

**Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries**  
Friday, November 17, 2017 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**MINUTES**

State Advisory Council members present: Cecelia Lawrence(Chair), John Dale, Susan Franklin, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Beth Kabes, Angela Kroeger, Dana Morgan, Lisa Olivigni, Julie Pinnell, Charlene Rasmussen, Angie Richeson, Sky Seery, and Matthew Williams. Advisory Council members absent: Scott Childers, Lori Long, Laura Marlane, and Noelle Thompson. Also present: Michael La Croix. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Mary Jo Ryan, Sam Shaw, Sally Snyder, and Linda Babcock.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Cecelia Lawrence welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved. There were no additional agenda items added.

Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2017 Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Reports / Discussion**

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner thanked Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska School Library Association leaders and colleagues for a very successful NLA/NSLA Conference this year.

The Library Innovation Studio Project was launched this fall. The first installation cycle includes Plattsmouth, Ainsworth, Ashland, Loup City, and Crete public libraries.

Nebraska Library Association – Angela Kroeger reported that this has been a busy year with three executive directors. After Nicole Zink resigned, Michael Straatmann served as interim Executive Director until Joe Pittman began in October. Joe is a professional administrator for small non-profit organizations. A survey has been sent out to address issues for changes and solutions in the organization.

Angela thanked everyone for her time as a member of the Advisory Council.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Angie Richeson, NSLA President, reported the NLA/NSLA Conference 2017 was very successful. Angie said that a survey has been sent to all Nebraska school librarians seeking information, knowledge and advice for the needs of school librarians. Angie is preparing for presentations for the NETA Conference to be held at the Century Link in Omaha on November 19/20, 2018. NSLA has formed an exploratory committee to consider becoming a section of NLA.

Center for the Book –Sherry Houston reported on Nebraska Center for the Book activities. Sherry said that this year's One Book One Nebraska selection, *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt, prompted arrangement for a board meeting at the John G. Neihardt Center in Bancroft. Following the meeting, NCB board members joined in a *Black Elk Speaks* reading. The One Book One Nebraska

selection for next year is *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry*, which consists of 130 poems by 82 contemporary poets. NLA and NSLA have asked the NCB to join with Iowa representatives to combine their choice for a One Book selection in recognition of the joint Nebraska-Iowa library conference in 2019. The Celebration of Nebraska Books 2017 was held on October 21, 2017 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln to honor the authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection. Three \$300 grants were awarded in Nebraska for summer Letters About Literature writing workshops. Sherry encouraged public and school libraries to participate in the Letters About Literature contest. Sherry said that she attended the National Book Festival in Washington DC over Labor Day weekend and helped with Nebraska's exhibit in the Pavillion of the States.

State and Federal Legislative and Budget Outlook – Rod Wagner reported that state tax revenues have continued to fall below projections. The State Economic Forecasting Advisory Board lowered its projections. The projections are used by the governor and the legislature to set state budget appropriations. State agencies have been instructed to continue to restrain spending. When the state legislature convenes in January state budget cuts are anticipated for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year. It is likely that across-the-board budget reductions will be proposed for most state agencies and with some exceptions.

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved appropriations legislation to fund LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) at the same level this fiscal year as last year. The Senate is expected to approve appropriations by the end of December. Congress has continued to approve funding for LSTA but the authorization has actually expired. Senator Jack Reed is taking the lead in introducing legislation that will reauthorize the LSTA.

Wagner mentioned that 2018 is the final year of Twyla Hansen's term as Nebraska State Poet. The 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection, *Nebraska Presence*, provides an opportunity to highlight poetry in Nebraska.

**World Café Conversation – Libraries Transform Trends Relevant to Nebraska and Nebraska Libraries** – Mary Jo Ryan asked council members to participate in groups to build on conversations from the last meeting. Useful information and ideas were gathered at the last meeting concerning what council members thought were important in their libraries over the next five years. Ryan asked that the council review the focal areas, which include lifelong learning, human services, information access, institutional capacity, economic employment development, and civic engagement. Today the groups narrowed these areas down to the areas which ALA has identified as emerging trends. She asked members to discuss the role of Nebraska libraries in addressing community needs in relation to these trends. Members were divided for small group conversations at tables hosted by Commission staff.

## **Noon Lunch**

### **Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges**

**Matthew Williams** – Kearney Public Library plans to install two metal banners on the library's light poles. The banners will have the library's logo on them. The library is also planning a sculpture to be placed outside.

William Kent Krueger, author of *Ordinary Grace*, appeared at the World Theater in Kearney on October 3. There are plans for author Greg Johnson to appear at the World Theater next August.

**Angie Richeson** – Angie is teaching library science courses at University of Nebraska Kearney. Her previous employment was school librarian at Gothenburg Public Schools. Angie was also a Gothenburg Public Library board member.

**Angela Kroeger** – UNO's Criss Library is operating well despite the dire budget situation the University of Nebraska system is facing. The library's outlook is optimistic concerning work with students, patrons, and collaborations with others in the University of Nebraska system. UNO is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from the University of Omaha becoming the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**John Dale** – John said that he, his wife (Jean) and friends visited the Willa Cather Foundation at Red Cloud. He said the visit gave him an appreciation of Willa Cather's role in social history. John has been reporting the progress of the renovation of the U. S. Conn Library at Wayne State College. His wife (Jean) was on the administrative staff at Wayne State for four years. Jean was instrumental in finding funding to renovate the library. John and Jean attended the U.S. Conn Library's ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16. The four-year project transitioning the library to a learning center is impressive.

**Beth Kabes** – A success is that Nebraska is one of seven states collaborating to identify strategies, processes and online resources for professional development instructional materials. This week the Educational Service Units Coordinating Council approved a project to purchase a Commons Hub for K-12 schools to access. The Hub allows them to link state standards and provide opportunities for collaboration in the community. The challenge is promoting and marketing these resources.

**Julie Pinnell** – Julie began her position at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Cochrane-Woods Library, in September. Her first project was development of a strategic plan for the library. She thanked Richard Miller for directing her to strategic planning resources available at the Library Commission. She finds the strategic plan useful as a communication device with staff and for interaction with the community.

**Susan Franklin** – Budget cuts at Hastings College have resulted in the elimination of many databases, resources, and journals. Susan's main challenge is promoting information literacy. Susan feels all college students need more information about resources in the library.

Hastings College recently started its online fundraising website. A campaign will begin on December 1 to raise \$5,000 to \$10,000 to redo an informal seating area in the library. Some other campaigns are sustaining a multi-cultural teaching trip and funding for athletic equipment.

**Michael La Croix** (Chair, Nebraska Library Commission) – Michael said that he is pleased to see the cooperation and collaboration among partners and libraries involved in the Library Innovation Studios grant project.

Michael was director of the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library at Creighton University for twenty years, and he is excited about the college's plan to build a new learning commons and library.

**Sherry Houston** – Sherry said that 80,000 people in Sarpy County do not have access to library services without paying for a non-resident library card for use of the city libraries within the county. Library directors from Gretna, Bellevue, Papillion, Springfield and La Vista have formed a group to find strategies to fund and extend services to county residents outside of these cities.

Sherry also reported that partnerships are being formed to have Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*, to come to speak in Nebraska.

**Joann Jackson** – Joann attended the Burr/Fedde Residence Hall Reunion at UNL east campus. Joann said that the UNL East Campus Recreation and Wellness Center has been renovated with \$100 million for upgrades.

**Lisa Olivigni** – Lincoln City Libraries continues planning for a new location to replace the downtown Bennett Martin Library. The plan would include funding for a new central library and refurbishing branch libraries. The challenge is for a bond issue to be included in next year's election.

**Gail Irwin**- Equipment for the Library Innovation Studio makerspace was installed at Ainsworth Public Library. A makerspace intern has been hired. Gail said that Curtis Monk – the “Lego Guy” – is coming to the Ainsworth library in June.

**Charlene Rasmussen**—The City of Wayne provided funds for library director Lauren Lofgren and the new director, Heather Headley, to work together for a month before Lauren retires. Heather has plans to develop some more computer education and marketing for the library. The new youth services librarian, Kimberley Warner, is developing teen programming and outreach to local daycare facilities.

Some challenges at the Wayne Public Library are to increase the usage of the library's databases, find opportunities to work with the community, and to encourage volunteering at the library.

**Dana Morgan** – Flexible seating at the Leyton Elementary-Middle School for K-8 has increased library attendance. Sidney is fifteen miles from the school. Dana hopes to utilize the makerspace resources at Sidney Public Library.

A challenge is administration support in recognition of the importance of the library.

**Sky Seery** – A success is plans to proceed with a learning commons at Mid-Plains Community College. Sky's challenge is developing programming for students, faculty and the community with the current library staff.

**Cecelia Lawrence** – North Platte Public Library was closed last summer for an inventory that had not been done for twenty-two years. The library will be closed again in May for installation of a new charging station for patrons. The library will also be making arrangements to accommodate a makerspace funded by the North Platte Library Foundation and others.

Carol Eshleman is retiring after fifteen years of service. A replacement for Carol's position will be hired.

## **New Business**

### Recommendations and Resolutions

There were no recommendations or resolutions brought before the Council.

### Special Recognition

Rod Wagner thanked Sherry Houston and Angela Kroeger for their participation on the State Advisory Council of Libraries. He also thanked Cecelia Lawrence for her term as State Advisory Council Chair.

Next Meeting:

The next Council meeting will be on the afternoon of Advocacy Day (TBD). Upcoming meetings are set for July 20, 2018 (online) November 16, 2018 (Lincoln).

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.