



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



Working With Your Legislator: Ten Successful Strategies

Libraries often get lost in the shuffle of the poor economy, national and local security concerns, and workload increases for legislators. Here are some successful strategies to keep your legislator on top of library concerns:

1. Educate politicians

Assume your legislators do not know what's happening in libraries. Build them into your information loop. Send them routine press information, such as announcements of events at their local libraries and conference updates.

2. Other priorities rule

Like librarians, representatives are pressed for time. In a given day, libraries are not at the top of the list. Even library supporters concede that libraries come after education and healthcare. Politicians look at the biggest problem first.

3. Be proactive every day

NLA Library Legislative Day isn't one single day in February. It's every day of the week. In order to be successful, librarians need to build relationships with their legislators and relationships take time.

4. Master the statehouse

It's critical to be realistic about what to expect from your representatives. It also helps to talk frankly with legislators. Style matters. Librarians should be well informed and realistic.

5. Learn from the pros

Librarians can learn from other groups and lobbyists, including how to present the detail your legislator needs. Clear communication about the problem, including its potential economic impact and the people working on it, is critical, right down to the bill numbers and committee agendas involved.

6. Use technology

Getting a network tuned in to the same project has never been easier. Email and web technology simplify the effort. They reduce cost and allow for swift action.

7. Hobnob at home

Perhaps more important than going to your representatives is getting them to come to your library.

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Picturing America

Applications are now being accepted for Picturing America (SM), a project of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association. Applications may be submitted online at <http://picturingamerica.ala.org> through April 15, 2008.

If you have already applied for Picturing America, thank you!

In order to enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture, Picturing America brings some of the nation's greatest works of art into school classrooms and public libraries. Successful applicants will receive a set of forty high-quality reproductions of American masterpieces, a teachers resource book and additional educational resources available at <http://PicturingAmerica.neh.gov>.

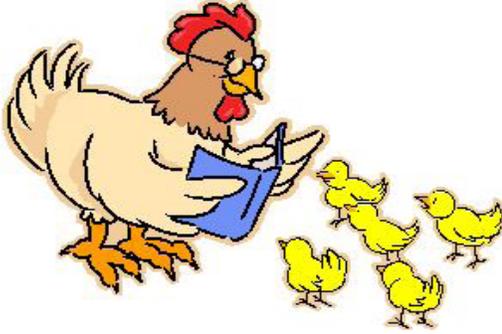
Public, private, parochial, and charter schools and home school consortia (K-12), as well as public library systems and school districts, are invited to apply. Awards will be announced in May 2008 and distributed in September 2008 for display during the 2008-2009 school year and beyond.

For more information about Picturing America, including a list of the artwork featured, grant guidelines, and the online application, visit <http://picturingamerica.ala.org>.

<p>CAPSTONE HEINEMANN LIBRARY COMPASS POINT</p>	<p>ROURKE PUBLISHING Co. LERNER PUBLISHING Co. FACTS ON FILE</p>
<p>COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.</p>	
<p>Duane Munson</p>	
<p>2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772</p>	
<p>ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS</p>	<p>MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA</p>



Books for Babies Matching Grants Available



In partnership with Nordstrom FOLUSA will be granting 20 grants for \$500 each to match \$1,000 raised by selected Friends groups, women's groups, libraries, and other non-profit organizations for purchasing Books for Babies kits from FOLUSA. Grant recipients do not need to be members of FOLUSA. Grant recipients do not need to be members of FOLUSA. Click here for the application in PDF format.

Here's how it works. Applicants agree to order a minimum of \$1,500 worth of Books for Babies kits, of which FOLUSA will pay \$500. Therefore, the minimum commitment from applicants is \$1,000. Grants will be awarded in two cycles:

* Cycle 1: Applications are due April 1, 2008. Recipients will be notified by April 15, and kits must be ordered by June 1, 2008.

* Cycle 2: Applications are due October 1, 2008. Recipients will be notified by October 15, and kits must be ordered by December 1, 2008.

Grants will be awarded to organizations that currently have a Books for Babies program in place as well as organizations starting a new Books for Babies program. Grant applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

- * Effective kit distribution plan.
- * Effective use of the kits to connect new parents with their local library.
- * Involvement of the local library.
- * Effective publicity plan for their Books for Babies program.

Questions concerning Books for Babies grants should be directed to (800) 936-5872 or books-forbabies@folusa.org.

Working With Your Legislator continued...

These politicians are busy, yes, but they are not out of reach. Invite legislators to see your library with a photo opportunity, and use the time to get them up to speed on the issues at hand. And don't forget to follow through with press coverage.

8. Hone your message

Shape your message, and deliver it with style. Get your legislator's attention with a clear and real problem and tell him/her how it affects their library.

9. Legislative Day counts

In many states, Legislative Day provides the primary focus on library advocacy. Make it count. The Nebraska Library Association presents a packet on library issues for each member that is then hand-delivered by constituents.

10. Legislators forget

Take the initiative when it comes to follow-through with a legislator. Librarians need to realize that other pressures will quickly distract representatives—but that they also want to hear from librarians.



ALA Award Winners 2008

John Newbery Medal

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz

Newbery Honor Books

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson

Randolph Caldecott Medal

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

Caldecott Honor Books

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Ellen Levine

First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity by Mo Willems

Michael L. Printz Award

The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean

Printz Honor Books

Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet by Elizabeth Knox

One Whole and Perfect Day by Judith Clarke

Repossessed by A. M. Jenkins

Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath by Stephanie Hemphill

Mildred L. Batchelder Award

VIZ Media, publisher of Brave Story, by Miyuki Miyabe, translated from the Japanese by Alexander O. Smith

Pura Belpré Author Award

The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Sean Qualls

Belpré Author Honor Books

Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life! by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale, retold by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Michael Austin

Los Gatos Black on Halloween, written by Marisa Montes, illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Pura Belpré Illustrator Award

Los Gatos Black on Halloween, illustrated by Yuyi Morales, written by Marisa Montes

Belpré Illustrator Honor Books

My Name Is Gabito: The Life of Gabriel García Márquez/Me llamo Gabito: la vida de Gabriel García Márquez, illustrated by Raúl Colón, written by Monica Brown

My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo, written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez



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"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."
~~Albert Pike, American lawyer, journalist and soldier.



ALA Award Winners continued...

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award
There Is a Bird on Your Head! by Mo Willems

Geisel Honor Books
First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Hello, Bumblebee Bat, written by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J.Wynne
Jazz Baby, written by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
Vulture View, written by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Odyssey Award
Jazz, Live Oak Media

Odyssey Honor Audiobooks
Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy, Listen & Live Audio
Dooby Dooby Moo, Weston Woods/Scholastic
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Listening Library
Skulduggery Pleasant, HarperCollins Audio
Treasure Island, Listening Library

Sibert Medal
The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtin by Peter Sís

Sibert Honor Books
Lightship by Brian Floca
Nic Bishop Spiders by Nic Bishop

Coretta Scott King Author Book Award
Elija of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Coretta Scott King Author Book Award Honor Books
November Blues by Sharon M Draper
Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali by Charles R. Smith Jr.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Book Award
Let It Shine by Ashley Bryan

Coretta Scott King Book Award
The Secret Olivia Told Me by N. Joy
Jazz on a Saturday Night by Leo & Diane Dillon



Check Your Calendar

March 2-8 - **Teen Tech Week:** Get Connected At Your Library.

March 3 - "**Catch the Reading Bug**", Summer Reading Program Workshop, Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk.

March 7 - "**Library Spaces, Future Needs**", College of DuPage, at 11 am.

March 12 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Fullerton Public Library at 10 am.

March 13 -14 - **Youth Services Retreat** at Aurora Leadership Center. For more information, call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

March 14 - **Joint Nebraska Library Commission/State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at Kearney/Bufalo Law Enforcement Center at 10am.

March 18 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10 am.

March 19 - NLA Paraprofessional Spring Meeting via videoconference at

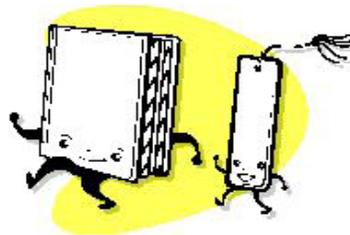
March 25 - **Basic Skills: Organization of Materials** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk at 10 am.

March 25 - 29 - **PLA 12th National Conference** at Minneapolis, MN. For more information, go to: www.placonference.org.

April 10 - A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Library, **Spring Colloquium 2008**, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. For more information, contact Brenda at 1-1-800-288-6063 or Kathy at 1-800-627-7884.

April 11 - "**Trends, Fads or Folly: Spotting the Library Trends That Really Matter**", College of DuPage at 11am.

April 18 - Author **Ben Mikaelson** will present at Elgin Elementary and Plainview Elementary Schools.



NEW @ NLS

The Bilingual Book of Rhymes, Songs, Stories and Fingerplays by Pam Schiller, Rafael Lara-Alecia and Beverly J Irby. Gryphon House, 2004.

This book contains over 450 selections, with Spanish on one page and English on the opposite. Children will be thrilled to

learn new words to their favorite Spanish and English songs. Organized by themes such as farm animals, school days, circus time, etc. make this book easy to use.

Library Services to Youth of Hispanic Heritage by Barbara Immroth and Kathleen de la Pena. McFarland & Company, 2000.

This series of essays discuss survey results; demographics; outstanding literature; information needs of migrant workers; and workshops and services for parents, teens, and children. The selections, written by library professionals for the Trejo Foster Foundation for Hispanic Library Education Fourth National Institute, are grouped under six topics, including "Programs," "Collections," "Planning and Evaluating," and "For the Future."

"Design Thinking" by Steven J Bell, American Libraries, Jan/ Feb. 2008, pp. 44-49.

The author discusses using a design approach to help librarians deliver outstanding library services. Design can influence how we think and act in identifying problems and developing the proper solutions. The IDEO company who developed the Apple mouse, method uses five steps: understand, observe, visualize, evaluate/refine and implement.



Northeast News

Business Week named it's top 50 communities in which to raise kids for less. These towns had the right combination of safety, community values, good education and low cost of living costs. In the Northeast Library System communities **Newcastle** (pop. 299) and **Petersburg** (pop. 374) made the list. Congratulations!

"Stuff to Stuff - Taxidermy Tidbits" is the Boys Read The Wide World of Sports program at the **Neligh Public Library** on February 21st. Local taxidermist, Dwayne Cornett, will show various stuffed animals and some taxidermy techniques.

A big Northeast welcome to Kathy Muller, the new library director at **Gardner Public Library** in Wakefield. The previ-

ous director, Nancy Fredrikson, retired in November. Kathy comes to the library from the Wakefield Community Schools where she taught kindergarten.

Nebraska author N.L. Sharp visited **Stanton Community Schools** recently Both kids and adults enjoyed her presentation.

It was Genealogy Fun Night at the **Hartington Public Library**. Carol Tramp showed how to use the Internet to research your family tree.

A Chamber of Commerce Coffee was hosted by The Friends of the **O'Neill Public Library** on January 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the library's James and Susan Symonds Presentation Room. At the coffee the Friends presented a plaque to the library commemorating Millie Olberd-

ing's years of library service.

The public is invited to come to the **Randolph Public Library** on Valentine's Day and bring one of their favorite books and share why they enjoy it.

Both **Schuyler Public Library** and Scottsbluff Public Library are now online with the OneLibrary Consortium. The libraries use SirsiDynix for their automation system. Other Northeast participating libraries are: **Norfolk Public Library, Columbus Public Library, Northeast Community College Library, Central Community College Libraries, Wayne Public Library** and **South Sioux City Public Library**.



Oakdale Public Library proudly displayed the results of their 'Best Dressed Turkeys Contest'. The kids had a great time dressing their turkeys for the holidays. Plus, all the young people in Oakdale were given a knitted cap to celebrate the holidays.



Ideas for Teen Tech Week

- * This Day in Tech History can be a daily feature on your web site with tidbits of information leading up to TTW.
- * Recognize Teen Tech Week by giving teens extra computer time
- * Revamp your library website for teens. Add a flickr badge, RSS feed for new books, links to podcasts and webcomics, or a polling area. Try to incorporate teens in creating the new content.
- * Have teens share their favorite places to go on the Internet
- * Host an Anime/Manga Event. Encourage participants to dress up in costume
- * Have a digital camera workshop
- * Read a technology based book for your monthly book club. (Lauren Myracle's TTYL, TTFN; ChaseR : a novel in e-mails by Michael Rosen; Snail Mail no More by Paula Danzinger)
- * What if you had to live without technology? Sponsor a contest in which teens create content - video, story, poem, comic, something else - that looks at what their life might be like without technology.
- * Host a gaming event. Set up Dance, Dance Revolution provide plenty of water, have board games available at tables in the room, and consider having a Mario Kart tournament with student comments.
- * Host an Internet scavenger hunt. Have teens complete an Internet Scavenger Hunt and hand out raffle tickets for correct answers. Create questions that introduce teens to recreational and educational websites and/or databases. Use the scavenger hunt to teach them a few new searching strategies as well as to gather information about their favorite places to go on the web.
- * Have a digital art contest
- * Host a "How to Create Machinima" workshop. Gamers and future filmmakers will be drawn to this event. If you don't know anything about Machinima, start by talking to your teens about it. To learn more, go to Machinima.com. Find examples of Machinima by searching for the term on YouTube.
- * Go low-tech with "overhead animation." Have teens create animated shorts using transparencies (to make the layers) and an overhead projector.
- * Hold a workshop called "The Beauty of MySpace," in which teens decorate their spaces using templates they build themselves or from online resources (search MySpace layouts or MySpace templates on Google). Follow up with a MySpace Fashion Show where teens show off their decorated spaces.
- * Create a review wiki. Create a wiki where teens can write about movies, music, books, websites, games, etc.
- * Create a virtual discussion space. Use a wiki, blog, or discussion board to host an online book club
- * Have a Techno Petting Zoo - invite teens to an event where the latest technology is being demonstrated. You may want to involve your local electronics store, gaming store and cell phone company.



American Indian Youth Literature Awards 2008

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce the recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award. This new literary award was created as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award present Native Americans in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts.

The award is presented in each of three categories-picture book, middle school, and young adult-and each winner receives \$500 and a custom-made beaded medallion, which will be presented at a ticketed event during the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. See the AILA web site for more detailed information about the books, authors and award event.

"We are grateful to have this opportunity to honor authors and illustrators who best portray Native American culture for young readers," Naomi Caldwell, Chair, AILA American Indian Youth Literature Award committee. We celebrate the official recognition American Indian literature for youth. "

Picture Book

Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom by Tim Tingle, illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridge. Cinco Puntos Press, 2006.

A beautifully inspired story of a friendship between Martha Tom, a Choctaw girl and Li' Mo, a slave boy and how their relationship brought wholeness and freedom to Mo's family and also to many slaves. Bridge's illustrations enhance the story by resonating the joy of friendship, the light of faith, and the leadership of children.

Middle School

Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond, by Joseph Medicine Crow. National Geographic, 2006.

This appealing autobiography of Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow (Absarokee) is a winner with the young and old. The author recounts his adventures and training as a traditional Crow warrior and his service as a decorated World War II veteran. Walk, run and ride with him as you learn first-hand about real-life on the Crow reservation before during and after encounters with newcomers. In a text that is not preachy, but an honest read, Joseph Medicine Crow tells how he overcame many challenges to fulfill his role as Chief of the Crow Nation.

Young Adult

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, Little Brown Publishers, 2007.

A realistic, bitter-sweet yet, humorous look at the life of Arnold, a Spokane Indian teenager making his way in life on the reservation while attending an all white high school. Alexie brings to life the challenges many young native people experience as they learn to navigate and balance Indian life in a modern world. Part autobiography, Alexie's Arnold reminds us of the complexities of coming of age, bigotry, bullies, loyalty to family and the meaning of love.



New season of Step Up to the Plate @ your library® Begins

ALA and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum are teaming up to promote season three of "Step Up to the Plate @ your library." This year, it's a whole new "ball game," celebrating the 100th anniversary of the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Librarians can visit the program Web site now at www.ala.org/baseball to register for free promotional tools to help promote the program locally. Tools include program logos in both English and Spanish and a toolkit that includes sample press materials and programming ideas.

The first 100 libraries to register will receive a Jackie Robinson "History Lives" poster from ALA Graphics. Librarians who bring in the most entries can also win incentives for participation in the program.

Season three of "Step up to the Plate @ your library" program will officially launch to the public in April with program spokesperson and Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith.

This year's program teams up two American classics – baseball and libraries – to promote the importance of information literacy skills and increase awareness of the library as an essential information resource. People of all ages will be encouraged to visit their library and answer a series of trivia questions inspired by "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Categories of questions will include ballparks, baseball in popular culture, fan experience and baseball pioneers. One grand-prize winner will receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in October 2008.

New PSAs starring Julie Andrews available for National Library Week

The Academy Award-winning actress, this year's honorary National Library Week chair, stars in a series of public service announcements (PSAs) now available to libraries for download from the American Library Association (ALA). Just go to the National Library Week Web page at www.ala.org/pio/nlw.

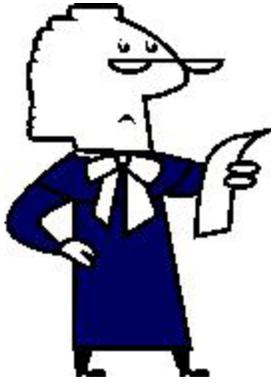
The PSAs are ready for use in local print, radio and television ads. The print PSA can be used as is or fitted to your specifications at no charge. The television PSAs can be downloaded at no charge for use on a Web site, or libraries can order a broadcast-quality tape for a fee.

Each spot benefits from Andrews' proven appeal to children, as well as to adults who grew up watching her in such family classics as "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music."

Andrews published her first children's book, "Mandy," in 1971. She and her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton, have published a series of children's books, including "The Great American Musical," published in 2006 by HarperCollins, where she has launched her own imprint "The Julie Andrews Collection." Her latest book, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years," will be released by Hyperion in April.

In addition to the Andrews PSAs, the National Library Week Web site offers tools to help libraries promote National Library Week (April 13-19). Tools include a sample proclamation, press release, radio PSA scripts and letter-to-the-editor. All documents are available in both English and Spanish and can be customized for local use.

For more information, visit www.ala.org/@yourlibrary.



Copyright Concerns

By Phyllis Brunken

Part III – Fair Use and the Public Librarian

The concept of Fair Use of copyright protected materials was introduced in Section 107 of the 1976 Copyright Act. (<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#10>) It states that the fair use of copyrighted work . . . for the purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. Part 2 of this series discussed the four factors used to determine fair use or refer to the website listed above.

Section 107 does not specifically name who may or may not take advantage of fair use. Therefore, both school and public librarians can take advantage of fair use. It is the user's responsibility to apply the four factors to determine fair use. Dr. Crews encourages the library community to apply the fair use concept to provide materials to their patrons. He states, "A central tenet of this analysis is that fair use is a flexible doctrine that Congress wanted us to test and adapt for changing needs and circumstances. . . . If most factors lean in favor of fair use, the activity is allowed; if most lean the opposite direction, the action will not fit the fair-use exception and may require permission from the copyright owner." (<http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/highered.htm>)

If the librarian learns and applies the four fair use factors, this is acting in good faith and is very likely acting within the copyright law. (Dr. Crews, *Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators*, p. 59)

Librarian can probably meet the first fact -- a nonprofit educational purpose. The remaining three factors of nature, amount and effect must also support the concept of fair use.

Please send an email to me if you want a complete bibliography of my recommended copyright law resources or have a copyright law question. Phyllis Brunken pbrunken@cox.net I am not an attorney and this article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law.

Note: Effective January 1, 2008, Kenneth D. Crews, Director of the Copyright Management Center at Indiana University, has been appointed the Director of Columbia's new Copyright Advisory Office. The Copyright Center at University of Indiana website may no longer be available. <http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/>

(This article is the third of a six-part series on copyright for educators and public librarians.)

Student Internship Grants Available for Public Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer grants to public libraries for student internships. Each grant will provide a \$1,000 student stipend, financing approximately one-hundred hours spent working with library staff on a variety of projects and activities. For more information see the Now Hiring section of the Nebraska Library Commission Website, <http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.org/>, click on Internships or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665.



Northeast Library System

Board Minutes

January 16, 2008

The Northeast Board met at the Madison Public Library on January 16, 2008 and was hosted by the staff of the library. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Ann Bachman. Board members present were Ann Bachman, Michele Hastreiter, Jolene Klein, Chris Chilcoat, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Kay Schmid Lynn Manhart, Dee Johnson, and Kate Ostenrude. Lauran Lofgren was present as an alternate (MS: Johnson, Klein; approved). System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, and Laura Johnson from the Nebraska Library were also present.

The minutes were approved (MS: Johnson, Klein; approved).

There was no correspondence received other than Christmas wishes

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The Commission money has been deposited. The smallest CD is to be renewed in March (approved by a roll call vote).

REPORTS:

No Commissioner report.

No State Advisory Council Report.

Nebraska Library Commission: Laura Johnson spoke on the CE opportunities available this spring with emphasis on the College of Dupage classes. Basic Skills classes were discussed along with potential improvements. Laura presented the board with a handout of upcoming events.

System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton reported on a wide range of activities she has completed in the past two months. She presented the board with a list of travel and activities. If you wish to know more about the system's activities and Kathy's report check out the web page <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>. There was a discussion on a future grant to purchase a microfilm converter for the system libraries to share.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – The Personnel Committee presented the revised the administrator's evaluation form (MS: Ostenrude, Lofgren; approved).

Budget – The Budget Committee will meet on January 30, 2008 in Humphrey.

Continuing Education – upcoming events are listed in the newsletter.

Strategic Planning – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee – The application for the 2008 system's grants is available on-line or in the system's newsletter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:



Kathy Ellerton reported that the used system's office equipment was delivered to the libraries who won the bids.

Ted Smith presented 'Future Search', an attempt to see what Nebraska's libraries need and the challenges and opportunities libraries will face in the future. These focus groups will assist the Nebraska Library Commission in its planning and provide information for a Nebraska Library Futures conference to be held in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board adjourned for executive session (MS: Lofgren, Johnson; approved).

The meeting was reconvened (MS: Hastreiter, Sullivan; approved).

The Board will accept changes to the Personnel Policy under employee status and benefits eligibility with the addition of class II within D, Time-off Benefits (MS Manhart, Chilcoat; approved by a roll call vote).

Board members shared activities going on in their libraries.

Pat on the Back was awarded to Adele Maynard of Central City and Natalie Bullock of Neligh.

A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Ageton, Johnson; approved by roll call vote).

Motion to adjourn (MS: Stahlecker, Sullivan; approved).

Respectfully submitted,



Paraprofessional Section 2008 Spring Meeting

Wednesday, March 19th

"Library Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together @ Your Library"

Sessions:

- 1) "Fitting Your Library into the Community"
- 2) "Your Library is More than the Sum of its Departments"
- 3) "Holding It All Together"

This will be a videoconference broadcasted across the state at several sites. For more details: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paraspringmeeting.html>

**THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR****Angel City**

By Tony Johnston

Joseph lives in a bad section of Los Angeles. Homeless sleep on the street where he walks, when early one morning he hears crying coming from a dumpster. Joseph keeps the baby and learns how to care for the little boy, whom he calls Juan. He vows to raise this baby as a Mexican child, because this is his heritage.

When Juan is five he starts school. He worries about the violence in their neighborhood. He is very poor and it is hard to buy things for Juan. When Juan turns six, Pop-Pop decides to plant the vacant lot next door with popcorn so Juan can understand his heritage. They sell the corn and do it again the next summer. Juan's new friend Chucho is hit by a stray bullet and dies in the hospital. This event affects both Pop-Pop and Juan. Juan wonders if he will be allowed to grow up.

This is a sad story and unfortunately relevant in today's world. Mrs. Johnston has also written *Any Small Goodness* and *The Spoon in the Bathroom Wall*.
 ~~Carol Tramp, Wynot Public

School

Shoo, Fly Guy

By Ted Arnold

Fly Guy belongs to a boy. The boy takes care of him but one day Fly Guy decides to go flying. He has trouble finding his way home.

Shoo, Fly Guy will captivate young readers. They will like the funny faces the fly makes. This book has an attractive cover for kids. I recommend it for school and public libraries for kindergarten through 2nd grade.
 ~~Lara Morrow, Emmet Public School

The Firefighters' Thanksgiving

By Maribeth Boelts

To the firefighters of station I, Thanksgiving Day is no day of rest. They try hard to make a big dinner but are continuously interrupted by the calls for a fire.

This is a great book for story time and easy for children to read. I recommend this book for public libraries grades K-3.
 ~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE

Mia's Story

By Michael Foreman

This book tells the story of Mia, a girl who lives with her family in a garbage dump. Her father recycles what he can to sell in the city, hoping eventually to

earn enough money to buy a house of bricks. One day he brings Mia a puppy home that she names POCO. They live happily together until one day when POCO disappears.

Searching for him, Mia finds herself in the hills overlooking the city. Here she discovers some beautiful flowers. Taking some flowers home, she plants them in recycled pots. The flowers soon spread over the dump and Mia decides to sell them in the city. Still searching for POCO, Mia sells many flowers and shares her father's dream of a house of bricks. One day as she sells flowers in the city, a dog comes over, licks her face, and lays down among the flowers—POCO has returned!

This is a sweet story with eye-catching water paintings sure to spark discussions of recycling and differences in socio-economic classes. Recommended for K-2nd grades, this book is suitable for any library.
 ~~Samantha Bye, Leesville, LA

Does My Head Look Big in This?

By Randa Abdel-Fattah

Amal is an eleventh-grader at a public school. She's funny, outspoken, and a loyal friend. In addition, she is a devout Muslim who decides to wear a hijab – the traditional Muslim head covering – full-time. Her story tells of her emotional and spiritual journey as she deals with a crush; an elderly, semi-crazy Greek neighbor; and tries to help a friend who longs to



be a lawyer, but whose mother wants only to marry her off.

While the book deals with many serious issues, the book is funny and entertaining. Amal is a likeable and believable character. She is impetuous and strong-willed and at times, she makes serious errors in judgment. Despite the emphasis on the Muslim faith, the book is never preachy or forced. Readers of all faiths will enjoy the story of Amal, which is about much more than religion. It's about the journey of high school, friendship, and life. I recommend this book for readers ages 12 on up.
 ~~Amanda Limoges, Eastern Township Library

The Braid
 By Helen Frost

The time is the 1850's and Jeannie and her sister Sarah are forced from their home, the Western Isles of Scotland. Jeannie goes with her to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia with her family to start over. Sarah decided to remain in Scotland with her grandmother. Before they are separated, the girls braid their hair as one and then cut it off. Each girl keeps half the braid so their lives will be ever entwined.

Reading level: 7th through 9th
 The rare reader who has a love of poetry will find an affinity to this book.
 ~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Pino and the Signora's Pasta

By Janet Pedersen

This story is set in Rome. Every night the Signora would come to feed the cats that waited for her. She fed them pasta! The cats loved it—all except Pino and he longed for something different. But when he left his usual place and ventured into cafes to eat – everyone yelled at him and said "Shoooo!" Finally Pino realized that pasta served with love was far better than eating delicacies and being chased away.

I recommend this book for school and public libraries ages 5-8.
 ~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

Fight for life

By Laurie Halse Anderson

This book is the first in the series "Vet Volunteers" with the main characters of 11-year-old Maggie and her grandmother, veterinarian Dr. J.J. MacKenzie (Gran). The story deals with the discovery of a puppy mill and breaking up of it. Several other characters are introduced into the story line and sometime keeping them all straight is an effort.

I found this 135 page volume slow paced until the last 35 pages when the plot really got interesting and moving. There are interesting simplistic descriptions of veterinary procedures but several avenues in

the story are not completed and one feels at loose ends as the book finishes. Written for 4th – 6th grade on a scale of 1 to 5 I would give this book a 3.
 ~~Pat Thompson, WSC

Captain's Fury
 By Jim Butcher

Its been two years since the events in Cursor's Fury and Tavi is still Captain of the First Aleran and fighting against the Canim in a campaign that seems no closer to finishing. When an ambitious Senator hatches a plan to end the war that Tavi knows will only cause disaster he is forced into desperate measures to salvage what he can out of the coming storm.

Of the Codex Alera novels, this one had the greatest military intrigue and political maneuvering. Echoes of the Roman Empire in terms of politica, but lots of daring covert missions and action to break up the intrigue.

I recommend this for all readers who love a fast-paced fantasy adventures. This book would be welcome in any high school library or public library collection.
 ~~Kathy Ellerton, NLS



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Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.

— Abraham Lincoln

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