



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



Got a Minute?

Minutes are the official, permanent record of

library business, and may be referred to by future boards and directors, by municipal authorities, or by the public to establish or clarify library policies and actions. In addition to the vital information they contain, they project an image of the library that can evolve respect and pride or frustration and contempt.

A few tips can help you take accurate, professional minutes that will serve the future well.

Be prepared by bringing necessary items to the meeting; pens and paper, laptop, the minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda for the current meeting and so on.

Pass around a sign-up sheet that has the name of the organization and the date of

the meeting written at the top. Add the names of those who are absent. Visitors should be identified as such.

Use the agenda to organize the minutes, moving from the call to order (record the time and place) through the approval of the minutes and financial report to old business items and new business items until you report what time the meeting adjourned.

The most important element in the minutes is the record of actions taken. You need to be clear and specific so that the reader knows whether the board took action and, if so, what exactly it approved (or voted down).

Informally agreeing on something is not the same as taking action. Here are some examples.

Don't write:
The month's checks were presented.

Do Write:
Tom Wrightson moved, Mary

Johnson seconded, to pay the bills for March 10 through April 15. The motion passed unanimously.

Don't Write:
Susie Rice is our new board member. We hear that Susie makes the best muffins ever (hint, hint).

Do Write:
Director Karen Greenwood reported that Mayor Jones has appointed Suzanne Rice, Vice-President of the Rural Development Council, to complete Gregory Plum's term on the board. Her term, effective immediately, will end December 31, 2006.

Don't Write:
The director said we needed to make some changes in the Circulation Policy, and after talking about it for awhile, we agreed, she was right.

Do Write:
Jane Howard moved, Tom Wrightson seconded, to approve the revisions to the Circulation Policy as presented by the Director. A brief discus-

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sion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Append copies of documents referred to in the minutes, e.g., new policies, a letter from the director of a neighboring library, a new agreement with the County Commissioners. If the Director usually makes a report, he or she might contribute a summary that can be included in the minutes.

It isn't necessary to report the details of discussions, but including major points or the assignment of a task, either to a Board member or to the Director, is good practice. For example, "The Director reported that the staff have been receiving complaints about the difficulty of locating large print books. After discussing the problem, the Board asked the Director to investigate the cost of new signage and report back to the Board at the next meeting."

If the board goes into closed session, the minutes must reflect that and the roll call vote that is required for a closed session. The chair's announcement of the purpose of the closed session must be recorded as well. Generally only discussion will occur in a closed session, so the only minutes recorded are the motion and vote to return to an open meeting. The action then occurs as usual with a motion, second, and vote in an open meeting. The most common examples of this is a closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

Rewrite the minutes as soon as possible, using your original draft. If possible, do them on a computer and run a spell check. If you need to verify a point, consult with the library director or the board chair. When the minutes have been approved, they should be stored in chronological order in the library.

Writing minutes is not an exercise in creativity. One month's meetings should look and read very much like every other month's minutes, regardless of who wrote them; so that the reader can quickly find what he or she needs. Accuracy, clarity, availability and organization in your minutes can project the right kind of image you want your library to have.

(Taken from Trustee Tale, Summer 2005)



Need demographic information for your library's planning process? Check out the **American Factfinder** website for census information for your community: <http://factfinder.census.gov>.



Summer Reading Program participants at the **Meadow Grove Public Library**.

Armed with only a shield and a sword, **Columbus Public Library** Children's Librarian, Brad Hruska, challenged the fire-breathing dragon. If the children met their reading goal of 150,000 pages, Hruska promised to battle a dragon. The children went beyond their goal by 5,000 pages and Brand found himself face-to-face with the fierce creature. Failing to conquer the beast, Brad let the kids have their whacks at the pinata-shaped dragon.

Bloomfield Public Library's windows were filled with multi-colored bricks this summer. Each brick represented a book ready by a child participating in the Summer Reading Program. For every five books read, the children received a free gift from on of the community's participating businesses. The library signed for over 100 free gifts!

A pair of young princesses visited the **Norfolk Public Library** this summer.





TRANSPORTATION Websites

Transportation Wonderland

<http://education.dot.gov/k5/gamk5.htm>

This site from the Department of Transportation helps children understand more about how “we move everything everywhere.” The site explains what transportation is and why it is important. It also includes a section of biographies that highlights men and women who were transportation pioneers. Students can click on their favorite mode of transportation like boats, buses, trains, planes, cars, and trucks. One section of the site, careers in transportation, may be of particular interest to youth.

Vince & Larry’s Safety City

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/>

The familiar crash test dummies from National Highway Traffic Administration commercials guide youth through learning activities that teach safety for riding their bikes, riding the school bus, or riding in the car, and they explain crash test research and how it helps keep people safe.

The U.S.S. Blueback Submarine

<http://www.oms.edu/visit/submarine/>

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is the permanent home to the last non-nuclear, fast-attack submarine, the same submarine used in filming the movie *The Hunt for Red October*. Students will learn the history of the sub and about a submarine works (which includes hearing the dive alarm online). The site also includes an interactive virtual tour of the submarine that is certain to motivate students to learn more.

The Transcontinental Railroad

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/tcrr/>

PBS’ American Experience program discusses how the railroad was built, the race to complete it, the railroad’s impact on Native Americans, and how the Union Pacific’s Crédit Mobilier scandal is similar to today’s corporate scandals. The site also includes a timeline, a photo gallery, short biographies of people who provided significant contributions to the railroad, and a good teacher’s guide that connects this topic to geography, history, economics, and civics.

(Taken from Websites, Teacher Librarian, April 2005)

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CHEMISTRY Websites

The Atoms Family

<http://www.miamisci.org/af/sln/>

The Miami Museum of Science imparts information and activities about atoms and matter, energy, conservation, kinetic and potential energies as well as about light, waves and particles, electricity, and fuel conservation. Each section clarifies what grades for which it is most appropriate.

Rader's Chem4Kids!

<http://www.chem4kids.com/>

This great introductory site presents basic chemistry information for beginners. Students will learn about the first 16 periodic table elements, what atoms are made of and how they bond, what matter is and where to find it, reactions between acids and bases, and a good introduction to biochemistry. The site uses simple, yet clear, illustrations to support its text, making understanding scientific concepts easy.

The pH Factor

<http://www.miamisci.org/ph/>

The Miami Museum of Science once again presents a great online learning resource to help students understand the importance of pH while learning how to discover the pH factor through great experiment activities. The site also includes several useful lesson plans for educators to use to introduce the topic to students. It's also available in Japanese at <http://www.jsf.or.jp/sln/ph/index.html>.

Experiencing Chemistry

<http://www.oms.edu/visit/chemistry/>

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry presents this great chemistry site and helps students understand the everyday connections and experiences to chemistry. The site looks at the chemistry of toys, food, and art as well as everyday and household chemistry.

Marie Curie

<http://nobelprize.org/chemistry/laureates/1911/index.html>

The Nobel Prize web site includes a biography of the 1911 Nobel Prize laureate in chemistry, a transcript of her lecture, and an article about her and her husband's life.

(Taken from Websites, Teacher Librarian, April 2005)



Dear Doctor Tech:

I've heard about social

bookmarking. Can you tell me what it is? Is it something I should avoid?

Signed,
Concerned

Dear Concerned,

Social bookmarking is the practice of saving bookmarks to a public web site and "tagging" them with keywords.

Bookmarking, on the other hand, is the practice of saving the address of a web site you wish to visit in the future on your computer. To create a collection of social bookmarks, you register with a social bookmarking site, which lets you store bookmarks, add tags of your choice, and designate individual bookmarks as public or private. Some sites periodically verify that the bookmarks still work, notifying users when a URL no longer functions. Visitors to social bookmarking sites can search for resources by keyword, person, or popularity and see the public bookmarks, tags, and classification schemes that registered users

have created or saved.

Social bookmarking dates back just a couple of years, when sites like Furl, Simpy and del.icio.us began operating. Social bookmarking is particularly useful when collecting a set of resources that are to be shared with others. Anyone can participate in social bookmarking.

Social bookmarking opens the door to new ways of organizing information and categorizing resources. The creator of a bookmark assigns tags to each resource, resulting in a user-directed, "amateur" method of classifying information. Because social bookmarking services indicate who created each bookmark and provide access to that person's other bookmarked resources, users can easily make social connections with other individuals interested in just about any topic. Users can also see how many people have used a tag and search for all resources that have been assigned that tag. The community of users over time will develop a unique structure of keywords to define resources - known as a "folksonomy".

Caution: Social bookmarking is done by amateurs. There is no

oversight as to how resources are organized or tagged. This can lead to inconsistent or poor use of tags. Because social bookmarking reflects the values of the community of users, there is a risk of presenting a skewed view of the value of any particular topic. Also, social bookmarking means storing data in yet another location that you have to maintain and update.

Social Bookmarking Sites

BlinkList:

www.blinklist.com

CiteULike

www.citeulike.org

del.icio.us

DinnerBuzz

dinnerbuzz.com

Furl

www.furl.net

Live Bookmarks

www.zdot.com

Network Menus

www.network.ltd.uk

RawSugar

www.rawsugar.com

Scuttle

sourceforge.net/projects/scuttle/

Simpy

www.simpy.com

Wists

www.wists.com

2005 Shamus Award Nominees

The Private Eye Writers of America recently announced its nominees for the 2005 Shamus Awards.

Best PI Novel

Fade to Clear by Leonard Chang.

The Wakeup by Robert Ferrigno.

After the Rain by Chuck Logan.

Cooke Point by James Mitchell.

While I Disappear by Ed Wright

Best First PI Novel

Little Girl Lost by Richard Aleas.

The Dead by Ingrid Black

Aspen Pulp by Patrick Asburgh

Some Danger Involved by Will Thomas



Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Banned Books Week (BBW) celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion

even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular *and* stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

To help raise awareness that books continue to be challenged, ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom is selling bracelets featuring the covers of frequently challenged books. "Adult" and "kids" signify size, although the kids-size bracelet features children's titles, and the adult-size bracelet features adult titles.

These bracelets were designed by Carolyn Forsman, jewelry designer and longtime supporter of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

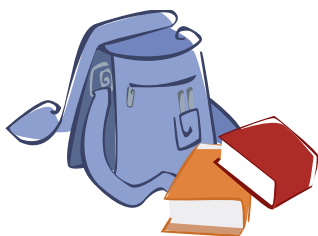
Adult Bracelet (\$18 for one; \$15 each for two or more). Each tile, or book cover, is 3/4" x 1"; the circumference of the bracelet is 6 3/8".

The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Go Ask Alice by Anonymous
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Annie on my Mind by Nancy Garden
Howl by Allen Ginsberg
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
I Read Banned Books

Kids Bracelet (\$12 for one; \$10 each for two or more). Each tile, or book cover, is 5/8" x 1/2"; the circumference of the bracelet is 5 1/2".

Annie on my Mind by Nancy Garden
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
King & King by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
Blubber by Judy Blume
Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
I Read Banned Books

All proceeds support the programs of the Office for Intellectual Freedom.



**NEW
@
NLS**

Conducting The Reference Interview, 30 min, 2004.

This video illustrates the stages of a reference interview and reviews the steps necessary for a successful answer. All the stages are demonstrated in walk-in, phone and online scenarios. In addition, tips are shown on handling difficult or unusual situations.

Managing Budgets & Finances by Arlita W. Hallam and Teresa R. Dalton, Neal-Schuman, 2005.

The first six chapters in this explain and illustrate the nuts and bolts, including types of budgets, how to create and revise them, ways of tracking spending and fund allocation, and timelines for financial planning.

"Instant Messaging: Quick & Dirty Reference for Teens & Others" by Sarah Houghton, Public Libraries, July/August 2005.

Sarah Houghton, e-Services Librarian at the Marin County Free Library gives the basic details needed to set up an instant messaging reference service at her library. Scheduling, screen names, patron privacy issues, procedures and

training are all covered. IMR patrons present some unique demands, especially their desire almost instantaneous answers.

"The Care & Feeding of Volunteers." by Michael McKee, Grassroots Fundraising Journal, Sept/Oct 2005.

Because most of us have far more work than can be done by paid staff, and because one of the goals of our work is to build broader community support, how well we incorporate the work of volunteers is critical. The author provides tips for maximizing the role of volunteers in your library.

"Are Your Students Prepared: Build an A+ College-Prep Collection Checklist" by Lynne Oliver, American Libraries, August 2005.

A checklist of ideas to services to your college bound patrons.



The Northeast Library System is happy to announce the arrival of a new journal, **Public Libraries**. The official publication of the Public Library Association, the journal offers regular articles on fundraising, technology, copyright, and issues facing libraries today. Contact the System office at 1-800-578-1014 if you would like to be placed on the routing list for this publication.



Check Your Calendar

September 9 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln.

September 21 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Raymond Whitwer Tilden Public Library at 10 am.

September 23-24 - **10th Annual Plum Creek Literacy Festival** at Concordia University, Seward. For additional information email: PlumCreek@cune.edu.

September 28 - **"Bridges Out of Poverty"**, NLA Pre-conference, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

September 28 - **"Caring For the Mind"**, NLA Pre-conference, September 28, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

September 29-30 - **NLA/NEMA Annual Conference**, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

October 19 - **Jim Trelease** at Seward Public Library. For more information, see web site: <http://www.sewardlibrary.org>

October 26 - **Copyright Media Workshop** for ESUs 1 & 8 at LifeLong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk.



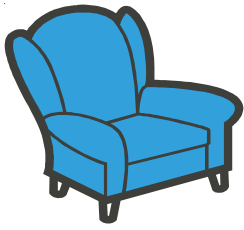
House Memorial Library in Pender was magically transformed into a castle this summer!

Dawn Dyson, author of *Mercy Sky*, stopped in at the **Plainview Carnegie Library**. Her new book is about America's Reverse Underground Railroad.

Hruska Memorial Public Library in David City received a copy of "Autism is a World". This film is a documentary about Sue Rubin, who is autistic. Diagnosed with autism when she was 4, Sue believed she was mentally handicapped until she turned 13. Now, Sue is a junior in college and a tireless disability-rights activist. This film was nominated in the 2004 Academy Award Documentary Short Subject category.

The staff at **Wayne Public Library** were surprised one morning to discover a dragon lurking about their walls during the Summer Reading Program!





The Reviewer's Chair

A Surprise Visitor

By Juli Kangas

A group of children would love to have this book read to them. The pictures are great and the story has a happy ending. The children will giggle at the funny names of each animal family, and how they each try to help find a home for the surprise visitor. It is recommended for ages 4-8 in school and public libraries.

~~ Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

The Mysterious Circus

By Jane Langton

Eleanor, Edward, and Georgie are expecting a visit from their uncle Krishne, who lives in far away India. Instead their uncle sends their cousin Andy. Andy brings with him a gift, which is a small magic seed. Andy has a love for the circus and soon gets the Hall children and their friends involved in his magic circus, distracting them from the fact that the new select-woman, Matilda, wants to build a Thoreau Theme Park. When the children discover the impending disaster to the meadow they come to the rescue. This is the seventh book in the Hall Family Chronicles. It is evident that the reader must read the previous books to understand the first couple of pages. The

story line is very funny and readers who are already hooked on the series will not want to miss this addition. This book is recommended for 3rd through 5th grades.

~~ Diane Limoges, Crofton, NE

Fresh Off the Boat

By Melissa De La Cruz

Vicenza is experiencing a bit of culture shock. She and her family have recently immigrated from Manila, where they were well-to-do and lived a comfortable life. Suddenly, she is thrust into a world of Salvation Army sweaters, afternoons working in the cafeteria, and snooty private school girls. Life begins to look up for Vicenza, however, when she makes friends with a French girl, Isobel, and she is paired up with the super good looking Claude in geometry class.

This book is very much the typical high school romance novel, with a couple of interesting twists to set it apart. However, the amount of pop-culture (movie stars, movie titles, songs, etc...) that is incorporated will make this book out-of-date and obsolete in just a few years. If you have unlimited funds for the library, this is a good book, but not a timeless read. This book is

recommended for ages 12-16. Amanda Limoges, Crofton, NE

Lizabeth's Story

By Erika Tamar

The third book of The Girls of Lighthouse Lane series focuses on Lizabeth, whose father is a banker and can provide the luxuries of life for his family. Lizabeth is accustomed to having the maid do all house-work and Liz only has concerned herself with her looks and acting like a lady. As an epidemic of scarlet fever travels through the little village of Cape Light, Lizabeth's world turns upside down as her little sister Tracy comes down with the dreaded illness. Lizabeth is forced to stay with her cousin Kat, whose family runs the lighthouse and Liz soon discovers the world of hard work and making do with only the bare necessities of life. This life changing event causes Lizabeth to grow up and appreciate life and helps her to make some life changing decision. Written for 4th graders on up this book will appeal to the female gender and would make an excellent addition to public and school libraries.

~~Pat Thompson WSC

Snakes Don't Miss Their Mothers

By M. E. Kerr

A variety of animals housed at Critters, an animal shelter, tell their stories of living at the shelter and their hope of finding a permanent home. There are



the usual occupants such as dogs and cats, a king snake, and the nasty dogcatcher, plus an attempt to delve into the lives of some of the future adopters of the animals. I had to force myself to finish this book. As an animal lover I thought the premise of animals from a shelter finding homes would be interesting. Not! There were too many characters, the story line jumped all over the place, and the author's attempt at humor just did not hit the spot for me. I'm sure there are many more worth while books to purchase.
~~Deb Daehnke, WSC

Baby Bat's Lullaby

By Jacquelyn Mitchard

Mother Bat is lovingly talking to her baby bat using terse, rhyming, descriptive words. They are enjoying their time together. This is a gentle bedtime story for primary through kindergarten children. It has soft acrylic illustrations. You may like bats more after reading this. Public and school libraries may care to buy it.
~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE.

Burying the Sun

By Gloria Whelan

This is the story of Leningrad during World War II as told by Georgi, a teenager forced to be the man of the family. Georgi's family and that of his friend Yelena are bonded by the loss of fathers for resisting Stalin. For 526 days Leningrad was blockaded and

bombed while 2/3 of the population perished.

This is a well-written, historically accurate, compelling book. It encouraged me to go back and re-read history. Great book! The story shows Georgi's courage when he helps to shore up the Luga River to stop the advancing Germans and to haul food across a frozen Lake Ladoga. It also highlights the bravery of those who saved precious book and museum artifacts as well as preserve the musical heritage-all hallmarks of the notorious city. This book is recommended for grades 3-8 in both public and school libraries.
~~Janet Davis, Atkinson, NE

Chickerella

By Mary Jane & Herm Auch

This is a book that follows the Cinderella fairy tale using a chicken. Instead of a glass slipper, the chicken laid clear eggs. The chicken also enjoyed making clothing. In the end, the Prince Chicken and Chickerella

become fashion designers and they have a fashion show and live happily ever after. The book had very detailed illustrations and it also used words related to chickens which children could point out while reading the story. This book is recommended for 1st to 2nd grades in both public and school libraries.

~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

Palms to the Ground

By Amy Stollis

This is a story of Calman, a very overprotected young man, and how he meets his pen pal Rizzy for the first time. He finds out that Rizzy is very standoffish and he has a hard time relating to her. After some adventurous trips, Calman finds he's more of a man than he thought. He comes out of his shell and grows up. This is an excellent coming of age story. This book is recommended for 6th grade and up in both public and school libraries.

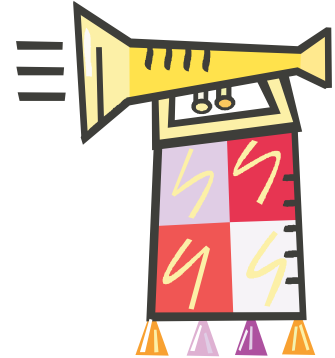
~~K.P., Schuyler, NE



Dawn Tucker reading at Lied Pierce Public Library.



Judy Marco, Children's Librarian, at **Central City Public Library** discovered the stocks during the library's Medieval Festival.



Lt. Governor, Rick Sheehy, visited the **Neligh Public Library** on August 10th and read to the children.



Pirates at **Clarkson Public Library** performed 'daring deeds' this summer.





Many princesses and princes were spotted at the **Atkinson Public Library** this summer. Each child that attended story hour had their photo taken as a Prince and Princess.



As a reward during the 'Teen Read' Summer Reading Program at **Osmond Public Library**, 3 teachers lined up as targets for pie throwing. Everyone had a blast!



"Are you sure?", this little one questions magician, Scott Poese from KBRX at the last summer reading program at the **Creighton Public Library**.





The camera caught Susan Skinner, children's librarian at Little Priest Tribal College/ Winnebago Public Library reading to a youngster. Instead of a regular story hour, the library provides a 'read-on-demand' service. Whenever a child wants to be read to, Susan sits down and reads a story. She reads aloud at least 200 books to children every month, both in the library and in the outreach programs to pre-schoolers.



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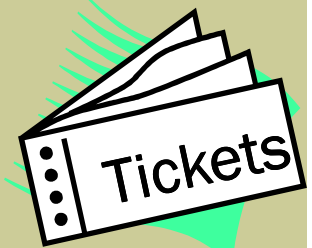
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Chocolate Basket Raffle



GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems will be selling raffle tickets for a basket full of eatable and other chocolate related items worth over \$100.

Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Tickets are available now from your System office or at the NLA/NEMA conference.

The winner will be drawn and announced at the NLA/NEMA conference on September 30, 2005.

Raffle proceeds will go to programs sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.

Call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014

For questions contact your System office

Buy Your Tickets Now

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

**"Some men see things as they are and say why not? I
dream things that never were and say 'Why not?'"**

~~Robert Kennedy

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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