

Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

July/August 2011

Be Like Bamboo

By Jessica Chamberlain

We often talk of change in our libraries, our communities and our world. Nebraska has not been excluded from the rapid spread of technology, changing demographics or economic struggles. Change in general tends to bring on feelings of trepidation for most people, even those who understand that the change is inevitable or that the change is a positive one. Libraries that want to thrive in the future will have to adapt to the evolving nature of our country, and the Northeast Library System is no exception to this. A Japanese proverb states, “The bamboo that bends is stronger than the oak who resists.” In an effort to bend, so that we may remain strong and continue to serve the libraries of northeast Nebraska, the Northeast Library System is instituting some major changes.

We will no longer offer our Straight Talk Newsletter in a printed format. This printing will be the last paper mailing that libraries, library boards and municipal officials will receive. The newsletter will continue to be published six times per year, but it will be done in an electronic version only. We do not want to exclude anyone in the process of changing over to an electronic format, so there are several ways in which you can view the electronic newsletter.

1. You can find it on our website at <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/services/straight-talk-newsletter/>.
2. If you are on our NELS email list, you will receive an email from me with the newsletter attached when it is published. (If you are not on the email list and would like to join, please visit www.nlc.state.ne.us/lists/index.html and follow the instructions to join the NELS mailing list.)
3. If you do not wish to join our email list, but would like to receive an email ONLY when the newsletter is published, please send me an email to let me know that this is your preference.
4. If you do not feel that any of the above solutions will work for you, please contact me at the NELS office and we will find a way to connect you with the NELS newsletter.

The other major change we are instituting is the elimination of the separate fax line. We receive so few faxes during the year that it is not cost-effective to pay for a separate phone line that has only this one function. We will still be able to send and receive faxes in our NELS office, but they will be sent and received on our existing phone line (402-564-1586). There will be a period of adjustment as we get used to this new set-up, so your patience with any glitches along the way is appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these changes, please don't hesitate to contact me at the NELS office. Thank you for your understanding and please know that these changes are made in an effort to serve the libraries of northeast Nebraska in the most efficient and effective way possible. ♦



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Northeast News



During the month of June a shoe drive was held at the Pilger Public Library for the entire community. Over 120 pair of shoes were collected. All shoes were given to the Orphan Grain Train to be distributed to those in need. Great Job Pilger!

The Clarkson Public Library will also be doing a shoe drive this summer from July 12-August 8 with all donations going to the Soles4Souls charity. Good Luck Clarkson!

Shelia Cermak at the NELS Office has a new email address! As part of changing phone providers, Shelia has changed her email address to: nelibrarysystem@gmail.com Please update your contact information to reflect this change.

Jessica's email address will remain the same: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com



The Neligh Public Library entered a float in Neligh's 4th of July Parade and won the "Community Pride" trophy! Congratulations!

Pat on the Back Awards

An award was given to **Gina Christensen** for being an outstanding member of the Humphrey Public Library Board.

An award was also given to **Carlene Bodlak**, a library aide at the Wakefield Community School, for providing exceptional library service.



Please notify the NELS office if you have someone you would like to nominate for a "Pat on the Back!"



The Lied Randolph Public Library hosted the drumline Sheltered Reality as part of their Q125 celebration. The drumline pulled kids from the audience to participate and the kids loved it. Check out Randolph Library's Facebook page for more photos!

Randolph's Q125 celebration wouldn't be complete without crowning a Q125 Queen. The winner was none other than library director Peggy Leiting! Congratulations Peggy!

Congratulations to Diane Dunker for her 20 years of library service at the Rising City Public Library!



If you have a piece of news or a photo you'd like to share with your fellow northeast Nebraska libraries, email it to Jessica at the NELS office! jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

A Calendar of Upcoming Events and links to details and registration forms can be found on our website at: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar>

July 30—**Norfolk Public Library's 17th Annual Literature Festival**—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
Don't miss this opportunity to see U.S. Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis, Sarah Prineas and Jen Bryant.

Time: 9:00—4:00

Contact: Karen Drevo, 402-844-2108 or kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us

August 15-19—**Week of Weeding**—All Over Northeast Nebraska
See page 6 to find out how to participate!

August 22-23—**Library Technology Planning Summer Camp**—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
This 2 day workshop will be held on August 22-23, 2011, in 4 locations across the state – Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte and Scottsbluff. Speakers will be based in Lincoln, and their presentations will be broadcast to the 3 other locations.

See <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/tpsc/> for more details and registration information.

September 21—**NELS Annual Meeting**—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

This year our Annual Meeting will be a combined day-long conference with the Northeast Nebraska Network Consortium for school libraries, which will provide even more training, learning and networking opportunities for northeast Nebraska Librarians. See pages 8-9 for complete schedule and registration details.

Time: 9:00—3:30

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

October 5—**Pre-Conference Workshop**—Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln

Karen Hyman will present "Shortcuts to Greatness, or 10 Things that Great Libraries Know and Maybe You Don't." Register on the NLA/NEMA conference page at:

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference2011/home>

October 6—7—**NLA/NEMA Conference**—Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln

Find out about all the great sessions and speakers coming this year at:

<http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference2011/home>

October 14—**TARGET Meeting**—Lied Pierce Public Library

Time: 9:00—12:00

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

October 25—**Youth Services Workshop**—Norfolk Public Library

Save the Date! More information on this workshop will be coming shortly.

Connecting with Your Community



By Kathy Muller

The Gardner Public Library in Wakefield recently gave a free hardback copy of *Piglet and Mama* by Margaret Wild to each child enrolled in the Wakefield School District preschool classes. As a community member of Read Aloud Nebraska, Library Director Kathy Muller was able to request these books and distribute them to low-income children in her community at no cost to the library. "Even very young children can take pride in owning a special book. Book ownership and early reading aloud helps promote literacy in all ages of children," says Muller, a former early childhood teacher.

Members can join **Read Aloud Nebraska** as a school or community. There is no cost to join and, in addition to other benefits, membership makes you eligible to request free books for low income children in your area. Please visit www.readaloudnebraska.org for details. The deadline to join for the next year is November 1, 2011.

Keeping Up with Professional Development

Sometimes, as librarians, we focus so much on serving others that we don't put much effort into developing our own professional skills, but we have to take the time to learn new things in order to continue to serve our communities the best we can. In order to provide a unique opportunity to do this, the Nebraska Library Commission is offering a way to participate in a new training program called [23 Things for Professional Development](#). This is a free online program open to information professionals of all kinds from around the world. Inspired by the 23 Things programs for social media, this new program will consist of a mixture of social media "Things" and "Things" to do with professional development. The program starts on June 20 and will run until early October. The staff running *Nebraska Learns 2.0* talked about this new project in a recent NCompass Live program. Watch the archived session (<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ncompass/NCArchivist.asp>) if you'd like more information on how to participate!

Patrons Asking About eBooks?

Are your customers asking for downloadable eBooks? For downloadable audiobooks? Consider joining the Nebraska Libraries OverDrive group at the start of the new subscription year—the deadline is **August 31, 2011**.



The first year's costs for OverDrive include a one-time \$500 set-up fee plus the annual subscription fee. The annual subscription fee, which is used to purchase new content, is 13 cents per population served with a minimum of \$500. So, if your library's population served is 3,846 or less, then your first year's cost would be \$1,000. There are currently 69 Nebraska libraries participating in this program. Is your library next?

For more information and ordering instructions, see <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/pricing/overdrive.html>

or contact Susan Knisely,
susan.knisely@nebraska.gov
800-307-2665 or 402-471-3849,

Or Devra Dragos, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov
800-307-2665 or 402-471-4335.

Grants and Fundraising

Grant Opportunities

Heuermann Foundation Grants

The B. Keith and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation gives grants from \$1,000-\$25,000. Applicants must be 501(c) 3 charitable organizations. Primary consideration is given to proposals from rural areas and those projects that focus on children, the elderly, or people with special needs. Applications are accepted year-round. If you would like a copy of the application guidelines and remittance address, please contact the NELS office.

Kreutz Bennet Grants

A donor-advised fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, established by the late Shirley Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln, will provide matching grants for public libraries in Nebraska communities with a population of less than 3,000. A Fund Advisory Committee will recommend grants in three areas: planning grants leading to accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services and/or programs; and facilities grants for new facilities or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries. All grants will require a certain level of matching funds and evidence that the project has broad community support. Approximately \$70,000 will be available each year. Grants will be awarded annually in each grant-making area beginning in the spring of 2012.

To Learn More: <http://www.nebcommfound.org/affiliated-funds/find/details/2446/>

Fundraising Success Stories

- If you attended Jan Jorgensen's "Fundraising Ideas" session at the Winter Workshop this year, then you heard about her Easter Egg Surprise idea. The Neligh Public Library adapted it a little, tried it and made \$500!

How to do it: Get a large basket or box and fill it with Easter grass and plastic Easter eggs. In most of the eggs, put a small piece of wrapped candy. In a few of the eggs, put prizes like gift certificates donated from local businesses or even a \$20 bill. Sell the eggs for \$1 and the buyer gets to pick out an egg and keep the prize inside.

- The Hartington Public Library needed new carpet for their library. They decided to purchase carpet squares and used that as an opportunity for fundraising. They did a letter campaign to their patrons and local businesses, asking them to purchase a carpet square for \$30. After just four months, the library had over 300 unique donors and over \$16,000, which exceeded their goal and is now allowing them to re-carpet their library.
- The Plainview Carnegie Library is beginning to raise funds for a new library. At their recent Q125 celebration, the library held a number of events that raised quite a sum for the library. They raffled off three nice items for a good portion of their profits. A quilt, created and donated by several local patrons, brought in \$1,711. A memorial gun, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Elwood, raised than \$3,123 and an ATV, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Rory Rossman, brought in \$2,394 more! But the Plainview Library didn't stop there. A taco sale raised an additional \$400 and a 5K run added \$1,620. All told, the fundraisers held during their Q125 brought in \$9,248.



Week of Weeding

August 15-19, 2011

The Northeast Library System is declaring August 15-19, 2011 a “Week of Weeding!” We want to encourage everyone to participate by agreeing to weed a section of their library that they have been avoiding. You know what it is—that corner, that shelf, that genre of books that you have put off weeding for awhile. Now’s the time!

ALL libraries in NELS are eligible to participate!

How to Participate:

1. Call the NELS Office (800-578-1014 or 402-564-1586) or send Jessica an email (jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com) to let us know you want to participate.
2. If you need extra encouragement or help deciding what to weed, let Jessica know. She will be visiting 5 libraries during this week to lend a helping hand.
3. After you finish your weeding project, fill out the form below.
4. Those who submit their forms to the NELS Office by August 26th will be entered into a drawing for a new [NOOK Simple Touch e-Reader](#)! The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on August 29th.

**If your schedule doesn't allow you to do your weeding during August 15-19, any weeding you do in your library between now and August 19th will qualify you for participation in the contest.*



Week of Weeding Participation Form

Library _____

Section Weeded _____

How many books were weeded? (roughly, doesn't have to be exact) _____

Best (or worst) thing that was weeded out? _____

We'd love to see some "before & after" photos of your project! You can email digital pictures or submit printed photos with this participation form. (While we'd love to see them, they are not required and will not affect your library's chance of winning the e-Reader.)

Return via mail to 3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13, Columbus NE 68601 or via email to jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com.



Northeast Library System 2011 NLA/NEMA Conference Scholarship

The Northeast Library System can provide ___ scholarships of \$___ to the 2011 Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) Conference and Pre-Conference events.

Qualifications

1. Applicant must be currently employed or serve as a trustee in a Northeast Library System library.
2. Applicant must not have attended a state-wide NLA/NEMA Conference in the last three (3) years.
3. Applicant must attend at least one day of the Conference or Pre-Conference.
4. Scholarships will be awarded to no more than one person from each library or school district unless applicant pool is less than the number of scholarships available.
5. After the Conference, scholarship recipients must submit a written summary (one page minimum) of Conference programs attended. The summary will be shared with the NELS System Board members at the November 16th Board Meeting.

Application

NAME _____

LIBRARY NAME _____

I AM A: LIBRARIAN/LIBRARY EMPLOYEE _____ TRUSTEE/BOARD MEMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Have you been to the NLA/NEMA Conference before? If so, when? _____

How many days of the conference do you plan on attending? _____

Are there any sessions that you especially want to attend? If so, which ones? _____

How will attending this conference benefit your work at the library? _____

Is another entity sponsoring your attendance at this conference? YES NO

Submit this form to the Northeast Library System by August 22, 2011.
Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to NLA/NEMA's pre-registration deadline on August 31st.

Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Ave, Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601

EMAIL: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com FAX: 402-564-1586
(please call ahead to send a fax if during regular business hours)

Fall Library Workshop

September 21, 2011 - Northeast Community College - Lifelong Learning Center

Connect to Your Library

Media Workshop for NNNC School Libraries and Northeast Library System

Schedule of Presentations

September 21, 2011

Virtual Tour of Governor's Mansion
First Lady, Sally Ganem welcome video and greeting. The Governor's Residence is a modified Georgian Colonial home formally opened March 17, 1958.

World Book Online
David Privett from Wahoo Public School Library will demonstrate how WPS is using World Book for K-12 English and other curricular areas.



Book Share
Lynete Sprunk will present on this tool that is available to students and adults with vision disabilities.



Inexpensive and Interesting Displays
Eileen Bramer, Plainview Elementary School Librarian, will showcase her rain gutter displays. Becky Sims, director of the Offutt Air Force Base Library, will teach principles of effective displays.

Collections for Your Community
Gayle Roberts, director of the Blair Public Library, will present a look at some of the special collections popping up in public libraries in the United States and talk about their experience at Blair Public Library with their Toy Library.

Visual Thesaurus
Georgia Scurletis, from Thinkmap returns to share more ideas of using Visual Thesaurus across the curriculum.



Nebraska Connections in Kids Books
Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission will present book talks on titles with Nebraska connections for preschool through high school students.

Reluctant Readers
Shelia Cermak from the Northeast Library System Office will present on the importance of Graphic Novels and how to use them to engage reluctant readers and male readers.

Gale/Cengage Database
Meet with Troy Anderson to better understand the facets of Gale/Cengage online databases. See a demonstration of the mobile app in addition to other tools available for libraries and schools.

Reluctant Weeders Support Group
Laura Johnson from the Nebraska Library Commission will discuss what weeding criteria are, and how they vary according to subjects and types of material, as well as according to situation.

Core Print Reference
What are the core collections needed in today's library? Visit with Nebraska school librarians as they share essentials of school libraries.

Table Top Panel
Meet with other librarians to share ideas, projects and practices with eBooks, weeding, displays, and more.



Keynote Address

Jeff Barnes

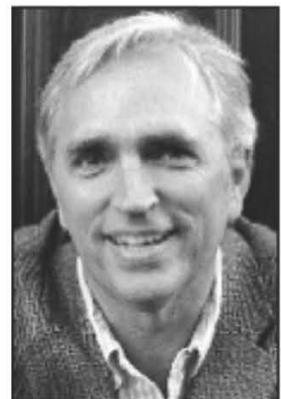
To Live and Die on the Plains

It wasn't all sunsets and songbirds in crossing the Great Plains. Death was a frequent and indiscriminate fellow traveler on the wagon trails and he took many forms - disease, gunshot, stampedes, nature, accidents, Indian attack and many more. Author Jeff Barnes presents an interesting look at how you could have "bought the farm" on the Platte River Road, or at least have made a

down payment. Rarely seen historic maps, paintings, photographs and other images are used to tell these tales of tragedy from the pioneers. NOTE: Some of the historic images presented are graphic in nature and may not be appropriate for younger audiences.

About the Author

A freelance writer and fifth-generation Nebraskan, Jeff Barnes is a former newspaper reporter and editor, past chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, and former marketing director for the Durham Western Heritage Museum. He traveled more than 13,000 miles in researching and photographing Forts of the Northern Plains, his first book.



REGISTRATION

All K-12 School Libraries please Register at www.esu1.org.

All other libraries please register with NELS office (see below for form)

Schedule



8:30 - 9:00 Registration and Refreshments

9:00 - 9:20 Opening Remarks - 1st Lady Sally Ganem

9:20 - 10:00 Virtual Tour - Governor's Mansion

10:00 - 11:00

Visual Thesaurus	Book Share	Breakouts	Inexpensive & Interesting Displays	Collections for your Community
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11:00 - 12:00

World Book	Gale/Cengage	Breakouts	NE Connections in Kids Books	Reluctant Readers
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12:00 - 2:00 Lunch, NELS Annual meeting, Jeff Barnes Keynote

2:00 - 3:00

Visual Thesaurus	World Book	Breakouts	Core Print Reference	Reluctant Weeders Support Group
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3:00 - 3:30 Table Top Panel, Closing, Evaluation, Door Prizes

*Schedule could change, see final room assignments and breakout session at the workshop.

Fall Library Workshop

Connect to Your Library

September 21, 2011 - Northeast Community College - Lifelong Learning Center

Public Library Registration Form

(School Library, register online by September 7, 2011 at www.esu1.org. Your school will be billed for the workshop.)

Name _____

Public Library _____

Submit form and registration fee of \$20.00 by September 7, 2011 to:

Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601

Jessica Chamberlain
jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Julie Rose
jrose@esu1.org

Diane Wolfe
dmwolfe@esu2.org

Beth Kabes
bkabes@esu7.org

Gloria Christiansen
gchristi@esu8.org

Germaine Johnson
germaine@esu17.org

NELS Board Nomination

Are you, or someone you know, interested in serving on the Northeast Library System Board? We are currently seeking nominations for a representative of a city with a population over 10,000 and a representative from a school library media center. Board members serve a 3-year term beginning September 21, 2011.



Who can serve on the NELS Board?

- Board members must be residents and/or employed within the 20 county Northeast Library System area.
- Board members should be representatives of public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, special or institutional libraries, or users or trustees of such libraries.

What does the NELS Board do?

- The NELS board is the governing body of the Northeast Library System. Its function is similar to that of a public library board of trustees. Board member responsibilities include approving policies, plans and budgets, and guiding the direction of the System.
- The Board meets 6 times per year, on the third Wednesday of alternate months, in locations throughout the System area.
- Board members do not receive a salary, wage or fee for their service, but they are reimbursed for mileage when traveling to Board Meetings.

If you have any questions about serving on the NELS Board, please feel free to contact any of the current board members who are listed on the back page of the newsletter.

Nomination Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

What is this person's connection to the library? (circle one)

Librarian

Trustee

Library User

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about this nominee?

**Please submit nominations to the
NELS Office by August 15.**

**Northeast Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2011**

The Northeast Library System Board met on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at Central Community College in Columbus, and was hosted by Dee Johnson. The meeting was called to order by President Kate Ostenrude. Members present were Michele Hastreiter, Tami Anderson, Dawnn Tucker, Jolene Klein, Beth Foulks, Joyce Sullivan, and Kate Ostenrude. Joyce Sullivan made a motion to approve Dee Johnson as alternate. (Sullivan – 1M/ Klein – 2M). Jessica Chamberlain, Library System Director, and Shelia Cermak, Administrative Assistant, were also present. Absent were: Judy Hagan, Melissa Baumert, Susan Tyndall, Kathy Age-ton, Elaine Tobias, and Sally Stahlecker.

The location of the Open Meeting Act was given. Dee Johnson moved to approve the minutes. (Johnson – 1M/ Hastreiter – 2M). Jessica Chamberlain presented the correspondence and communications, and Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. Beth Foulks made a motion to accept the financial report. (Foulks – 1M / Anderson – 2M). Roll call vote was all aye.

A report from Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission was read. The System has been advised of pending funding cuts from the Nebraska Library Commission, because of an anticipated 11.5% reduction in state aid. Jessica gave the System Director's report. System members are encouraged to sign up for the annual conference in September. This year the Northeast Library System and the NNNC (ESU's 1,2,7,8, and 17) are hosting a joint conference. A reminder was made for members to look for the system newsletter via email. The system board is calling for new member nominations to fill vacancies for expiring terms for 2 public library and 1 school media center position. There were no committee reports.

In Unfinished Business, Michele Hastreiter moved to approve the proposed bylaw changes of Article XI, Annual Meeting. (Hastreiter – 1M / Johnson – 2M). No discussion. Vote was all aye. Dee Johnson moved to accept the proposed bylaw changes of Article V, Section 10, Election of Officers. (Johnson – 1M /Sullivan – 2M). No discussion. Vote was all aye. Michele Hastreiter moved to accept the proposed bylaw changes for Article IV, Members. (Hastreiter – 1M / Anderson – 2M). No discussion. Vote was all aye. Shelia will print new copies of the bylaws for the July meeting. (Proposed changes were presented in the March 16, 2011, minutes.)

In new business, the discussion was held on the system budget for the coming fiscal year. Michelle Hastreiter moved to reinvest \$13,000 of the CD due in July into a CD and to move the excess monies into the operating expenses for FY 2011-12. (Hastreiter – 1M / Tucker -2M). Roll call vote was all aye. It was also recommended that a flat fee be used for all Northeast Library System registrations.

Pat on the Back Awards will be given to Carlene Bodlak, a library aide at the Wakefield Community School Library, for outstanding library service, and to Gina Christensen of the Humphrey Public Library, who is a wonderful board member.

Dee Johnson moved to pay the claims of the day. (Johnson – 1M / Hastreiter – 2M). Roll call vote was all aye.

Dee Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. (Johnson – 1M / Hastreiter – 2M).

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene Klein,
Secretary



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Email: jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Website: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels>

A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely. ~ Roald Dahl

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

Straight Talk is published 6 times per year by the Northeast Library System.

Please contact
Jessica Chamberlain
or Shelia Cermak
at the Northeast Library
System Office
with any questions
or concerns.

Jessica Chamberlain, editor

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Our NELS Board Members

Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library
Michele Hastreiter, Humphrey Public Library
Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library
Melissa Baumert, Clarkson Public Library
Dawnn Tucker, Lied Pierce Public Library
Kate Ostenrude - President, Neligh Public Library
Tami Anderson, Hartington Public Library
Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library
Kathy Ageton, Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk
Sally Stahlecker - Vice President, Norfolk Public Library
Beth Foulks, Ponca Public Schools
Jolene Klein - Secretary, Wakefield Community Schools
Susan Tyndall, Nebraska Indian Community College