Revives Story of Oak Park

By Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library Director

Have you ever seen a turtlella? Do you know what a turtlella is? If you were at one of the programs at the Atkinson Public Library on Thursday, November 10th, you do! Linda Wostrel, Nebraska historian and author of *Oak View Park: Pinnacle of a Czech Legacy*, was there to give two presentations on her book to a total of eighty-three audience members. Oak View Park was located in Venus, Nebraska and operated from 1926 to 1948. It was a huge gathering point for a variety of family activities including baseball games, rodeos, band concerts, dances, aero plane rides, swimming in an Olympic size pool or the man-made lake, along with a huge midway and many concessions. Ms. Wostrel's book documents the entrepreneurial spirits and adventures of the Pospeshil and Wostrel families as they shared their love of music and family-centered entertainment with the communities in which they lived. After the presentations, many audience members shared special memories of their visits to the park as children, browsed the poster and picture displays, and nibbled on snacks.



Columbus Cuts Ribbon on New Teen Space

By Rachelle McPhillips, Readers' Advisory & Young Adult Librarian at Columbus Public Library

Thanks to donations from the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and the Library Foundation Board, we have been able to transform a section of the library into a bright and comfortable area for our young adult patrons. Teens were encouraged to make decisions about the space. They brainstormed and dreamed big and bold things and have made fun and practical selections of furniture, colors, and features for the new room. To get the space started at the beginning of the school year, a \$1000 contribution from the Friends was used to purchase an area rug and four chairs for the new teen space. The Library Foundation Board donated \$6000 for the project. To date, those funds have been used to purchase two purple couches, a café table and stools, a second area rug, bean bags, paint supplies, and two chairs with tablet arms for reading and studying.



Atkinson Observes the Moon

By Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library Director

International Observe the Moon Night was held at the Atkinson Public Library on Sunday, October 9, and Wednesday October 12th. There was a PowerPoint presentation by Leon Thompson on some facts about the moon, and a sing-a-long song with Teresa Janzing about the phases of the moon. Each child received a free book, a Moon Pie and a drink, thanks to the Atkinson Friends of the Library!



Pat on the Back Awards

An award was given to **Barbara Larson** from the Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library for being an outstanding volunteer and true asset to the operation of the library.

An award was also given to **Kate Ostenrude**, former director of the Neligh Public Library and Northeast Library System Board Member, for her exemplary service to the Northeast Library System and the community of Neligh.



Please notify the NELS office if you have someone you would like to nominate for a "Pat on the Back!"

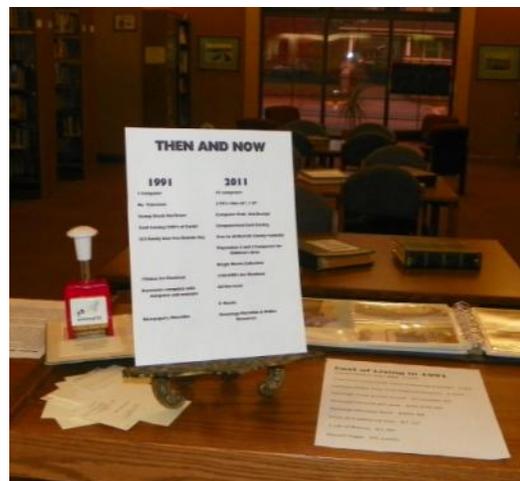
New Ponca School Features Spacious Library

The new public school building in Ponca has many wonderful features, but of course our favorite is the modern and spacious library and media center. Thanks to Beth Foulks, the library media specialist, for sending in these spectacular photos!



Central City Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On November 18th, the Central City Public Library celebrated 20 years in its new library building. The celebration included a morning open house with coffee and snacks and several interesting displays. A slide show projected pictures of the library through the years, photo albums visually depicted the construction process and several "Then and Now" flyers throughout the building showed how much has changed in the last 20 years. Thank you to Judy Marco, Children's Librarian at Central City, for sharing these pictures!



If you have a piece of news or a photo you'd like to share with your fellow northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Jessica at the NELS office! jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

A Calendar of Upcoming Events and links to details and registration forms can be found on our website at: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar>

February 16 - **Winter Workshop**—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

See page 9 for complete description, session information and registration.

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

Cost: \$20 CE Credits: 4.5

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

February 27—**Advocacy/Legislative Day**—Lincoln

More details and registration information can be found at the NLA website at

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/legislationadvocacy/advocacy-day> . See page 14 to apply for a scholarship to attend this important advocacy event.

March 6—**Summer Reading Program Workshop**—Dusters Restaurant, Columbus

See page 10 for complete description, session information and registration.

Time: 10:00—3:00

Cost: \$20 CE Credits: 4

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

March 21—**NELS Board Meeting**—Albion Public Library

Time: 10:00—12:00

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

The NELS Office will be closed on February 20, 2012—President's Day



BTOP Open Houses

44 public libraries in northeast Nebraska are part of the BTOP (or Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities) grant. The following libraries have had Open Houses to welcome the community into their new computing centers and to highlight the services the public can access through the library.

- Hartington Public Library—November 18, 2011
- Howells Public Library—November 30, 2011
- Shelby Community Library—December 3, 2011
- Laurel Community Learning Center—December 4, 2011
- Walthill Public Library—December 8, 2011
- Clarkson Public Library—December 11, 2011



To find out more about this grant program, visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/lbbnc/>.

Website Recommendations

By Jessica Chamberlain

During our “Technology Review 2011” workshops, participants shared some of the websites they use most often for work and play. I certainly learned about a lot of new sites along the way and I thought it would be helpful to share some of them. You may be familiar with some of these, but I hope you discover at least one new site that will help you.



Books in Series—MCPL Juvenile Series & Sequels <http://www.mymcpl.org/books-movies-music/juvenile-series>
KDL’s What’s Next <http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp>
Fantastic Fiction <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/>
NLC’s Books in Series <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/booksinseries.asp>

All of the above sites are excellent resources for helping you find a books that are part of a series. The MCPL Juvenile Series site lets you browse series by title, author or subject so you can discover new series to read. KDL’s site lets you choose to search for Juvenile or Adult titles and also lets you search by genre. Fantastic Fiction lets you search by author or book title and has a database of over 350,000 titles. The Nebraska Library Commission’s Books in Series database can be searched by author, book title or series title. All four of these sites have distinctive designs and unique features and all can be very helpful to help you connect your patrons with the next book in their favorite series.

Common Sense Media—<http://www.common sense media.org/>

Although you can do a lot on this website, our favorite feature was their “Reviews” section where you can find reviews of movies, music, games, apps, websites and more. The site is designed to help parents make informed decisions about what media content their family consumes. I think it’s important to note that the mission statement of Common Sense Media says, “As a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, we provide trustworthy information and tools, as well as an independent forum, so that families can have a choice and a voice about the media they consume.” Listed first in their “10 Beliefs” is that they “believe in media sanity, not censorship.” Libraries of all kinds can use the detailed information provided to be well-informed about the controversial issues that may be covered in the selected media. It would be a great site to recommend to media-savvy and media-conscious parents as well.

Oyate—<http://oyate.org>

Ensuring that children’s books accurately and respectfully represent all people should be a top priority for anyone maintaining a children’s library collection. The Oyate website says, “We are a Native American/American Indian advocacy and education organization that serves The People. We review children’s literature and advocate for Native Americans/American Indians to be portrayed with historical accuracy, cultural appropriateness and without anti-Indian bias and stereotypes.” Included in the helpful tools on this site are a guide on how to identify anti-Indian bias in books, lists of recommended titles and a catalog where you can purchase items that have been favorably reviewed.

Refdesk—<http://refdesk.com/>

There are too many features of this site to list, but we can begin with a list of search engines, facts of the day, words of the day, calendars, maps and links to news, weather and gas prices. From their “About Us” page, “Since 1995, Refdesk is a free and family-friendly web site that indexes and reviews quality, credible, and current web-based resources.... Refdesk has three goals: (1) fast access, (2) intuitive and easy navigation and (3) comprehensive content, rationally indexed. The prevailing philosophy here is: simplicity.” The site design looks like it hasn’t been updated since 1995, but don’t let that fool you. The information indexed is current and from reliable sources.

2012 Election Resources

With Republican primary elections under way, it will be national election time before we know it. Part of what makes our democracy work is ensuring that we have an educated populace. It can be difficult to find unbiased information on candidates and issues, so check out these non-partisan resources that will help your library users become more knowledgeable citizens.

League of Women Voters— <http://www.smartvoter.org/>

Offers a complete list of all contests on your ballot including local offices.

Project Vote Smart— <http://www.votesmart.org/>

Offers a tool called “VoteEasy™” which matches you up with national candidates based on your answers to questions about key political issues.

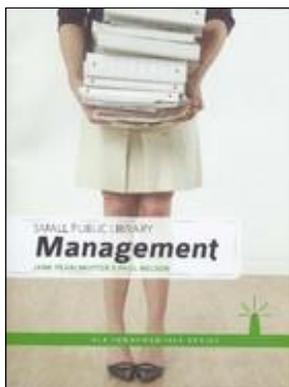
PolitiFact— <http://www.politifact.com/>

A humorous, but still factual, site that rates candidates on the truthfulness of their political claims by using a “Truth-O-Meter®.” Politicians can score on a range from True to Half True, False or, for the worst offenses, a Pants on Fire.



New Items Available for Loan

The Northeast Library System has recently added the following items that are available for loan. If you’d like to reserve any of the following items, just let us know!

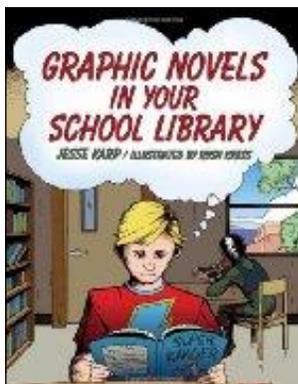


***Small Public Library Management* by Jane Pearlmutter and Paul Nelson**

Book Description: Anyone at the helm of a small public library knows that every little detail counts. But juggling the responsibilities that are part and parcel of the job is far from easy. Finally, here’s a handbook that includes everything administrators need to keep a handle on library operations, freeing them up to streamline and improve how the organization functions. It’s packed with practical advice and numerous checklists for:

- Preparing budgets, writing financial reports, and working with the library board.
- Simplifying workflow through effective delegation.
- Collection development, including tips for effective weeding.
- Launching initiatives and outreach programs, such as adult literacy programming and homework help centers.

“Tales from the Field” offer real-world perspectives from library directors across the country. From finance and HR to collection development, policy, and programming, this resource puts ready-to-use information at your fingertips.



***Graphic Novels in Your School Library* by Jesse Karp**

Book Description: Many educators now agree that graphic novels inform as well as entertain, and to dismiss the educational potential of the graphic novel is to throw away a golden opportunity to reach out to young readers. This dynamic book takes a look at the term graphic novel, how the format has become entwined in our culture, and the ways in which graphic novels can be used in the library and in the classroom.

To set those unfamiliar with the format at ease, graphic novel expert Karp:

- Introduces the history, the symbols, and the conventions of the form
- Provides annotated lists of core titles to help K-12 librarians build their collections
- Offers lesson plans that use graphic novels to impart facts and enliven discussion on everything from life skills and dating to history

A one-stop resource which keeps the school library firmly at center stage, this eye-opening book will change your view of graphic novels.

NEMA Award Winners 2011

Each year, the Nebraska Educational Media Association gives out awards to some of our state's amazing school librarians/media specialists. Here are the winners from this past fall.

Distinguished Media Service Award— Glenda Willnerd, retired Lincoln Public Schools

Sound Off for Media Award— Jayne Hlavac, Schuyler Central High School

Meritorious Service Award— McCool Junction Learning Center, accepted by Librarian Marcia Clark

President's Award— Jan Boyer, University of Nebraska Omaha, NLA liaison to NEMA and conference co-chair

Also recognized for service to NEMA were retiring officers:

- Treasurer—Lynne Wragge, Omaha Public Schools, 2007-2011
- Secretary—Sara Churchill, Blair Public Schools, 2008-2010
- President—Betty Meyer, Thayer Central High School, 2010-2011 (Past President's Plaque)

Jean Hellwege, Lincoln Public Schools, was honored for her service as executive secretary, 2008-2011

Also NEMA was pleased to present Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools, with a duplicate plaque for her Distinguished Media Service Award. The original was destroyed in the LPS District Office Fire.

Performer Database

The Northeast Library System is beginning a Performer Database for northeast Nebraska Libraries!

We've gotten a few recommendations to begin our database—check them out at

<http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/performers/> .

Let us know if your school or library has had an author, speaker or performer that you thought was excellent and we'll add them to our Performer Database. All libraries can benefit from this sharing of knowledge. The more you contribute, the more valuable this resource will be!

Please include:

- The author, speaker or performer's full name and contact information, including website information if they have one.
- A short description of what kind of program they did for you. (Example: funny magic tricks and jokes, lots of audience participation)
- The general audience the author, speaker or performer would appeal to - children, teens or adults.
- The speaker fee, if the author, speaker or performer has a set, advertised rate.
- Your library's name. You must have had this performer in your library or have seen this performer in person in order to recommend them to the Performer Database.
- If possible, include the approximate date in which this person or group performed for your library.

Here is a sample of what an entry will look like:

Magical Paradise Exotic Farm

Central City, Nebraska

Deb Vesely [402-750-1609](tel:402-750-1609)

David King [308-940-0829](tel:308-940-0829)

<http://magicalparadisexoticfarminc.webs.com>

Program description: Petting zoos and animal programs, some hands-on time with animals

General audience: children

Fees: Program fee - \$60 + \$0.50/mile travel charge

Recommended by: Anytown Library, summer 2011

Please do not include speakers who are part of the [Nebraska Humanities Council Speaker's Bureau](#) or [Nebraska Arts Council](#). They already do a wonderful job and it is not our intent to duplicate their existing resources.

Please send Performer Database Recommendations to Shelia Cermak, the NELS Assistant, at nelibrarysystem@gmail.com or call the NELS Office at 1-800-578-1014.

NELS Winter Workshop

February 16, 2012
Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

\$20
4.5 CE Credits

9:30—10:00 Registration and Refreshments

10:00-11:30

Customer Service: It's all about You and all about "Them"

With Joyce Neujahr, Director of Patron Services, Criss Library UNO



What is the best way for me to train my staff? What are some ways to cope with the stress of customer service? How do I help my staff to change their attitude towards customer service? What do patrons really want from us? How do I handle the "problem patron"? Do you need answers to these questions? Or do you have your own list? Bring yourself **and** your list to this interactive workshop and find some answers.

11:30—12:00 Lunch *(included)*

12:00—1:00

Lunch Speaker—Author Melanie Wilkinson

Melanie Wilkinson is a reporter and column writer for the York News-Times daily newspaper in York, NE. She is also the author of two books as part of a planned on-going series entitled "Just Life." Wilkinson's writings are candid reflections of her own life's difficulties and triumphs, as experienced by all of us as we go through our personal journeys. During her presentation, she will talk about tragedies that befell her farm family while growing up; the challenges of raising five siblings after their parents' death; and the humor that can be found in all of life's journeys, no matter how difficult. Interwoven in this particular presentation will be how her chosen career was a result of reading, going to the local library and the importance of such institutions (and the librarians who make it all happen) in children's lives.



1:00-1:50

Playing By the Rules

With Richard Miller,
Nebraska Library Commission

Have questions about State Statutes, the Open Meetings Act or Accreditation guidelines? Join Richard Miller for this Q&A session that will help demystify these regulations. Come with questions!

OR

Time-Saving Tech Tools

With Michael Sauers,
Nebraska Library Commission

Michael Sauers will offer up some great tech tips that will save you time, keep you organized and keep your info safe.



2:00-2:50

OverDrive Users Group

With Devra Dragos,
Nebraska Library Commission

This session is for libraries that are currently participating in Nebraska's OverDrive consortium. Participants will have a chance to discuss with each other successes and strategies for dealing with the new technology while hearing about the latest developments with OverDrive.

OR

Readers Advisory Group

With Natalie Davis, Melissa Baumert,
Marci Retzlaff, Michael Sauers, and
Cathy Dusel-Podliska

Bring a book or two to recommend to your peers during this interactive session. We will actively create reading lists and participants will go home with great suggestions to share with their patrons.



Contact our office or [click here](#) to register!

Registrations must be received by Monday, February 13.

Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601

PH: 800-578-1014
PH/FAX: 402-564-1586





Northeast Library System presents a

Summer Reading Program Workshop

March 6, 2012
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Dusters Restaurant
2804 13th St.
Columbus, NE

\$20
4 CE Credits

Featuring:

“Dream Big Craft & Program Ideas” from Jody Crocker
“Pre-K through YA Summer Reading Booktalks” from Sally Snyder

Contact our office or [click here](#) to register!

Registrations must be received by Thursday, March 1.

Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601

PH: 800-578-1014
PH/FAX: 402-564-1586

*Due to the size of the room we will be meeting in at Dusters, the AccuCut Machine and Dies will not be available during this workshop. If you would like to use them, please contact our office and we will arrange a time that is convenient for you. Thanks for your understanding!



Northeast Library System Grants



The Northeast Library System Board is pleased to announce that \$500 is available for grants to libraries in the Northeast Library System. All libraries, whether school, public, academic, tribal or special libraries are eligible to apply. Five (5) \$100 grants will be awarded and may be used for new library services, collection development or library programs.

- Applications must be received by the Northeast Library System office no later than March 15, 2012.
- You may print out this form and fill it in manually or you may [click here to download a pdf form](#). The pdf form may be filled out on your computer, but you will need to print it out in order sign it.
- Applications may be sent in via US Postal Mail, fax or email.
 - US Postal Mail: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601
 - Fax: 1-402-564-1586
 - Email: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com
- Recipients will be notified by March 30, 2012.

Application Form

Applicant Information

Library Name	
Address	
Contact Person's Name and Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Summary of Grant Proposal – Provide a brief (150 words or less) summary of the project including estimated beginning and end dates.

Project Title	
Summary (150 words or less)	

Purpose of the Grant – Describe your target audience and how this project addresses one or more of their needs.

Grant Promotion – Describe how this project will be promoted in your community.

NELS Grant Application continued

Budget – Please fill out the following budget form. You may add additional categories if needed. All grants require a 50% local match. For a \$100 grant, this would mean a match of at least \$50. This local match may be in cash or may be in-kind costs such as staffing resources, supplies, etc. If you are using a cash match, it may come from a Friends group, Foundation or other source outside the library.

Category	NELS Grant Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
Library Materials (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.)			
Personnel Costs please list "staff hours x hourly rate =" i.e. 10 staff hours x \$9/hr = \$90			
Program Materials/Supplies (craft supplies, equipment for programs, etc.)			
Equipment			
Promotion Costs of promoting your program or service, like charge for newspaper ad, copying cost for flyers, etc.			
Contracted Services Costs for personnel employed outside of the library like a speaker, an electrician, etc.			
Other – Please specify			

I understand that if this grant proposal is funded that:

- I will send a report detailing how grant funds were used and what changes occurred as a result to the Northeast Library System by September 28, 2012.
- My library will not be eligible for another NELS Grant for 3 years.

Grant Applicant Signature Date

Library Board President/School Administrator/Organization Administrator Signature Date

Northeast Library System

2012 Advocacy/Legislative Day Scholarship



The Northeast Library System can provide 3 scholarships of \$100 to the Nebraska Library Association Legislative/ Advocacy Day in Lincoln on February 27, 2012. These scholarships can be used to help defray travel costs or to help pay for additional library staff hours so a librarian will be free to attend this important advocacy event.

Qualifications

1. Applicant must be currently employed or serve as a trustee in a Northeast Library System library.
2. Scholarships will be awarded to no more than one person from each library or school district unless the applicant pool is less than the number of scholarships available.
3. After Legislative Day, scholarship recipients must submit a written summary (one page minimum) of their activities during Legislative Day. This summary will be shared with the NELS System Board members at the March 21, 2012 Board Meeting.

Instructions

- You may print out this form and fill it in manually or you may [click here to download a pdf form](#). The pdf form may be filled out on your computer, but you will need to print it out in order sign it.
- **Submit your application to the Northeast Library System by February 13, 2012.**
- Applications may be sent in via US Postal Mail, fax or email.
 - US Postal Mail: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601
 - Fax: 1-402-564-1586
 - Email: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by February 20, 2012.

Application

NAME _____

LIBRARY NAME _____

I AM A: LIBRARIAN/LIBRARY EMPLOYEE _____ TRUSTEE/BOARD MEMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Have you been to Legislative Day before? If so, when? _____

Why do you think attending Legislative Day is important? _____

Scholarship Applicant Signature

Date

Northeast Library System Board Meeting Minutes November 16, 2011

Maggie Huetig, director of the Laurel Community Learning Center, greeted the visiting members of the Northeast Library System Board & Staff on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 as they convened in Laurel for their bi-monthly meeting. New President Judy Hagan called the meeting to order at 10:07a.m. Members present were Kate Ostenrude, Joyce Sullivan, Audrey Loosvelt, Elaine Tobias, Kathy Ageton, Beth Foulks, Judy Hilkemann, Dawnn Tucker, Tami Anderson, and Michele Hastreiter. Melissa Baumert and Susan Tyndall arrived later. System staff, Jessica Chamberlain and Shelia Cermak, were also present. There were no alternates, and no additions to the agenda.

The location of the Open Meetings Act was identified. Recognition was given to the new board members, Audrey Loosvelt and Judy Hilkemann. Comments from Maggie on how the joint public/school library came about, and how the venture is working now.

Kate moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (Ostenrude – 1M / Ageton – 2M). Aye's by the Board passed the motion. Jessica presented several thank-you's for the Board's review. Shelia presented the financial report. She noted that the audit is still in progress; that ESU has not paid what's owed to the System; that the E-rate and NLC quarterly payments have arrived. Kate moved to accept the financial report (Ostenrude – 1M / Sullivan – 2M). Roll call vote carried the motion.

There were no reports from the Commissioner or the State Advisory Council. Jessica presented her report on her activities for the past two (very busy) months, making a special note of the new Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska, work on the upcoming 2012 workshops, the new flip cameras and Neal Shusterman books available at the System office.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee. The Budget Committee will have an e-mail conversation regarding the December 2011 and January 2012 CD renewals, and will have to meet late January for a 6-month budget review. Reports from various scholarship winners and workshop evaluations were presented by the Continuing Education Committee. The 2011-2013 Strategic Plan, with explanations of changes, was presented by the Strategic Planning Committee. Kate (again) made the motion to approve the new Strategic Plan (Ostenrude – 1M / Baumert – 2M). Aye's by the Board passed the motion.

The Technology Committee had no report, the Grants Committee will need to get together, and the Nominating Committee will need to find a replacement for Kate Ostenrude, as Kate formally resigned from the Northeast Library System Board, effective after this meeting.

Kathy Ageton, representing the Ad Hoc Investment Committee, and Jessica presented the viewpoints, opinions, and recommendations of the Committee to the rest of the Board. After much discussion and clarification between the Board members, Kate made the motion to approve an amendment of the Northeast Library System Board's long-term investment policy to follow the guidelines presented by the Ad Hoc Investment Committee. (Ostenrude – 1M, Hastreiter – 2M). Roll call vote – all aye, with Tyndall abstaining.

There was no unfinished business. In new business, the current board members volunteered for Committee assignments for the coming year. Loosvelt was added to the Personnel Committee, Tucker and Hilkemann were added to Continuing Education, Anderson was added to Strategic Planning, the Grants Committee gained Loosvelt, and Sally Stahlecker was added to the Nominating Committee.

Jessica presented the results of the NELS Services Survey, with a detailed review by her. One of the outcomes of the survey will be a possible Performer Database available on the System's website. Logistics for the online January Board meeting were discussed. Time for the virtual meeting was set for 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, with an alternate time of 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Jessica will let the Board know which time the Library Commission will allow us to use.

Cindy Simeon of the Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library nominated Barbara Larson for a Pat-on-the-back award as an outstanding volunteer. Kathy Ageton (with unanimous support from the rest of the Board) nominated Kate Ostenrude for a Pat-on-the-back award for exemplary service to the Northeast Library System.

Kate was presented farewell & thank-you gifts from the System Board.

After member news was shared, Kate made a motion to approve the claims of the day (Ostenrude – 1M, Baumert – 2M). Roll call vote – all aye. A motion was made to adjourn at 12:01 p.m. (Ostenrude – 1M, Ageton – 2M).

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Hastreiter, Secretary

Northeast Library System

3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 800-578-1014

Phone/Fax: 402-564-1586

Email: Jessica Chamberlain jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Shelia Cermak nelibrarysystem@gmail.com

Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels>



“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves.
The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.”

~Edith Lovejoy Pierce (poet, b. 1904)

The Northeast Library System serves the counties of Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.

Straight Talk is published 6 times per year by the Northeast Library System.

Please contact
Jessica Chamberlain
or Shelia Cermak
at the Northeast Library
System Office
with any questions
or concerns.

Jessica Chamberlain, editor

ISSN 1064-9816
©2011

Our NELS Board Members

Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library
Michele Hastreiter - Secretary, Humphrey Public Library
Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library
Melissa Baumert, Clarkson Public Library
Dawnn Tucker, Lied Pierce Public Library
Tami Anderson, Hartington Public Library
Judy Hagan - President, Atkinson Public Library
Kathy Ageton - Vice President, Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk
Judy Hilkemann, Norfolk Public Library
Beth Foulks, Ponca Public Schools
Audrey Loosvelt, Madison Public Schools
Susan Tyndall, Nebraska Indian Community College