



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

February/ March 2005

SOWINGS

The Nebraska Legislature

by Nancy Meyer
Eastern Library System, Adm. Assistant

Our form of government is unique among all of the states because it has a single-house system. We have George Norris to thank for that. The first day of the first Unicameral was January 5, 1937. This year the Unicameral Session also began on January 5th and will continue for 90 days with the last session scheduled for June 3, 2005. Enough history lesson!

The Unicameral website (www.unicam.state.ne.us) has all the information you need to follow a bill as it travels the long road to becoming a law and, most important, how to **contact your state senator**. The 49 senators are permitted to select one bill as his or her personal priority bill for the session. Each committee may select two of the bills referenced to it as committee priority bills for the session. The speaker is also allowed to select up to 25 additional bills as speaker priority bills. Priority bills must be selected prior to the 45th legislative day during a 90-day session and prior to the 30th legislative day during a 60-day session. It all



sounds so confusing, however, the more you are involved the easier it is to understand. There is also a 21-page list of the lobbyists and how to contact them.

The *Unicameral Update*, the weekly publication of the Legislature is available online but you can also request a printed subscription. If you would like to request a new subscription to the print version of the *Unicameral Update*, please send your name and postal address to: uio@unicam.state.ne.us. You may also mail your subscription request to the following address:

Unicameral Information Office
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box ,4604
Lincoln, NE 68502

You might want to bookmark or make an icon of the website for your computers and make the print copy available for your patrons.

The **Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day is February 23** (page 12-13 for registration.) Since Kathy [Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator] has been the chair of the Legislative Committee for the past several years, we have had the opportunity (hmmmmm) to spend a lot of time contacting and meeting senators and working and planning for Legislative Day.

Continued on page 2

As of the writing of this article, 378 bills and 11 constitutional amendments had already been proposed with only 5 days into this session. I can see the rescinding of term limits and the smoking ban as a couple of interesting topics that should make for some news-worthy ink.

I emailed some of the senators asking them for a sentence or two that I could use.

Senator Lowen Kruse (my senator) wrote this:



“The 2005 session of the legislature will center again on finances. Revenue will increase by about 5%, which is certainly helpful. However, we expect 60% of the budget to need a 10% increase, in areas such as Medicaid and health care costs over which we have little control. So it will still be crunch time.”

“I do expect this legislature to take a good look at long term issues—which includes library services—and to develop policy in terms of where we need to be down the road. I hope it happens, as we are overdue for reflection on policies which will best serve our future.”

Senator Nancy Thompson, who ran an unsuccessful bid for Congress, is a very gracious lady and I for one am glad she is still in the Unicameral. Her comment.....



“The 2005 legislative session will be very interesting because this is the first time in the history of the state that 20 senators will be leaving in two years. As a member of that first term-limited group, I will be working with my fellow senators to complete legislative initiatives and help the newcomers who will be taking on leadership responsibilities a lot more quickly than in the past.”

Senator Kermit Brasher was elected Speaker of the Legislature. That post is elected by the membership every two years. The speaker sets calendars and daily agendas and presides in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. Senator Brashear sent me a great quote—one that we all could applaud.



“May we by our efforts make these the best of times for the people of the State of Nebraska.”



This is the 99th Legislative Session...look for a big party next year!



Here are the bills currently being monitored by Nebraska Library Association and lobbyist Ken Winston. The first four items following are all issues that were on the table last year:

LB 217: Public Facilities Construction & Finance Act – This bill has 2 possible uses for libraries: Construction and Technology purchases. It allows cities to issue debt without a vote of the people, and outside levy and lid limitations to build buildings and purchase or replace IT (information technology) needs. One caveat: must be in a relationship with another agency.

LB 374: Regional Library Systems Benefit Bill – This bill allows Systems the option of employees participating in the state of Nebraska group health insurance. It adds no additional costs for the state of Nebraska. Regional Library Systems and their employees are responsible for the employer and employee shares of the group insurance plan as part of their already established budgets.

LB 28: EndowNebraska – Already advanced out of committee and supports Nebraska charitable tax credit legislation.

Nebraska Library Commission Budget Request – This will go before the Appropriations Committee with no date set yet for that hearing.

New this session is a bill NLA will be **opposing**:

LB 599: Change Provisions Relating to Libraries Act – which would permit second class cities and villages to eliminate public library boards of trustees and designate governance responsibility directly to mayors and city councils and village boards. This directly effects communities under 5,000 and was introduced by the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The hearing for this bill has been tentatively scheduled for February 14th before the General Affairs Committee at the Capitol. We'll definitely need a showing of support in opposition.



Since, two of the bills have already been before a committee (LB 217 and 374) and LB 599 is scheduled for mid-February, and LB 28 has been advanced out of committee, as of this writing – it's really imperative that librarians keep in tune with what's happening via the NLA and System e-mail mailing lists, or through the Unicameral's web page at:

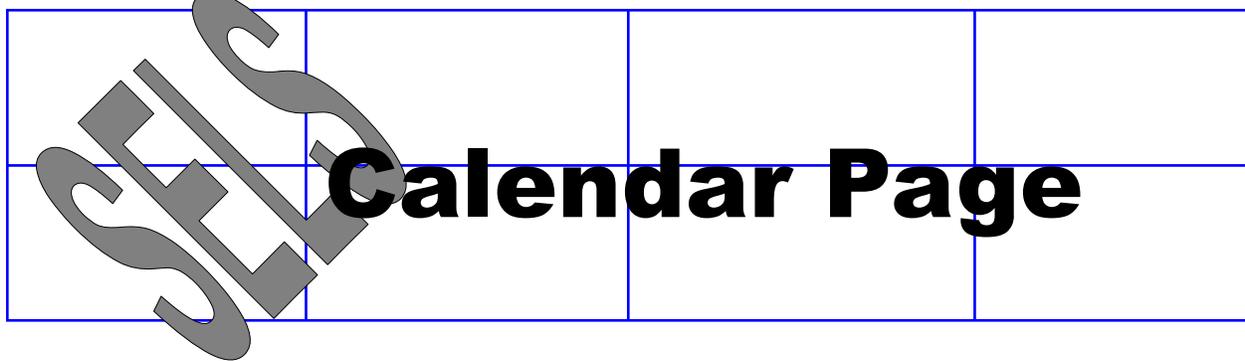
www.unicam.state.ne.us/index.htm. I'd also urge you to act when a plea goes out to contact your senator as that contact makes such a huge difference, and a phone call or e-mail really make it a simple non-intimidating process. **By Brenda Ealey, NLA President**



We Need You!

By Kathy Tooker, NLA Legislative Chair

As Nancy wrote in the article on the Nebraska Legislature, **Library Legislative Day is February 23**. There is a full day of events planned with plenty of time for you to visit with the senator from your district, meet other librarians, trustees, and library friends, enjoy a good lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel, and hear about some outstanding youth who volunteer their time and talents at their local library. Last year over 60% of the senators (or one of their aides) joined us for the luncheon. We received many good comments from the senators and the others attending, but what stands out in my mind is the comment from one senator. He asked, "Is a librarian from my community here?" I had to reply no the librarian was not here. This shouldn't happen. It is your responsibility to invite your senator and tell him or her about what is happening in your library—be it a public, school, academic, or special library. All libraries receive support in many ways from the Nebraska Library Commission, so **please attend this year** and show your support and interest in the Nebraska library community.



February

February 8th: An Evening With Ted Kooser. Join the University, Lincoln and surrounding communities in honoring the first National Poet Laureate from the Great Plains. Ted Kooser will read selected works and discuss poetry. Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th & R Street, Lincoln at 7:30 P.M.

 **February 11th: SELS Board Meeting** at the Weeping Water Public Library, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let the System office know if you plan to attend, jennip@alltel.net, 800-288-6063.

February 14th & 15th: League of Municipalities conference at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

February 18th: College of DuPage 2004-2005 Teleconference Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques, from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.. Beatrice Public Library. See the DuPage website: www.dupage.edu/COD/index.php?id=31 or contact Pam Scott for more information, 800-307-2665, pscott@nlc.state.ne.us.

February 19th: Bess Streeter Aldrich Birthday Celebration in Elmwood. Contact: Teresa Lorensen, (402) 994-3855, tlorensen@alltel.net, or www.lincolnne.com/nonprofit/bsaf.

 **February 23rd: Legislative Day** for more information and registration, see pages 12 & 13.

February 24th-26th: The Nebraska State Reading Conference: Literacy is Alive in 2005 is being held in Kearney. Contact Liz Olson for information at eolson@mpsomaha.org.edu or www.nereads.org/conference/index.html.

March

March 4th: NLA Board Meeting at Abrahams Branch in Omaha.

 **March 11th: SELS Summer Reading Workshop**, for more information and registration, see page 8.

March 11th: Nebraska Library Commission & State Advisory Council Meeting, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Contact Maria Medrano-Nehls/402-471-4008/800-307-2665/mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us

March 11th: College of DuPage Teleconference: Reference Tools for the Information Age, noon to 2 p.m., Beatrice Public Library, contact Pam Scott for more information, 800-307-2665, pscott@nlc.state.ne.us.

March 16th: Paraprofessional Spring Meeting, 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paraconference.html for more information and to register.

 **March 17th: CASTL Meeting**, Geneva Public Library, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please let the System office know if you plan to attend, jennip@alltel.net, 800-288-6063.

March 18th: College of DuPage Teleconference: Library as Place: Where People Want to Be, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Beatrice Public Library. See the DuPage website: www.dupage.edu/COD/index.php?id=31 or contact Pam Scott for more information, 800-307-2665.

Humboldt News

When **Humboldt** had their Window Opening on Monday, November 22, the library was the place to be. The Chamber of Commerce used part of the new meeting room for their "pictures with Santa." The rest of the room provided space for the library's annual Scholastic Book Fair. In the original part of the library there was a bake sale for a swimming pool study and Ident-A-Kid. Besides all that, one of the regular vendors during the County Fair offered to set up his candy cotton maker, and brought some of the wonderful caramel corn he makes, and gave all the proceeds to the library. With 490 people through the library, no cotton candy inside the library, great sales for the book fair, and lots of happy people, the evening was a wonderful, but busy, time.

December 'twas the season to gather and have fun together. In this spirit, **Gilbert Library** hosted 16 young **Friend** residents for a Gingerbread House making event. The children used milk cartons, graham crackers, and loads of candy to create their wonderful gingerbread houses.



"The children had so much fun. Their creativity is amazing." said LaRaine Cihak, library director. "We could not have done this without some wonderful help." This is the first time the library has hosted this event, but plans are already in the works for next year.

Congratulations to **Ellen Vonderstrasse**, new director of **Fairbury Public Library**. She has worked at the library since March of 2003. She is completing a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science and Information Technology at University of Maine, online and is planning to obtain a Masters of Library Science Degree after graduation from UMA. Ellen, her husband, and 3 sons live on, and operate a farm near Plymouth, where Ellen also raises and shows horses. Giddyap!

Congratulations to **Heather Koeneke (Auburn Memorial Library)** for receiving an LTA (Library Technical Assistant) Scholarship.

Beatrice Public Library is gearing up to celebrate National Library Month, not just a week in April. Laureen Riedesel, director, has many co-sponsored events planned with the Humane Society, the town of Odell, and a storytelling festival for events such as cat and dog collectibles, Native American speakers from Oklahoma, and volunteer recognition. Laureen says that making the whole celebration a month, gives the staff more time to schedule and enjoy events. She also is able to receive a full page in the Beatrice Daily Sun for promotion.

Weeping Water Public Library received a \$4000 grant from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum to do some needed landscaping work at the library. You can find more information about the grants at the state Arboretum's website: <http://arboretum.unl.edu/community.html>.

Greenwood Public Library opened up the community room across the hall from the library for kids to come in and play games during recent snow days.

Plattsmouth Public Library had 9,000 checkouts during the month of December. Phew!

Join NLA

If you have not joined for 2005 or you were not planning on joining, please re-consider. There are many good reasons to join the Nebraska Library Association. You will receive:

- NLAQ—a quarterly publication with lots of great information from your colleagues.
- A biennial membership directory.
- A reduced rate to the annual Fall Conference.
- Discounted prices at selected Nebraska businesses.

But, most of all, you will be a part of a large organization whose primary function is to support and promote all Nebraska libraries.



Please consider also offering this opportunity to your staff and be sure to have them join the **Paraprofessional Section!!!!**

For a membership form go to:
www.nol.org/home/NLA/membership.html

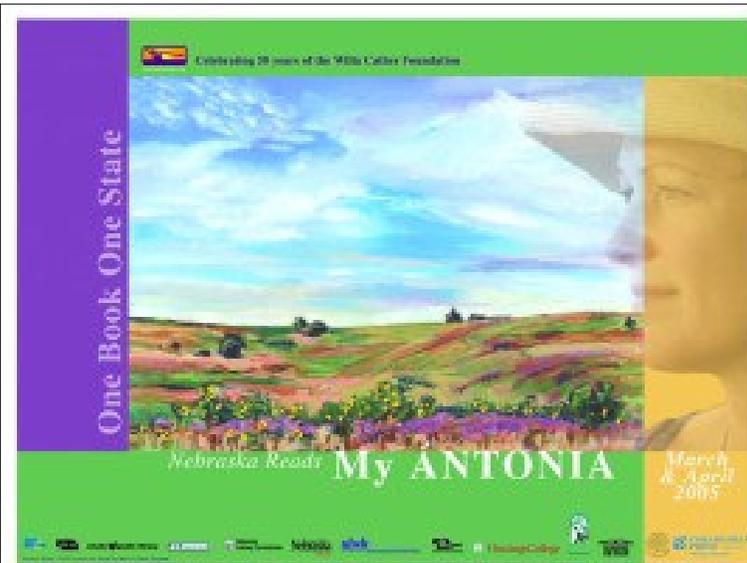


Paraprofessional Section A Section of the Nebraska Library Association

Why join the Paraprofessional Section of NLA?

This is the section to join if you work in a library, are in contact with librarians, are in the process of becoming a librarian, or just want to be a part of the best section in NLA. We encourage all of the paraprofessionals who join NLA to check the Paraprofessional section box on the form. If you have already sent in your membership renewal and checked another box, for only \$5 more you can join our section. The **Paras** are a hard working, fun group who sponsor a Spring Video Conference and several sessions at the NLA/NEMA Fall Conference each year. **Library directors, please encourage your staff to consider joining the Paraprofessional Section in 2005. We all need to be advocates for libraries in Nebraska.**

One Book, One State: *My Ántonia*



Citizens across the state will celebrate One Book One State by reading the classic novel by Nebraska's own Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*, and by participating in local discussions throughout the spring. As part of the April 29-30 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation in Red Cloud, Cather scholars from across the United States will lead discussions and answer questions about *My Ántonia*. A writing competition will be conducted for secondary school students. For more information see www.willacather.org or contact Betty

Kort, The Cather Foundation, 402-746-2653, willacather@gpcom.net. Libraries can purchase copies of *My Ántonia* at significant discounts from the University of Nebraska Press at www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/news/onebook.jsp. Libraries that notify the Library Commission of intent to sponsor One Book One State activities will be entered into a drawing to receive One Book One State Library Discussion Kits, including multiple copies of *My Ántonia*. Notify Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, : mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.



Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds

Southwest Library System's
Summer Reading Workshop

March 11, 2005

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Seward Memorial Library

233 South Fifth Street, Seward

9-9:30: Registration

9:30-12: Patti Sinclair, who has worked as a children's librarian and is editor of the Collaborative Summer Library Program Manual, presents **Crafts, Skits, Games, Books, and Inspiration** for SR 2005

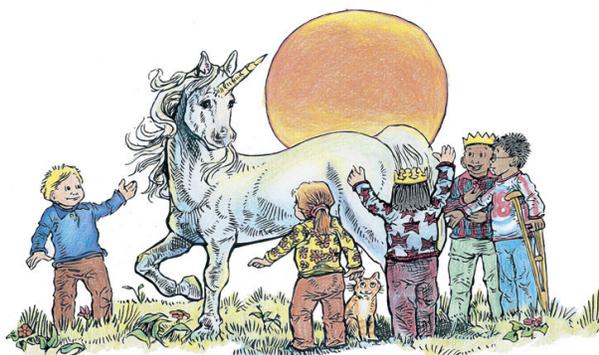
12-12:15: Break

12:15-1: Sally Snyder, Know the New: book reviews that are too new for the lists for Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds

Lunch

1:30-3:30:

A Faire to Remember . . .



Come ye, come ye to a gathering at the faire . . . see magicians, storytellers, and other performers. This is your opportunity to explore the wares of the speakers and presenters who are available for summer reading or other programs at your library. You can use this time to book presenters for your programs and use the die cut machines for your summer reading needs. Of course the casual atmosphere will allow you to share ideas with your fellow librarians. Have a great idea? Bring 35 copies to share.

Please bring your own paper for the die cuts.

Also bring scissors (fairly sharp), glue, tape and a few markers to the workshops.

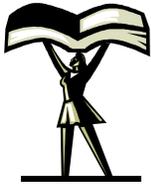
Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cost: \$15 which includes lunch
Please send registrations by **March 4th** to:
Southeast Library System
5730 R St., Ste. C-1
Lincoln, NE 68505
PLEASE—send your registration on time. If the check will be sent later or you will pay at the door please note that on your registration.



News and Notes

We the People Bookshelf Project-Grants

Applications will be accepted online at www.ala.org/wethepeople. Applications for the first round are due October 20, 2004. Second round applications are due February 16, 2005.

Help with Ordering

Getting ready to order and need ideas? You can find a list of Children and Teen Book Awards by state at: www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/newreadingd.htm. (Useful Internet site tip from Dr. R.J. (Becky) Pasco, UNO.)

Set Up a Foundation or Friends Group

Advice on how to set up a nonprofit organization, written in plain language can be found at this web site: www.lcf.org/publications4.htm. This comes from the Lincoln Community Foundation, & is very well written, covering so many of the questions that I was asked over & over again. (This note comes from Carol Speicher, past Administrator for the Northeast Library System, who said: "Wish I'd had it when I was working with library boards wanting to establish library foundations.")

6th Harry Potter Book

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling, the sixth in the best-selling series, has been scheduled for release on July 16, 2005 in the United States.

In the fifth and most recent book, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, the last chapter, titled "The Second War Begins," started:

'In a brief statement Friday night, Minister of Magic Cornelius Fudge confirmed that He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named has returned to this country and is active once more.

"It is with great regret that I must confirm that the wizard styling himself Lord - well, you know who I mean - is alive among us again," said Fudge.'

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince takes up the story of Harry Potter's sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry at this point in the midst of the storm of this battle of good and evil. The author has already said that the Half-Blood Prince is neither Harry nor Voldemort. And most importantly, the opening chapter of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince has been brewing in J.K. Rowling's mind for 13 years. Check out her cool website: www.jkrowling.com for more news and fun!

Libraries for the Future Announces Grant Opportunity for Public Libraries

Deadline: March 4, 2005

Libraries for the Future, with support from the MetLife Foundation, has announced a national book and film discussion series for teenagers and families, especially immigrant families, that will take place in public libraries.

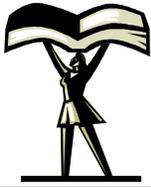
The MetLife Foundation Reading America Program is designed to use literature, film, and the neutral ground of the library to stimulate discussion that positively affects the relationship between the generations, especially those of new immigrant families.

Libraries for the Future will select fifteen libraries nationwide for the program. Applications are encouraged from public libraries of all sizes as well as libraries that have not previously engaged in systematic outreach to newcomer families. Applicant libraries must work with one or more community organizations as partners.

Libraries selected to participate in the program will receive a cash grant of \$5,000 to help initiate the program and cover their expenses.

Information on the Reading America Program and the complete RFP are available from the Libraries for the Future Web site.

RFP Link: www.lff.org/news/RA05_rfp.html. For additional RFPs in Arts and Culture visit: fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/cat_arts.jhtml



News and Notes

NLA Scholarships

Nebraska Library Association members interested in pursuing additional education and training are eligible for NLA scholarships, which will be awarded this spring.

Several Louise A. Nixon Scholarships (\$1000.00 each) will be awarded in the spring of 2005. The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund was established to support students pursuing **graduate level** library education as a part-time or full-time student. The guidelines and application form for the Nixon scholarship are available at www.nol.org/home/NLA/nixonsschol.htm

One Duane Munson Scholarship (\$250.00) will be awarded to an NLA member in the spring of 2005. The Duane Munson Scholarship was established to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals gain additional education and training on a part-time or full-time basis. The guidelines and application form for the Munson scholarship are available at www.nol.org/home/NLA/munsonschol.htm

The application deadline for both scholarships is **April 15, 2005**. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May 2005. If you have questions about the scholarships, contact Theresa Jehlik at tjehlik@omaha.lib.ne.us or 402-444-4803.

Visit the "Oracle of Omaha"

Have you ever wanted to attend the "Woodstock for Capitalists" weekend in Omaha? Had a yen to hear the "Oracle of Omaha" and his sidekick, Charlie Munger, make their annual financial forecasts? This might be your year to attend the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha on April 30th.

Make a **\$5.00** donation to the Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund in **January, February or March** to enter your name in a special drawing. The lucky winner will receive two tickets to the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting on 30 April 2005. For each additional \$5.00, another chance will be added to the drawing. If you make a \$10.00 donation, your name is entered twice in the drawing, \$25.00 gets you five chances, \$75.00 gets you 15 chances, etc.

Warren Buffett always plans a full weekend for his shareholder guests. Typical events include shopping at the Nebraska Furniture Mart with the employee discount, a cocktail reception at Borsheim's, and a chance to tour NetJet's business jets. Various Berkshire Hathaway companies always have booths at the Annual Meeting. Past exhibitors have included Dairy Queen, Fruit of the Loom, Geico Insurance, The Pampered Chef, and See's Candies.

You can't catch a glimpse of Warren Buffett if you don't donate. Send your check payable to **NLA – Nixon Fund** (It would be very helpful if you also write **Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005** on your check's "For" line.) and mail it to –

Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director
Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005
P.O. Box 98
Crete, NE 68333-0098

All donations to the Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund between 1 January and 31 March 2005 will be eligible for the drawing. The winner will be notified by 7 April 2005. The Berkshire Hathaway meeting credentials will be mailed to the winner by 15 April 2005.

- ⌘ ***Ted Kooser gives Straight Answers . . .*** As Ted Kooser begins his stint as the 13th United States Poet Laureate, he sat down for an interview with American Libraries magazine. When asked “Why is poetry important, and what can librarians do to help people see its value?” He replied:

Poetry can make our lives brighter and more interesting. The challenge is in overcoming people’s fear of poetry, learned in public schools where poems were taught as if they were algebra problems with one right answer. We need to show readers that there is a wealth of poetry that is not intimidating and formidable.

For the complete one page interview, contact the system office.

- ⌘ ***Bake a Million Dollar Pie . . .*** A former YA librarian from Ohio was the winner of a million dollars and kitchen appliances with her recipe for Oats ‘n Honey Granola Pie. And having made the pie, I definitely think it’s worth some money. Here it is for free:

Crust

1 Pillsbury® refrigerated pie crust (from 15-oz box), softened as directed on box

Filling

1/2 cup butter or margarine

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

3/4 cup corn syrup

1/8 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

3 eggs, lightly beaten

4 Nature Valley® Oats 'n Honey crunchy granola bars (2 pouches from 8.9-oz. box), crushed (3/4 cup)

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1/4 cup quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats

1/4 cup chocolate chips

Whipped cream or ice cream, if desired

Preparation Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Place pie crust in 9-inch glass pie pan as directed on box for One-Crust Filled Pie.
2. In large microwavable bowl, microwave butter on High 50 to 60 seconds or until melted. Stir in brown sugar and corn syrup until blended. Beat in salt, vanilla and eggs. Stir crushed granola bars, walnuts, oats and chocolate chips into brown sugar mixture. Pour into crust-lined pan.
3. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until filling is set and crust is golden brown. During last 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust edge with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Cool at least 30 minutes before serving. Serve warm, at room temperature or chilled with whipped cream or ice cream. Store in refrigerator.

- ⌘ ***Test your geography skills . . .*** Visit a fun website to see how well you know your states:
www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_experiment_drag-drop_Intermed_State15s_500.html

***If you would like to ILL a copy of these articles, please contact the System office ***

Professional Literature



Literacy & Learning

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**Registration Form
NLA Legislative Day – February 23, 2005**

- _____ 8:30-9:30 am Coffee and Doughnuts in Room 1023, State Capitol
- _____ 9:30 am Briefing at the Capitol, Room 1524
- _____ Noon Lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel
- _____ 1:30 pm NLA Legislative Seminar

- _____ \$15 for my participation
- _____ \$15 for the Senator’s lunch
- _____ \$15 for each additional city official or library trustee
- _____ contribution toward lunch for other participants \$ _____

You can find your senator’s phone number at www.unicam.state.ne.us (click on senators and districts).

Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

State Senator _____

City Official _____

Library Trustee _____

Make Checks Payable to: Nebraska Library Association (please respond by February 16, 2005)
Mail to:
NLA Legislative Committee

**Kathleen Tooker
Eastern Library System**

11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

6 CE hours for public librarians and trustees

Sign Up for NLA's Legislative Day

February 23, 2005 – Lincoln

The Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day theme is: Literacy & Learning @ your library[®], and will focus on the role libraries play in providing reading skills for all ages and ethnic backgrounds in order to prepare both kids and adults for the challenges of today's society. At the luncheon we will again recognize youth for their involvement with a local public or school library.

**8:30 am Coffee & Doughnuts Room 1023, State Capitol, 1445 K Street,
Lincoln**

Start the day off with refreshments and a visit with your senator and staff. Please invite him or her!

**9:30 am Briefing Room 1524, State Capitol, 1445 K Street,
Lincoln**

You will receive information on current legislation and library issues from Ken Winston, NLA's lobbyist and Rod Wagner, director of the Nebraska Library Commission. After the briefing, you will have time to meet with your senator, senator's staff, and/or visit the legislative chamber while it is in session.

**Noon Luncheon Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street,
Lincoln**

Take your senator out for a great lunch. The cost is \$15 per person – please offer to pay for your senator's lunch and escort him/her to the luncheon. If the senator is unable to attend, invite his/her legislative aide – they are important contacts for successful lobbying. Plan to bring a local city official (mayor, city administrator, or council member) and your library board or library supporters with you as well.

**1:30-3:00 pm Seminar Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street,
Suite 120, Lincoln.**

Lynn Rex, Executive Director of the League of Municipalities will speak on Leadership, Libraries, and Legislation. Following Lynn Rex, Lincoln Literacy Council representatives, Marvin Almy and Victoria Welles, will give an overview of their programs.

Public library continuing education credit is available: 3 hours for the morning and lunch and 3 hours for the afternoon session.

Top Five Emerging Technologies for Small Libraries

Description: Are you stressed out from trying to keep up with the latest and greatest? WebJunction's Emerging Technology Committee is here to help! This list, updated quarterly, points out the new technologies that will bring your library the most bang for the buck.

Author: WebJunction's Emerging Technology Committee

Publisher: WebJunction

Date Published: Dec 14, 2004

Date Posted: Dec 14, 2004

Copyright: 2004 OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc.

Updated by WJ's Emerging Technology Committee, (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=7755) December 2004.

*Like politics, all technology needs are local. Any evaluation of new technology should take into account the needs of the population you serve. Consider the list below food for thought as you survey the tech landscape in your area. Note that the items on this list are *not* in order of priority.*

Wireless Access

What it is: Giving patrons (and staff) the ability to access the Internet using their own notebook computers or other portable devices.

Why you should consider it for your library: Providing wireless access frees up your public access computing terminals for those who truly need them, and makes your library the neighborhood "hotspot" for information access.

What it involves: Wireless access points are relatively inexpensive; setting up your security to support them will take some time and effort.

For more information: Start with this article (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=8211) by Emerging Tech committee member Bruce Newell of the Montana State Library.

Thin Clients

What it is: Patrons work at inexpensive terminals; memory, storage, and applications are maintained on one centralized server.

Why you should consider it for your library: Thin-client technology can help you extend the life of your existing computers, lower costs on expanding the number of patron terminals, and simplify maintenance procedures.

What it involves: Setting up a centralized server and converting your PCs to terminals (and/or purchasing new terminals). The server can be pricey, but advocates say the reduced client hardware needs and lower operation costs add up to big savings.

For more information: We have three WebJunction articles on the subject: The "Skinny" on Thin Clients (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1230) Thin-client Computing: A Centralized Method for Maintaining Library Computer Networks (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=7533) and A Long Term Care Solution for Gates Computers (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=7568).

Upgrading Your Operating Systems

What it is: Replacing antiquated operating systems like Windows NT or Windows 95.

Why you should consider it for your library: Access to technical support, support for newer technologies, and most importantly, reduced operating costs in the long term.

What it involves: TechSoup Stock offers upgrades to Windows XP for \$8 (www.techsoup.org/stock/category.asp?catalog%5Fname=TechSoupMain&category%5Fname=Servers&Page=1&Cat1=Software&CatCount=1) (public access computers in libraries are eligible!). System upgrades sometimes require new hardware. Open-source systems like Linux are increasingly more available, but the technical challenges are still a bit much for a small library to take on.

For more information: Take WebJunction's online tutorial on Updating and Upgrading Software (webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=442).

Blogging & RSS

What it is: A Web-based technology for keeping yourself informed, and for keeping your community informed about your library.

Why you should consider it for your library: These focused tools for information-gathering help you stay on top of changes in technology and in the library profession. In addition, many libraries are finding that blogs and RSS can greatly enhance their ability to reach out to their patrons.

What it will cost you: Using blogs and RSS to keep yourself up to date costs only the time to get started; to set up a library blog or RSS feed does take some time but costs little.

For more information: Start with WebJunction's article on Blogs for Libraries (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=767) and watch this space for a WJ Emerging Tech piece, coming soon.

Technology Planning

This item is not exactly an "Emerging Technology"; we've included it because it's fundamental to any new technology initiatives you might take on.

What it is: Thinking ahead about what your library needs, and how to fund and support those needs.

Why you should consider it for your library: Not just to meet the minimal requirements for e-rate funding, but to create a clear, logical, and achievable technology direction for your library and its community.

What it will cost you: The time and effort to inventory what you've got and plan ahead for the future. But it will cost you a lot more if you don't plan ahead!

For more information: WebJunction has a bunch of materials on the subject in the Technology Planning (webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=391) section; take a close look also at TechAtlas, (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=1001) a great online needs assessment tool that's available to WebJunction members at no charge.

#6 With a Bullet (*the latest rising technology star*):

E-Books & Audio E-Books—keep on the lookout for a feature on this topic in future editions.

Oldies But Goodies (*archive of previous list items*):

October 2004: Flash and USB Drives (webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=7756).

So What Else Is New?

If you have suggestions for the Top Five list, let us know, content@webjunction.org!

WorldCat

Watch WorldCat grow from your workstation! On average, a new record and 13 new holdings go into the world's richest database of library items every 10 seconds. A new feature added to the **Watch WorldCat Grow** screen on the OCLC Web site now lets you view the number of holdings, as well as new records, as they are added to WorldCat. The counter lists total holdings in WorldCat and the number of holdings added in the last 10 seconds. It also displays eight fields of the latest new record added to WorldCat - OCLC number, title, author, publisher, publication date, language, format and contributing institution.

To see the latest WorldCat record, go to: www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/nebserv.html. To learn more about WorldCat, go to: www.oclc.org/worldcat/.

In order to help libraries get the most out of the Open WorldCat program and other OCLC services like FirstSearch, OCLC has posted a very useful tutorial on **Deep Linking**. Open WorldCat can help drive users to libraries and increase circulation if they are setup to support Deep Linking.

Deep Linking helps users navigate all the way to a specific record in the library online catalog after finding the item through internet search engines. Some libraries are already set up to support this, others just need to fill out a simple form which should just take a few minutes.

The tutorial is linked prominently at: www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm. If you have questions contact: Christa Burns, OCLC Member Services Coordinator, (402)471-2083, (800)307-2665, cburns@nlc.state.ne.us.

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Caldecott Medal:

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes

Caldecott Honor Books:

The Red Book by Barbara Lehman

Coming on Home Soon illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Newbery Medal:

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Newbery Honor Books:

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

The Voice That Challenged a Nation by Russell Freedman

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

Printz Award:

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

Printz Honor Books:

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

Chanda's Secrets by Allan Stratton

Coretta Scott King Awards

Author:

Remember the Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison

Author Honor Books:

Legend of Buddy Bush by Shelia P. Moses

Who am I Without Him by Sharon Flake

Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem by Marilyn Nelson

Illustrator:

Ellington Was Not a Street illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Illustrator Honor Books:

God Bless the Child Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

The People Could Fly Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon

John Steptoe New Talent Author

Missy, Violet and Me by Barbara Hathoway

John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator

Jazzy Miz Mozetta by Frank Morrison

Sibert Informational Book Award:

The Voice That Challenged a Nation by Russell Freedman

Honor Books:

Walt Whitman: Words for America by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Brian Selznick

The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing by James Rumford

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

Shadows of Ghadames by Joelle Stolz

Margaret A. Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award

Francesca Lia Block, author of *Wasteland*, *Weetzie Bat*, and many others.

**Young Adult Library Services Organization
Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults for 2005**

Braff, Joshua. *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green.*
 Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge.*
 Hoose, Phillip M. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird.*
 Levithan, David. *The Realm of Possibility.*
 Marchetta, Melina. *Saving Francesca.*
 Morpurgo, Michael. *Private Peaceful.*
 Rapp, Adam. *Under the Wolf, Under the Dog*
 Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood.*
 Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It: a novel.*

For more best books for young adults: www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/05bbya.htm

Booklist's Top 10 First Novels

Braff, Joshua. *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green.*
 Clarke, Susanna. *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell.*
 ★ Condon, Phil. *Clay Center.* ***Nebraska Setting***
 DeJohn, Jacqueline. *Antonio's Wife.*
 Jones, Ben. *The Rope Eater.*
 Kantner, Seth. *Ordinary Wolves.*
 Langar, Adam. *Crossing California.*
 Murkoff, Bruce. *Waterborne.*
 ★ Murray, Paul. *An Evening of Long Goodbyes.*
 Ward, Liza. *Outside Valentine.* ***Nebraska Setting***

Booklist's Top 10 Books in Religion

Dracos, Ted. *Ungodly: The Passions, Torments, and Murder of Atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair.*
 Hazelton, Lesley. *Mary: A Flesh-and-Blood Biography of the Virgin Mother.*
 Jacoby, Susan. *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism.*
 Jenkins, Philip. *Dream Catchers: How Mainstream America Discovered Native Spirituality.*
 Kirsch, Jonathan. *God against the Gods: The History of the War between Monotheism and Polytheism.*
 Oppenheimer, Mark. *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture.*
 Stanford, Peter. *Heaven: A Guide to the Undiscovered Country.*
 Ward, Martha. *Voodoo Queen: The Spirited Lives of Marie Laveau.*
 Wheatcroft, Andrew. *Infidels: A History of the Conflict between Christendom and Islam.*
 Zahl, Paul. *The First Christian: Universal Truth in the Teachings of Jesus.*

**Southeast Library System Board Meeting
October 15, 2004
Wymore Public Library – Wymore, Nebraska**

Board Members present: Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library); Rebecca Bernthal (University of NE Libraries); Deb Goossen (Lewiston Public Schools); Steve Hunt (Plattsmouth Public Library); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library); Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center).

Also present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Peggy Lloyd (Assistant Director, Wymore Public Library).

Board Members absent:

Alicia Graybill (Fairbury); Ken Gunselman (York College Library); Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Hope Schawang (Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library); Robin Brooks (Kilgore Memorial Library).

Agenda

- I. What's New Around the System:** Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Board members were given a tour of the Wymore Public Library by Assistant Director Peggy Lloyd. President Baker called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Board members then discussed current activities taking place at their libraries.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Steve Hunt, second by Sandy Elton, the minutes from the August 13, 2004 meeting were approved. Motion passed. There was a brief discussion regarding the e-mailing of Board packets, rather than distributing the packets at meetings. Jenni noted that the Transaction Report would probably still be distributed only at the meeting, due to file transfer issues.
- III. Financial Report:** Jenni provided current budget spreadsheets and noted that SELS has spent 27% of its budget during the first 29% of the fiscal year. There was discussion regarding travel expenses, with Jenni noting that increased gas prices and Brenda's various trips related to planning the 2004 NLA Conference are reflected in that increase. Board members also mentioned the cost effectiveness of carpooling in the SELS van to Board meetings, CASTL meetings and various other workshops. Jenni also presented a copy of SELS' audit from fiscal year 2003-2004. There was discussion about formatting the financial report to better reflect the grant monies obtained by SELS, their totals and their uses. Jenni will work on this. On a motion by Sandy Elton, second by Rebecca Bernthal, the transaction report dated 8/11/04 through 10/14/04 was approved. Motion passed.
- IV. NLA/NEMA & ALSC Conference Reports & MPLA/CLA Conference Bus:** Brenda Ealey stated that there was still room on the bus for those interested in attending MPLA in Denver. The cost for this transportation will be covered by a cooperative NLC CE grant with other Systems. The Board discussed the recent NLA Conference, with the general consensus that there were many useful and interesting sessions offered. Brenda's role as Vice President/President Elect and her participation in planning the Conference were appreciated. Brenda discussed various aspects of the Conference, noting the success of CASTL's first One Book, Many Librarians sessions. This will likely be a session offered at the 2005 Conference. Jenni will research possible books for use next year.
- V. Board Vacancies:** Wanda Marget and Alicia Graybill have both approached Brenda regarding inability to attend meetings on a regular basis. After some discussion, the Board accepted both resignations. The Board also stated that they hoped both Wanda and Alicia would continue to be involved in the System by perhaps serving on a committee.
- VI. SELS Revised Plan:** At the August 13, 2004 meeting in Beatrice, the Board reviewed the SELS Plan for 2003-2005. The updated plan was presented to the Board. Revisions were made to reflect the ongoing four Service Roles that SELS staff and Board use as a guide for SELS service to its customers. These Service Roles and SELS Technology Plan were combined. Board members will consider this updated plan and e-mail any comments or questions to Brenda prior to the next Board meeting in December.
- VII. Administrator's Report:** Brenda discussed her work with the Nehawka Library to assess and discard their current collection. This Library has not been open to the public for many years, and Brenda has consulted on various issues related to reopening to the public. Other items discussed included:
 - Consulting the Weeping Water Library Board and staff about starting a Friends group.
 - Attending the ALSC Institute in Minneapolis with five other librarians. This trip was made possible by a continuing education grant written and submitted to NLC by Brenda.
 - NLA Conference related responsibilities and activities.
 - Upcoming plans for the MPLA Conference in Denver October 20-24, 2004.
 - Serving as an instructor for an upcoming basic skills course on public library administration.
 - Planning of the ELS/SELS joint Youth Services Retreat October 28-29, 2004.
 - Technology support meeting with Rod Wagner and Kris Rogge at NLC.
 - Presenting information on Libraries and the 1st Amendment for two Ethics classes at Doane Lincoln.
- VIII. NLC Report:** There was no representative from NLC present, but Brenda distributed information provided by Richard Miller.
- IX. Committee Meetings:** The Board paused for lunch at 1:50 p.m. and met in committees at 2:15 p.m. At 2:40, the Board reconvened and each committee made a brief report. Jan Thomsen reported for the CE Committee that plans for the Summer Reading workshop and the Training Extravaganza are beginning. The scheduling of the Extravaganza will depend on NLA's Spring Meetings. Steve Hunt reported for the CP Committee that they would like to involve CASTL members in encouraging smaller libraries to participate in the System and CASTL. They are considering useful resources to be included in an informational packet for these libraries.
- X. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Southeast Library System Board Meeting
December 10, 2004
Webermeier Memorial Library – Milford, NE**

Board Members present: Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library); Rebecca Bernthal (University of NE Libraries); Robin Brooks (Kilgore Memorial Library); Judy Butler (Waverly Senior High School); Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Deb Goossen (Lewiston Public Schools); Steve Hunt (Plattsmouth Public Library); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library); Hope Schawang (Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library);
Also present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Richard Miller (Nebraska Library Commission); Edna Riedl (Director, Webermeier Memorial Library).

Board Members absent:

Ken Gunselman (York College Library); Sandy Elton (Lincoln Correctional Center).

Agenda

I. What's New Around the System: President Baker called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Becky then introduced SELS' two newest board members, Karen Frank and Judy Butler, noting that Karen and Judy have been appointed to fill vacancies left by the departure of Alicia Graybill and Wanda Marget. All Board members then discussed current activities taking place at their libraries.

II. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Judy Butler, second by Steve Hunt, the minutes from the October 15, 2004 meeting were approved. Motion passed.

III. Financial Report: Jenni provided current budget spreadsheets and noted that 44% of SELS budget has been spent through December 9, 2004. Jenni recently modified the budget report to reflect YTD income and YTD expense. There was discussion about the Continuing Education/Professional Developments. Brenda noted that SELS had a unique opportunity to attend two major conferences out of state this past fall, which is reflected in the usage of those funds. Jenni noted that much of that expense is reimbursed through grant funds. Brenda's role as NLA President also affected these funds. Brenda mentioned that any overage for those funds would be absorbed by under spending in other lines. On a motion by Stephen Hunt, second by Jan Thomsen, the transaction report dated 7/1/04 through 12/8/04. Motion passed.

IV. Updated Bylaws, Personnel Policy, and Procedure for Mailing Ballots:

Bylaws: Becky noted that the Executive Committee had previously discussed the currently proposed changes to SELS Bylaws. Article III; Article 5, Section 5; Article VI, Section 2 were modified for clarification in terms of member voting rights, the filling of vacancies, and the election and term of office. Becky asked for questions, and indicated that no second was required since the changes came from the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

Personnel Policy: The only change offered by the Executive Committee was the modification of Article V, Section D, Number 1 to include *Need doctor's note if gone for 5 consecutive days*

After further discussion, other changes were offered by Board members. These included modifying Article II, Section E; Article V, Section B; and Article V, Section D, Number 4 in a similar manner. Each would be changed to reflect that in addition to the Administrator's approval or required written notification, other appropriate persons (i.e. Board President) could also fulfill this responsibility when necessary. The Board then decided to send these changes back to the Executive Committee for clarification and implementation. No second required. Motion passed.

Mailing Ballots: SELS process and procedures for mailing ballots and registering returned ballots was discussed. The Executive Committee had previously discussed if a return signature should be required for those voting. Concerns were raised about privacy issues, and there was consensus among Board members that a separate signature card would only complicate the process. Hope offered a friendly amendment that would eliminate a signature requirement and would also eliminate "be chosen to" from the last sentence of the second paragraph of the Procedure for Mail Balloting document submitted by the Executive Committee. Second was by Robin Brooks. Motion passed. The Board broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

V. Administrator's Report: Brenda noted that much of her current report (October 14 to December 10) is listed in SELS Service Role 1 – Training and Consulting. Activities included:

- MPLA Conference in Denver
- Youth Services Retreat
- Instructor for Basic Skills Course
- Met with Director and Board from the Struckman-Baatz Memorial Library in Western; also attended Village Council meeting in the interest of the library's budget

Worked on NLA's 2005 Conference plans

Brenda also worked with NLC and Kathy Tooker, ELS, to read Children's Services grants. SELS will once again provide the postcards for Legislative Day.

VI. NLC Report:

Richard reported on various Commission activities and related issues.

These included the NE Digital Government Summit and Governor Johann's pending approval as the head of the United States Department of Agriculture. Discussion from the Board then followed regarding Lt. Governor Heineman's succession to the Governorship upon Johann's departure to Washington. Brenda suggested that SELS could send a letter to the Lt. Governor expressing appreciation for his upcoming additional responsibilities as Governor.

VII. Committee Meetings: The Board met in committees at 2:30 p.m. At 3:10, the Board reconvened and each committee made a brief report. Jan Thomsen reported for the CE that the Summer Reading workshop is scheduled for March 11, and it will be held either at the Seward Memorial Library or the Seward Civic Center. Jan also mentioned plans are underway for the Training Extravaganza. The Committee is also considering a grant writing workshop. Jenni Puchalla reported for the CP Committee, indicating that the Committee would have an informational promotion packet for discussion at the next SELS meeting

VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

February/ March 2005

“In matters of style, swim with the current. In matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

—Thomas Jefferson

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Editors: Brenda Ealey and Jenni Puchalla

Mailing Address: see below

Ph: 402-467-6188/800-288-6063

Fax: 402-467-6196

E-mail: bsealey@alltel.net, or jennip@alltel.net

Website: [http://](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/sesys/index.html)

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