

July/August 2013

Eastern Express

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Serving Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington Counties

From the Director

by Gail Formanack

As a member of the Eastern Library System board, I was saddened last fall to learn of Kathy Tooker's retirement. Because I had recently retired, I volunteered to serve as part-time interim director during the search process. I really enjoy assisting librarians and libraries, so I decided to put off some of my retirement plans, resigned from the board, and applied for the position. The board voted to hire me as the new director, and I am happy to have the opportunity to work with all of the member libraries in the seven counties that Eastern Library System serves.



The ELS annual meeting was held on June 7th, and we were fortunate to have many member libraries represented. The morning session was devoted to the strategic planning process as all accredited public libraries must now have a strategic plan. Presenter Mary Lee Fitzsimmons then facilitated an environmental scan of the Eastern Library System in which participants identified strengths, challenges, trends, and opportunities.

Some of the feedback included positive remarks about continuing education, networking opportunities, support for accreditation, grants for book kits, and successful fundraising. Some challenges were also identified including lack of staff capacity

in IT support, website problems, low attendance at continuing education events, and geographic challenges. All of this input will be reviewed with the ELS board this fall and used to create some strategic planning goals for the system.

In the meantime, I will be reaching out to library colleagues in the metro area to identify additional opportunities for collaboration. I will also be "hitting the road" to visit many of the libraries in our region. I will especially be prioritizing visits and support for the thirteen public libraries that are up for renewal of their accreditation this fall under the new process.

I hope to see you soon, and I certainly welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

Michael LaCroix Appointed to Nebraska Library Commission

Congratulations to Michael LaCroix, Director of Creighton University's Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, who has been appointed to the Nebraska Library Commission for the Eastern Region.

Commissioners, who serve three-year terms, are responsible to guide the Commission staff in serving Nebraska libraries. They oversee the "the statewide promotion, development and coordination of library programs and services" according to the Commission website. They are ultimately advocates for all of our patrons.

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ELS Board of Directors

(2013-2014)

Rose Barcal

Francine Canfield

Nora Hillyer

Marcia Jussel

Lowen Kruse

Tammy Lorenz

David Privett

Anneka Ramirez

Gayle Roberts

Rosa Schmidt

Sarah Swain



Upcoming Events

July 15th to 26th - Basic Skills Course: Library Technology. Register by July 12 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

August 1st - DIRECT Meeting (Public Library Directors) - Scribner Public Library

August 2nd to 3rd - Heartland School Library Conference - 8:00 am - UNO—See page 10 of this newsletter for information

August 7th - Book Fair Fundraiser and Author event - Barnes & Noble at Oakview Mall, Omaha

August 19th to 30th - Basic Skills Course: Library Finance. Register by July 17 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

August 16th - ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—Blair Public Library

August 23rd - CLICK Meeting (Children's librarians)—Blair Public Library

September 9th to 20th - Basic Skills Course: Customer Service. Register by Aug 30 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

September 12th to 13th - Youth Services Retreat

September 23th to Oct 4th - Basic Skills Course: Readers Advisory. Register by Sept 13 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

September 25th to 27th - MPLA Annual Conference--Sioux Falls, SD

September 25th to 28th - Association of Rural & Small Libraries Conference--Omaha

October 4th - ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—Bellevue University Library

October 9th to 11th - NLA/NSLA Annual Conference—Kearney.

October 17th to 19th - MAALL Annual Meeting—Omaha.

ELS Board Meeting Dates and Locations for 2013-14

August 16, 2013	Blair Public Library
October 4, 2013	Bellevue University
December 13, 2013	Eastern Library System Office
February 14, 2014	Gretna Public Library
April 11, 2014	Oakland Public Library

Eastern Library System Fundraising

Funding levels for the regional library systems have been stagnant over the last several years leaving a need to raise funds for operating expenses. The fundraising efforts have included silent auctions, book fairs at Barnes & Noble, and the sale of Younker's Community Day booklets and book lovers' calendars. In addition, donations have been received from various partners.

A total of \$3,451.78 was raised during the 2012-13 fiscal year. Many thanks go to our members for contributing to these efforts.

August 7 Author Event and ELS Book Fair

Authors **Alex Kava** and **Erica Spindler** will be at Barnes & Noble at Oakview Mall for a book talk and signing on August 7 at 7 pm.

The ELS Annual Summer Book Fair will coincide with this event. All that day, Barnes & Noble will give the ELS a percentage of sales if you mention the "Eastern Library System" at checkout. Take this chance to support the ELS, pick up some books for yourself, and mingle with librarians and authors.

Even if you can't attend in person, you can participate in the book fair online. Just use code 11143112 when purchasing on barnesandnoble.com August 7th to 12th and a portion of your payment will go to the Eastern Library System.

Kava and Spindler will also be at a lunch event at the Omaha Public Library's Bensen Branch earlier that day. See the event calendar at <http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/> for information and to register for lunch.



Snyder Public Library

Betty Niewohner became librarian of the Snyder Public Library in 2000 and is retiring after this summer's reading program. She and husband Bernie farm in the Snyder area. They have three daughters. Two of their daughters and families live in the Kansas City area, and one is in Lincoln. She looks forward to having more time to enjoy gardening, spoiling the grandkids, and, of course, READING. This winter they will join the snowbird group in Phoenix.

Betty recalls when she started at the library there was only one computer for the kids and one for public. After remodeling, four computers now are available in more user-friendly surroundings. Betty is proud of the programs for children that have a remarkable attendance and the Halloween Party involving various organizations in the community. She is very appreciative of the fantastic help from the library board. At this time no replacement has been announced.

She said, "Over the years, many friendships were created whether face to face or correspondence, phone calls or emails. I am so delighted that I had the opportunity to serve as librarian and will always cherish the memories. HAPPY READING!"



Omaha Pawnee Elementary School Library

Students, and the community as well, enjoyed making crafts, getting free books, and meeting others! Kathie Shepoka, Pawnee Elementary librarian, indicated her thanks to the Sherwood Foundation for the library being open in June 2013.

Scribner Public Library

Scribner Public Library had 60 people in attendance who had a lot of fun at their summer reading kick-off with Kevin Horner.



Scribner's Friends of the Library annual book sale will be held, during Scribner's Haze Days, on July 20th from 8am-12pm in the library.

Bellevue University Freeman-Lozier Library

Robin Bernstein and the Bellevue University Library staff received special recognition at an all-campus meeting and were featured in a tribute video honoring their consistent excellence. It was the first time this award has been given to anyone on campus.

Lyons Public Library

Sixty-Six T-Shirts a Big Hit!

By Mary Jane Bell Assistant Librarian

Friends of the Library gave a free t-shirt to each child that came to the Lyons Library for the Summer Reading Program. There were 44 that pre-registered and received their shirt the first Tuesday of SRP. Twenty-two more t-shirts were ordered and all were delivered to the children in the next week.

The theme this year was "Dig Into Reading," and there were lots of stories, crafts and snacks. Children also had time to check out books.

If you see a child in a burnt orange t-shirt with "Dig Into Reading" and some critters on the front, ask them about the fun at the library.

System News

Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

The Summer Reading Program at Sump Memorial Library is in full swing with daily story times, big presenters every Wednesday at 1:00 pm, and exciting programs for a variety of ages. Here's a peek at what we've been up to:



Four of our almost 400 attendees at Wildlife Encounters

ELS Members Receive Higher Ed Scholarships

The scholarships are administered by the Nebraska Library Commission and funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

April 2013 Scholarship Recipients

- Nancy Black, Uehling
- Justine Goeden, West Point
- Maureen McCombs, Gretna
- Julianne Moulton, Omaha
- Mary Jo Pittman, Omaha
- Jordan Stough, Bellevue
- Samantha Stock, Omaha

Samantha Stock answered a few questions for the Eastern Express:

What degree are you working toward?

Bachelor of Science in Education, Library Science concentration

In what type of library would you most like to work?

A school or local library.

How has the NLC/IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program helped you?

So far it has granted me a stipend to purchase a laptop computer for college and to attend a conference in Omaha this fall!

Robin Clark Chosen for ALA Leadership Institute

Robin Clark, library director at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion and incoming president of the Nebraska Library Association, is one of only 40 librarians selected from a highly competitive national pool to participate in *Leading to the Future*, a new four-day immersive leadership development program for future library leaders offered in August by the American Library Association.

Clark said, "I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with ALA and ACRL leadership experts and other librarians across the nation to enhance my leadership skills, skills that I will bring back to my community and use to improve library services and the quality of life in Papillion."

Participants are expected to return to their library equipped with new skills for leading, coaching, collaborating, and engaging within their organizations and in the communities they serve, and prepared to identify, develop, and implement solutions which benefit everyone.



Storm Chasers Story Time!



New Public Library Accreditation Guidelines in Effect for 2013

The [Nebraska Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation](#), which the Nebraska Library Commission will begin using in July 2013, were developed by a group of eleven librarians working for more than two years to revamp the guidelines. The group was co-chaired by Stan Schulz from York and Joan Birnie from Broken Bow. The accreditation process has been streamlined to make it as quick and easy as possible. Fifty libraries across Nebraska are due to be reaccredited this year. An additional 40 public libraries that are currently unaccredited, but which submitted their annual statistics last year, are positioned to seek accreditation this year. The Nebraska Library Commission will be working on this process with these 90 libraries first.

More information about the revised accreditation process is available at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/>

All public library directors and boards are invited to use the information from this website to plan for future community activities leading to accreditation. This information details:

- Timeframe
- Structure of the guidelines
- Changes in the guidelines
- 12 minimum qualifications
- Requirements, including strategic plan
- [List of all Nebraska Public Libraries](#) with their accreditation standing and year of expiration

Please note that these guidelines are interactive only for the libraries applying for accreditation this year.

However, if you'd like to get started preparing for accreditation in the future, you can begin by initiating the strategic planning process. An up-to-date strategic plan for your library is required. The accreditation process is based on the goals you set for your library, in response to your community's needs.

If you do not already have a strategic plan or your plan is due to be updated, go to the following link on the Commission's website for a simple strategic planning kit which includes how-to videos, guides, and worksheets: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/>

For more information contact Richard Miller, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, or 800-307-2665.

Conference Updates

The **Heartland School Library Conference** will be held August 2-3 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The theme will be Inquiry & the Common Core. More details are available on page 10 and at www.heartland2013.com

The **Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Annual Conference** will be September 25-28, 2013 at the Doubletree in Downtown Omaha. Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, will serve as opening keynote speaker Thursday morning. Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of ALA's United for Libraries, will be the closing keynote on Saturday.

Mary Beth Stenger, director of the Southern Area Public Library and winner of the 2013 Best Small Library in America award from Library Journal, will tell her story. For conference details, see: <http://arsl.info/category/conference2/>

The **Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Annual Conference** will be October 9 through 11 in Kearney. Registration is now open. See the conference website: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/conf2013/>

The **Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL)** will hold their annual meeting October 17-19, 2013 at the Embassy Suites in the Old Market.

Statewide Motion Picture License Purchased by NLC

All Nebraska public libraries are included in a license that allows the viewing of movies at library programs and events. The Nebraska Library Commission arranged the license with Movie Licensing USA, so each individual library would not have to negotiate and pay for its own.

Many people are not aware that showing movies to groups without a license may be a copyright violation. Public libraries can rest assured that they are covered by the NLC. If you have any questions, you can contact Sally Snyder at sally.snyder@nebraska.gov



Regional Systems to host Customer Service Workshop at NLA/NSLA Conference

Plan to arrive early for the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Annual Fall Conference in Kearney. The Regional Systems (including Eastern Library System) will be hosting a Pre-Conference on Wednesday afternoon, October 9th.

The workshop is titled **Breaking Down Barriers to Excellent Customer Service** and is presented by Theresa Dickson. More details will follow in the next Eastern Express.

Educational Conference Scholarships Awarded

Ten ELS members will receive stipends to support their attendance at conferences through the ELS Professional Development scholarship program.

Nancy Black and Gayle Roberts will be attending the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in Omaha this Fall. Additional scholarships are available from the NLC (applications open until Friday, July 12).

Robin Clark will receive support toward her attendance at the ALA Leadership Institute

Alissa Fial, Jean Hurst, Wendy Lukert, Dawn Moynihan, and Amy Wenzl will be sponsored by ELS to attend the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute in August.

Nannette Bedrosky, Nancy Black, and Julie Jorgensen will receive funding towards attendance at the NLA/NSLA Fall Conference in Kearney.

Congratulations to all recipients! We look forward to hearing about your experiences.

Youth Services Retreat

The 19th annual Youth Services Retreat is scheduled for September 12th and 13th, 2013. Children's and Young Adult library staff will gather again at Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center in Ashland for 2 days of intense learning and sharing. Costs remain the same as last year at \$125 for both days (including meals and overnight accommodations), \$50 for Thursday only, and \$45 for Friday only.

Registration information will be distributed through the ELS Listserv, or you can contact the office at 402-330-7884 with questions.

Opportunity Open to Join Overdrive Consortium

If your public library has been thinking about joining the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Group in order to provide patrons with access to a shared collection of digital eBooks and audiobooks, now would be a great time!

Why now? Because the group's fiscal/participation year runs from October 1 through September 30. Joining at the beginning of the term gets you a full year of access for your participation fee. Participation fees are not prorated for libraries joining mid-term.

Currently 140 libraries participate in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Group, and several others have submitted paperwork to join in October. As of today the shared collection contains 6,851 eBook titles (7,608 copies) and 4,462 audiobook titles (4,861 copies), with more titles added weekly.

Even if you're not a member of the group, you can search or browse the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries catalog online to see what's currently included: <http://nebraska.lib.overdrive.com/>

To learn more about the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries group, including how much it costs and how to sign up, see: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive/index.aspx>

Participation forms and purchase agreements need to be turned in to NLC by **August 15** for access beginning in October 2013.

Please feel free to contact Susan Knisely, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov or Devra Dragos, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov with any questions you might have about OverDrive in general, or the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries group in particular.

Library Services Grants

Congratulations to the libraries that have been awarded ELS library services grants for 2013.

The Adult Services Grants went to:

- Mead Public Library - **E-Readers at your Library**
- John Stahl Memorial Library, West Point - **Test Drive an E-Reader**
- Sump Memorial Library, Papillion - **Making Memories Last**

The Children's Services Grants went to:

- St Patrick's Elementary School - **Mini-iPads in the Media Center**
- Bennington Public Library - **Views & Bookpicks for Literacy**
- Mead Public Library - **Interactive Story Time**
- John Stahl Memorial Library, West Point - **Wow Them With Music**

Watch future issues of Eastern Express for reports on these programs that support digital literacy.

New Book Club Sets

New titles have arrived for you to borrow from ELS for your teen and YA book clubs. We have 20 copies of each. We now have the One Book One Nebraska books for Kids and for Teens:

Aliens on Vacation

by Clete Barrett Smith

Leviathan

by Scott Westerfeld

The Nebraska Library Commission website has links to author information, discussion questions, and other related activities.

Go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK/>

Three additional titles have also arrived, completing our holdings of the Hunger Games Trilogy and introducing two authors new to our collection. You can start submitting reservations now for the Fall.

Mockingjay

by Suzanne Collins

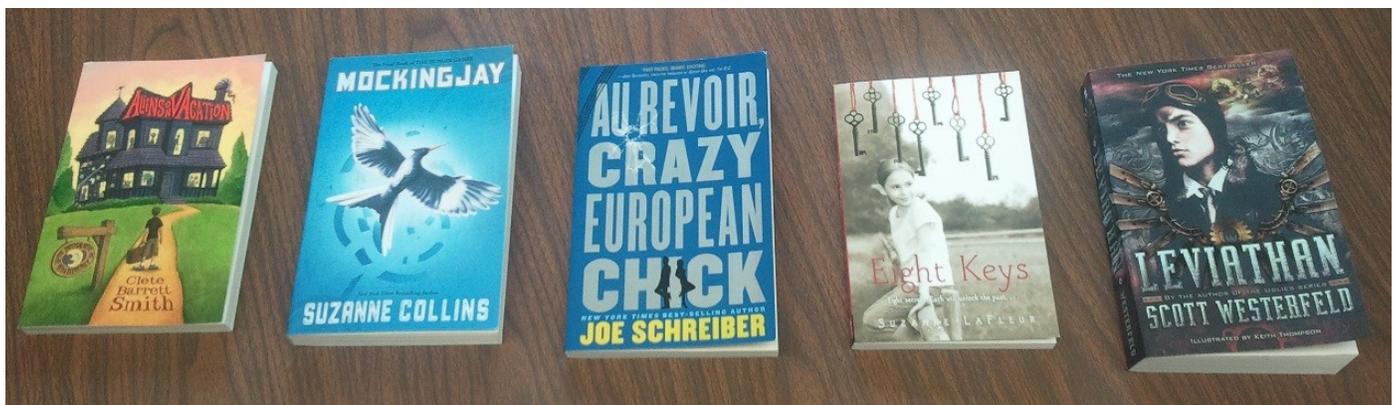
Eight Keys

by Suzanne LaFleur

Au Revoir Crazy European Chick

by Joe Schreiber

We would love to print reviews by ELS librarians of any of our book club titles. Contact the ELS office if you are interested in writing one.



**Eastern Library System
Annual Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2013
Ralston Arena**

There were 52 people in attendance.

Morning Program – Strategic Planning presented by Mary Lee Fitzsimmons

Meeting

Joyce Neujahr, ELS Board Vice President, called the annual meeting to order at 12:00 and announced the hiring of Gail Formanack as the Executive Director.

Tammy Lorenz moved to approve the June 8, 2012 annual meeting minutes. Mary Jo Mack seconded and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Francine Canfield, ELS Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report for 2011-2012. The report will be filed.

The Board Members and alternates were recognized, and newly elected Board Members were announced (Rose Barcal, Nora Hillyer, Anneka Ramirez, Sarah Swain).

Gail Formanack gave the 2012-2013 year in review. Highlights for the year included the following:

- Sponsored 63 CEUs of training for librarians, including the annual Youth Services Retreat, Summer Reading Program Workshop and School Librarians Day
- Started updating the format of the system newsletter and website
- Added 7 new titles to our book club kit collection and loaned book club kits to 79 reading groups
- Managed all legal duties and record keeping to operate as a non-profit organization

Announcements

- Eastern Library System's annual Services Survey is available online and in print.
- The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute will be held Aug 5 – 9. ELS is offering scholarship support for this training opportunity.

The Nebraska Library Commission has issued new public library accreditation guidelines. Gail Formanack and Laura Johnson (NLC) explained the highlights and offered help to the libraries that will be doing this process this year.

John Seyfarth moved to adjourn the ELS Annual meeting. Gayle Roberts seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Afternoon Program - Environmental Study for the Eastern Library System's Strategic Plan

Minutes submitted by Brian Maass, Assistant, Eastern Library System.

**Eastern Library System
Board Minutes
June 7, 2013
Ralston Arena**

Present: Joyce Neujahr, Scott Berryman, Francine Canfield, Marcia Jussel, Tammy Lorenz, Gayle Roberts, John Seyfarth. Alternates: Robin Bernstein, Marie Reidelbach, Lupe Mier, Mary Jo Mack. Ex-Officio: Brian Maass. Absent: Jan Therien, Rosa Schmidt, Lowen Kruse, David Privett. Guests: Laura Johnson, NLC

Joyce Neujahr called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and appointed Brian Maass Secretary pro tem.

Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Executive session ended at 9:10 a.m.

John moved and Robin seconded the approval of the April 2013 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report for April/May was reviewed. It was placed on file for audit.

There was no correspondence.

Director's Report was deferred to the Annual Meeting.

There was no Old Business

New Business:

Marcia moved (Mary Jo seconded) to accept Gail Formanack's resignation from the board. Motion passed.

The Search Committee recommended Gail Formanack for the position of Executive Director. John moved (Francine seconded) to hire Gail. Motion passed.

Francine moved (Tammy seconded) to accept the slate of John Seyfarth, Scott Berryman, Joyce Neujahr and Mary Jo Mack as the Board Alternates for 2013-1014. Motion passed.

At the next quarterly meeting, the NLC and the Regional Library Systems will discuss options for the funding and makeup of the systems. Francine was appointed to accompany the Executive Director to represent the Eastern Library System at this meeting, which will be Aug 21 in Lexington.

Laura Johnson provided a written report from the NLC of news and upcoming events.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising: Marcia is setting up an author event in conjunction with a Summer book fair benefitting ELS. Alex Kava and Erica Spindler will sign books at Barnes & Noble on Wednesday evening, Aug 7. This event will be cross-promoted with the Omaha Public Library's event earlier that day.

Finance: The committee has decided to use some of the savings from the Director salary line to fund grants and continuing education scholarships.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: Aug 16, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at Blair Public Library

Respectfully submitted, Brian Maass, ELS Assistant



Sign up Now!

Heartland School Library Conference **Inquiry & the Common Core**

August 2-3, 2013

University of Nebraska Omaha

Featured Keynote Speakers:

Barbara Stripling, ALA President

- Expert on Inquiry Process
- Focused on Common Core, inquiry, and school libraries

Marc Aronson of Rutgers University

- Author and authority on Common Core
- Presenter, Common Core workshops to New York librarians

An invaluable experience at an incredible price!

\$50 for NSLA members

\$80 for non-NSLA members

Funding assistance provided by the Nebraska Library Commission.

To register or for more information, go to:
www.heartland2013.com