



# Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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JULY, 2006 - Published by the Northeast Library System  
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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## **Don't Sink, Swim!**

Recently I attended a workshop on disaster planning in Lincoln. The workshop made all of us stop and think hard about our environment. Natural disasters, such as hurricane Katrina's assault on the Gulf Coast and Louisiana, make all of us acutely aware of the possibility of disaster striking. Luckily, catastrophes of this magnitude are rare, but disaster can strike in many ways. Broken water mains, fire, and even mold can put your collection in danger.

It is unfortunate that library staff often learn about the advantages of emergency preparedness through hard experience, but an emergency does not have to become a full-fledged disaster.

### ASSESSING RISKS

A first step is to list geographic and climatic hazards that could threaten the building and collections. These might include the library's susceptibility to hurricanes, tornadoes, flash flooding, earthquakes, or forest fires. Consider man-made disasters such as power outages, sprinkler discharges, fuel or water supply failures, chemical spills, arson, bomb threats, or other such problems. Chemical industries, shipping routes for hazardous materials, and adjacent construction projects all expose your institution to damage. While all libraries are not vulnerable to all disasters, any event that is a real possibility should be covered under your emergency plan.

Look carefully at your building and site. Is the building located on a slope? Is the basement above flood level? Are there large trees near the building? Are such things as utility poles and flagpoles secure? Is the roof flat? Does water accumulate? Do gutters and drains work properly? Are they cleaned regularly? Are windows and skylights well sealed? Is there a history of leaks or other building and structural problems?

Within the building, fire protection systems, electrical systems, plumbing, and environmental systems are of primary concern. Are there enough fire extinguishers, and are they regularly inspected? Does the building have fire alarms and a fire-suppression system? Are they well maintained? Are they monitored twenty-four hours a day? Are fire exits blocked? How old is the wiring? Is it overloaded? Are electrical appliances unplugged at night? Is auxiliary power available if needed? Are water pipes in good shape? Are there water detectors? Are there any problems with the climate-control system?

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It is also important to take a hard look at your collections. What types of materials are included? Are they easily damaged? Are they particularly susceptible to certain types of damage such as moisture, fire, breakage, and the like? How and where are collections stored? Are they protected by boxes or other enclosures? Is shelving anchored to structural elements of the building? Is it stable? Are any artifacts stored directly on the floor where they could be damaged by leaks or flooding? All items should be raised at least four inches from the floor on waterproof shelves or pallets. Are materials stored under or near water sources? Are your collections to the dangers of theft, vandalism, or insect infestation?

Consider your insurance. Are your institution's collections insured? Is there a complete and accurate inventory? Is a duplicate of the inventory located at another site? Have collection priorities been set? Do you know which collections should be salvaged first in the event of fire, water, or other emergency? Do you have a back-up priority list if you cannot reach the top-priority objects due to building damage or the nature of the disaster?

### DECREASING RISKS

Once your institution's hazards are specified, the disaster planner should develop a plan with concrete goals, identifiable resources, and a schedule of activities for eliminating as many risks as possible. Geography and climate cannot be changed, but other weaknesses can be reduced.

A regular schedule of building inspection and maintenance should be a very high priority if one is not already in place. It can prevent or reduce emergencies resulting from burst pipes, defective climate-control equipment, worn electrical wiring, clogged drains, or other problems. If all improvements cannot be undertaken at once, make a schedule and follow it. If some items on your schedule prove impossible or are delayed, move on to the next goal and return to the earlier problem when it becomes more practical.

Patchwork repairs and deferred maintenance only result in accelerated deterioration, leading to an increased risk of emergencies. Keep a log of building events like clogged drains, furnace cleaning, and equipment failures.

Since most emergencies seem to happen outside normal working hours, reliable fire detection systems on professional, twenty-four-hour monitors are a wise investment. If possible, collections should also be protected by a fire-suppression system. Preservation professionals now recommend wet-pipe sprinklers for most libraries. In addition, water misting suppression systems have become available within the last several years; these can provide

fire suppression using much less water than conventional sprinkler systems.

All fire-protection systems should be designed and installed by professionals with experience in servicing museums and libraries, because the needs of these institutions differ from the needs for home protection.

Other actions that reduce building and collection vulnerability include maintaining a collection inventory, improving collection storage, and following good security and housekeeping procedures. An inventory will provide a basic list of holdings to assist in assigning priorities for salvage, and will be essential for insurance purposes. Improved collection storage, such as boxing and raising materials above the floor level, will reduce or eliminate damage when emergencies occur. Comprehensive security and housekeeping procedures will ward off emergencies such as theft, vandalism, and insect infestation. They will also ensure that fire exits are kept clear and fire hazards eliminated.

## THE PLAN

Disaster planning should not take place in a vacuum. To work effectively, it must be integrated into the routine operating procedures of the library. You will probably find that in planning for disasters you will also be working toward the accomplishment of other goals. For example, a properly functioning climate-control system will prevent fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity, resulting in a better preservation environment and a longer life for all collections. At the same time, this prevents disasters such as water leaks from air-handling units.

Remember three important characteristics of an effective disaster plan: comprehensiveness, simplicity, and flexibility. The plan needs to address all types of emergencies and disasters that your library is likely to face. It should include plans for both immediate response and long-term salvage and recovery efforts. The plan should also acknowledge that normal services may be disrupted. How will you proceed if there is no electrical power, no water, and no telephone?

The plan must be easy to follow. People faced with a disaster often have trouble thinking clearly, so concise instructions and training are critical to the success of the plan. The key is to write in a clear, simple style without sacrificing comprehensiveness. Above all, remember that you cannot anticipate every detail, so be sure that while your plan provides basic instructions, it also allows for some on-the-spot creativity.

Decide who will be responsible for various activities when responding to an emergency. Who will be the senior decision-maker? Who will interact with fire officials, police, or civil defence authorities? Who will talk to the press? Who will serve as back-up if any of your team members are unable to get to the site? Identify a location for a central command post (if necessary), and space for drying collections. Set up a system for relaying information to members of the salvage team. Because written information is less susceptible to misunderstanding, your communications strategy might include notes to be delivered by "runners." Good communication is essential to avoid confusion and duplication of effort in an emergency. ( Part two of this article will cover identifying resources, setting priorities, and writing the plan in the next issue of Straight Talk.)





**When You Can't Read Just One!**

Have you ever been disappointed when a

story ends and you have to say good-bye to characters you've come to know? Here are some series kids love and can hardly wait to read the next one.

**26 Fairmont Avenue**

by Tomie dePaola  
Age Level: 6-9

The first in a series of autobiographical chapter books about Tomie dePaola's early years, this story focuses on his family's move from their apartment in Meriden, CT to the now famous address, 26 Fairmont Avenue.

**A-Z Mysteries Series**

by Ron Roy  
Age Level: 6-9

Along with his two best friends, Josh and Ruth Rose, Dink Duncan solves mysteries in his hometown of Green Lawn, CT.

**Amber Brown**

by Paula Danzinger  
Age Level: 6-9

Third-grader, Amber Brown, faces ex-best friends, homework, and school pictures with ingenuity and determination.

**Chet Gecko, Private Eye Series**

by Bruce Hale  
Age Level: 6-9

Chet Gecko is a sassy, wise-cracking fourth grade detective. Along with his mockingbird sidekick, Natalie Attired, he solves the mysteries that plague Emerson Hicky Elementary.

**Frog & Toad Series**

by Arnold Lobel  
Age Level: 3-6

Frog and Toad are good friends and have lots of fun together trying to fly a kite, searching for a lost button, eating too many cookies and telling ghost stories.

**Max Board Books**

by Rosemary Wells  
Age Level: 0-3

Max is a determined, three-year-old bunny, while his big sister, Ruby, is a smart, goal oriented seven-year-old.

**Nate the Great Series**

by Marjorie Sharmat  
Age Level: 6-9

Nate the Great has been delighting readers for thirty years. The quirky characters and simple, clever storylines are a big hit with kids.

**Magic Tree House Series**

by Mary Pope Osborne  
Age Level: 6-9

Share adventures with Annie and her brother, Jack, when they accept missions from a magical library in their backyard tree house - and learn a bit about science, history and more on their exciting trips.

**Trixie Belden Series**

by Julie Campbell  
Age Level: 6-9

Trixie and her friend, Honey, find mystery and adventure wherever they go in their Hudson Valley town, Sleepyside.

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### Teen Tech Week

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), the fastest growing division of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce Teen Tech Week, a new YALSA celebration aimed at getting teens to use their libraries for the different technologies that are offered

there, such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, video games and more. Teen Tech Week will be celebrated for the first time March 4-10, 2007.

To kick off Teen Tech Week, YALSA members are encouraged to have their teens submit a logo for the Teen Tech Week logo contest. The winning logo will be used by YALSA in all marketing and promotional materials. Five finalists and one winner will be selected. The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Borders and will be interviewed by YALSA article. The librarian who turns in the winning logo on behalf of the teen will receive \$100 worth of books.

"By developing Teen Tech Week, YALSA demonstrates the important role technology plays in teen life and the need for librarians to integrate the ways teens use technology into their programs and services," said Teen Tech Week Chair Linda Braun.

Teen use of nonprint resources has increased dramatically in recent years, yet more and more teens are doing this from home instead of the library. According to a recent study by Harris Interactive, in 2005, 86% of youth aged 8-18 have a computer in their home, and 74% have Internet access in their home. On average, 8-18 year olds spend 6 hours and 21 minutes per day using media (including TV, video/DVDs/movies, video games, audio media, computers and print media). According to Pew Internet Research, 71% of teens reported that the Internet is their primary source for completing school projects. Yet multiple studies have shown that the majority of teens lack the critical thinking skills and technical expertise to use the Internet and other electronic resources effectively.

"Teens need to know that the library is a trusted resource for accessing information and that librarians are the experts who can help them develop the skills they need to use electronic resources effectively and efficiently," remarked YALSA President Pam Spencer Holley.

Full contest details, including the official entry form, can be found online at [www.ala.org/teentechweek](http://www.ala.org/teentechweek).

### Cute Overload

If you're feeling a bit overwhelmed in today's world and feel the need to just lighten up, check out this site: [cuteoverload.com](http://cuteoverload.com). This site offers nothing more than image after image of cute, cuddly animals. Cute Overload has a large following and has earned a 2006 Webby Award in the People's Voice category. Even the most jaded Web crawler can't resist the sight of butter yellow ducklings mobbing a prone Malamute.



## Check Your Calendar

July 4 - **Fourth of July** holiday. Office closed.

July 10 - **Nebraska Library Leadership Reunion** at Seward Memorial Library starting at 9am.

July 10 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at North Platte High School starting at 9am.

July 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Lied Pierce Public Library at 10am.

July 27 - **Database Roadshow** at Central Community College - Columbus starting at 9am.

August 2 - **Database Roadshow** at Wayne State College starting at 9am.

August 9 - **RGLG** (Really Good Library Group) meeting at Gardner Public Library in Wakefield.

August 8 - **NEBASE Annual Meeting - East** meeting at the Cornhusker Hotel.

Sept. 20 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Albion Public Library at 10am.

Oct. 25-27 - **NLA Annual Conference** at Quest Center, Omaha.



## NEW @ NLS

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

**"Are You Game?"** by Aaron Schmidt, *School Library Journal*, June 2006, pp.52-54

Still uncertain about the steps involved in setting up a teen gaming event? This article reviews the different gaming systems and the types of games played on them.

**"Console Video Games"** by Amy Phillips and Becky Spilver, *School Library Journal*, June 2006, pp. 91-94.

SLJ has added this new column to its regulars and gives detailed reviews of games and an overview of their content rating.

**"An Evening with Joseph Janes"**, Nebraska Library Commission, April 2006. Available in video and dvd.

Joseph Janes, *American Libraries*, Internet Librarian, headlined a Spring Colloquium on April 8 at The Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. He addressed the importance of retaining the friendly, human aspects of the library while installing and utilizing new technologies.

**"Grant Matchmaking"** by Stephanie Gerding, *Public Libraries*, May/June 2006, pp. 35-39.

Stephanie Gerding discusses the types of funding sources, web sites to locate private funders and resources to find grant announcements.

**College Students' Perception of Libraries and Information Resources:** A Report to the OCLC Membership, OCLC, 2005.

College Students' Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources examines the information-seeking habits and preferences of international college students.

## Free FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman Resource Kit

FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman, a new show that premiered on PBS on May 29, focuses on kids ages six to ten. It is modeled on the reality television craze: six teenage contestants on the unscripted show go on challenge assignments to test their determination, daring and intellect. Libraries can request a free FETCH! resource kit to create parallel programming at the library, including an activity guide, challenge sheet pack (available in English and Spanish), and poster; they also can subscribe to an e-mail newsletter filled with news, activity tips, and Web feature pointers. Send an e-mail to: [fetchnews@wgbh.org](mailto:fetchnews@wgbh.org) to order your resource pack.



**Congratulations** to the first Northeast graduates of the LTA Program. Pictured below are: **Rod Wagner**, Nebraska Library Commission, **Deb Robertson**, Northeast Community College Library Resource Center Director, **Lynn Hans**, Norfolk Public Library and **Lori Juhlin**, student. **Peggy Leiting**, Randolph Public Library, has completed the core coursework and plans to finish the program soon. Jed Miller, LTA graduate, and Patrice Lippert, who have completed the core coursework, were unable to attend the reception.

## NORTHEAST NEWS

**Bloomfield Public Library** held its annual book sale June 12 -17. On the last day of the sale, local author and illustrator, Connie Petersen signed her new book.

**Hruska Memorial Public Library** celebrated ten years in its current building on June 28. A meal which included birthday cake was available for purchase while children could enjoy special activities to celebrate the day.

Special congratulations to Judy Hagan, director of the **Atkinson Public Library**. Judy has been selected to attend ALA summer conference in New Orleans!! She will be attending Gates Rural Library Sustainability activities and other

sessions. Two librarians were selected from the state to attend this conference and their travel is funded by the Gates Foundation.

Gary Plank from the Nebraska State Patrol and Lance Webster, Chief of Police, stopped by the **Wayne Public Library** on May 22nd to discuss Serial Killers. The presentation was part of the library's 'One Book, One Nebraska 2006' program.

The "Snake Man", Wayne Simmerman, visited the **Central City Public Library** on June 21 as part of the library's summer reading program. He brought his snake friends with him and talked about snakes, their habits, and habitats.

Gregory M. Franzwa recently visited the **Columbus Public**

**Library** to discuss his book, "Alice's Drive". Mr. Franzwa used slides to tell the story of Alice Ramsey, the first woman to drive an automobile across America.

Congratulations to Nola Briggs, the new **Walthill Public Library** director.

Families are invited to share some time together at the **Neligh Public Library** this summer, as well. The first Monday of every month (June, July and August) is scheduled as Family Reading Night. Family-oriented activities for all ages beginning at 7 p.m.





### Business Plans Sources

Do you have customers starting up new businesses or tips to review their old plan? If so, check out the resources listed below:

#### Business Plan Basics

[www.sba.gov/starting\\_business/planning/basic.html](http://www.sba.gov/starting_business/planning/basic.html)

Follow this outline from the SBA web site for a different style of business plan that emphasizes management.

#### How To Write A Business Plan

[www.sba.gov/library/pubs/mp-32.txt](http://www.sba.gov/library/pubs/mp-32.txt)

The Small Business Administration gives you this comprehensive document on how to write a business plan.

#### SCORE Business Toolbox

[www.score.org/business\\_toolbox.html](http://www.score.org/business_toolbox.html)

SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" is a great source of free and confidential small business advice to help build businesses from idea to start-up success.

#### Bplans

[www.Bplans.com](http://www.Bplans.com)

Bplans.com contains a collection of sixty free sample business plans.

#### Entrepreneur Magazine

[www.entrepreneur.com/bizstartups/](http://www.entrepreneur.com/bizstartups/)

This site is full of ideas and examples of business planning and startups.

### My Own Business

[www.myownbusiness.org](http://www.myownbusiness.org)

This nonprofit offers a free online course that includes a section on business plans. The site has free, downloadable forms and business plan templates.

### Business Startup Model

[www.columbus-chamber.org/bizmodel/index.html](http://www.columbus-chamber.org/bizmodel/index.html)

The Columbus (OH) Chamber of Commerce has created this interactive model that takes an entrepreneur step by step through the startup process.

### Writing a Business Plan

[www.inc.com/guides/write\\_biz\\_plan/](http://www.inc.com/guides/write_biz_plan/)

Inc. Magazine provides two guides to business plans. One is an in-depth look at each section of a plan, the other is a guide to quickly building and improving a business plan.

### Venture Capitalist & Business Planner Look at Business Plans

[www.proplana.com/news.html](http://www.proplana.com/news.html)

The authors discuss what capital sources want to see in a business plan. Cliches are dispelled and suggestions are made for presentation.

(Taken from Business Sense, Fort Collins Public Library, CO.)



### Really Good Library Group Meeting - August 9th

RGLG or the Really Good Library Group is scheduled to meet starting at 10am at the Gardner Public Library in Wakefield. All librarians are welcome to attend.

Items on the agenda include:

Patriot Act Update

Concealed Handguns

Open Meetings Law Update

NLS System Grants...and more

4 CE Hours will be available.



### "Eighteen Flavors"

By Shel Silverstein

Eighteen luscious, scrumptious flavors  
Chocolate, lime and cherry,  
Coffee, pumpkin, fudge banana

Caramel cream and boysenberry.  
Rocky road and toasted almond,  
Butterscotch, vanilla dip,  
Butter brickle, apple ripple,  
Coconut and mocha chip,  
Brandy peach and lemon custard,  
Each scoop lovely, smooth and round,  
Tallest ice cream cone in town,  
Lying there (sniff) on the ground.



### **Why Weed Earthquakes & Volcanoes?**

Earthquakes and volcanoes have been in the news recently with renewed interest due to the devastating tsunami resulting from the Indonesia earthquake in December 2004. Statistically, earthquakes and volcanoes have not increased over the years, but media coverage and public attention has been on the increase.

### **Suggested Dewey Numbers to Check:**

Titles on earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunami activity are shelved near each other: 551.21 (Volcanoes), 551.22 (Earthquakes), and 551.46 (Hydrosphere and Submarine Geology) for waves and tsunamis (moved from earlier classification of 551.47).

### **Specific Criteria for Weeding:**

Major worldwide earthquakes and volcanoes that have been in the news should be included in titles on this topic in your collection. Check the timeline in a book to see the year it "stops." Nationally, Mount St. Helens in Washington State continues to be in the news since its eruption in 1980. Alaska and California contain some of the most seismically active regions in the world. (Florida, Iowa, North Dakota, and Wisconsin are the least seismically active states in the US!)

The scientific knowledge behind these geological events continues to improve and provide more detailed data on the occurrences and the damage. Also, methods used to predict and provide warnings for both earthquakes and volcanoes have improved in recent years. Older titles won't have this information.

### **Consider Weeding Titles Like These:**

- About earthquakes, 1957.
- All about volcanoes and earthquakes, 1953.
- The Bobbsey twins in volcano land, 1961.
- Causes of catastrophe: earthquakes, volcanoes, tidal waves and hurricanes, 1948.
- Chains of fire: the story of volcanoes, 1966.
- A child's book of mountains and volcanoes, 1954.
- The circle of fire: the great chain of volcanoes and earth faults, 1968.
- Earthquakes: a natural history, 1974.
- Earthquakes: a primer, 1978.
- Earthquakes: new scientific ideas about how and why the earth shakes, 1972.
- The first book of volcanoes & earthquakes, 1972.
- The making of the earth: volcanoes and continental drift, 1974.
- Mountains of fire: an introduction to the science of volcanoes, 1962.
- Science book of volcanoes, 1969.
- Volcanoes in action: science and legend, 1962.
- Volcanoes in history, in theory, in eruption, 1962.
- Volcanoes: new and old, 1946.
- We are the earthquake generation: where and when the catastrophes will strike, 1979.
- What happens when volcanoes erupt?, 1945.
- Why the earth quakes, 1969.
- Will California fall into the sea?, 1972.

(Taken from Sunlink Weed of the Month)



## The Law Has Changed

### Open Meetings Law Workshop

In the 2006 legislative session the Open Meetings Law was changed. The Nebraska Association of School Boards is sponsoring a workshop to address these changes and the challenges of meeting OML requirements.

The workshop will be presented by NASB Legal Counsel John Spatz. Mr. Spatz has presented workshops on OML in the past that have been highly attended by public body members. This will be a very interactive workshop where the participants will leave with a new understanding of the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. Along with the interactive discussions, those in attendance will also receive a copy of the "Guidebook to Nebraska's Public Meetings Law."

Registration for public library boards will be paid by the Nebraska Library Commission. In an effort to encourage ALL members of public bodies to attend, the charge per public body is a flat \$90. So, no matter how many board members (and including your library director) you have attending, the registration charge will be the same, and it will cost your library nothing. Of course your library will need to cover the cost of travel to the meeting site.

#### Please fax or mail this form to:

**Nebraska Association of School Boards  
1311 Stockwell, Lincoln, NE 68502  
Phone: (800) 422-4572 or (402) 423-4951  
Fax (402) 423-4961 or Email questions to: [vwinters@nasbonline.org](mailto:vwinters@nasbonline.org)**

#### \_\_\_ **Tuesday, July 25 - 6:30-8:30pm**

Gering  
Gering Civic Center  
1050 M Street

#### \_\_\_ **Wednesday, July 26 - 6:30-8:30pm**

Kearney  
Holiday Inn Convention Center  
110 Second Avenue

#### \_\_\_ **Thursday, July 27 - 6:30-8:30 pm**

Lincoln  
Lincoln North Star High School  
5801 North 33rd Street

#### \_\_\_ **Tuesday, August 1 - 6:30-8:30pm**

Norfolk  
Lifelong Learning Center  
Northeast Community College  
801 East Benjamin Avenue

No cancellations after July 21 for Gering, Kearney and Lincoln; and July 28 for Norfolk. \$20 fee for cancellations.



Issues to be addressed at the workshop include:

- 1) Changes in the OML.
- 2) How to deal with problem constituents in the public meeting setting.
- 3) Closed sessions – when are they allowed?
- 4) When is a public meeting subject to the OML?
- 5) Sub-Committees.

Board/Association \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark which workshop you plan to attend

Please name the members of the board who will attend.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please bill     Check enclosed    (payable to NASB)

Public Body - \$100                  NASB Member Board - \$90          Public Library - bill NLC

For more information regarding this workshop, go to: <http://www.nebr-schoolboards.org>

### Annual Meeting Snaps!



**Marilyn Liedorff**, WSC, past president, and **Lauran Lofgren**, Wayne Public Library, new board president. Thank you Marilyn for a job well done!



**Lucy Cooper**, Hruska Memorial Public Library, accepting a token of appreciation for her years of serving on the board. Thank you Lucy!



**Marilyn Liedorff**, WSC, looks on as **Pam Scott**, Nebraska Library Commission accepts a farewell gift. Thank you Pam for your years of service to the libraries in Northeast Nebraska!

**NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**Board Minutes**  
May 17, 2006

The Northeast Library System Board met on May 17, 2006 at Atkinson Public Library. The meeting was hosted by the director of the library, Judy Hagan and was called to order by President, Marilyn Liedorff.

Board members present were: Ann Bachman, Dee Johnson, Jolene Klein, Marilyn Liedorff, Linda Risinger, Sally Stahlecker, Lauran Lofgren, Sharon Jones, and Vernel Zwingman. Also in attendance: System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton and System Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission, and Judy Hagan and Brenda Livingston from APL. Approved alternates present were Duane Munson and Martha Drayton. Approval of minutes (a misspelling was identified and corrected) from the March meeting (MS: Risinger, Lofgren); motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Financial: As of May 10, 2006 - checking: 10,076.66 and savings: 22,234.59.

Roll call with full approval to accept the financial report.

Commissioner - no report

State Advisory Council – no report

Nebraska Library Commission: Richard Miller reported on the following topics: Reminder that the online WebJunction courses are still available for registration; Webinar on Understanding MARC21 Bibliographic Records is scheduled for June 7 – July 19, 2006; Another Database Road show is scheduled for the state at 8 locations; a new database, Fiction Connection has been added to NebraskaAccess. Scholarships are still provided for various college-related library education courses and/or degrees. For additional information on these topics and others please visit the Nebraska Library Commission's website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Administrator: Kathy Ellerton reported on the following: ESU joint workshops are scheduled for September 27 in Norfolk and November 1 in Bassett or Atkinson. At this time, the cost is projected to be minimal to the system; a follow-up workshop will be held in the spring.

Joint regional system continuing education grants are scheduled as follows: Nancy Bolt is scheduled in mid-November; a workshop tentatively scheduled on November 14 at Tilden, and Karen Hyman is coming in the spring of 2007 to Columbus speak on the topic of "renovating your library".

Kathy attended the Public Library Association Conference in Boston and shared some materials with the board members. She felt it was an excellent conference.

A disaster planning workshop was held in Lincoln this past month. Kathy would like to offer some basic planning sessions in Norfolk and also write a grant that would fund setting up a disaster materials cache.

Kathy attended the Gates Rural Sustainability workshops in Columbus and Wayne; a copy of a county funding survey and library building cost survey are available at the NELS office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

By-law change to Section 5: Meetings will read as:

- a. Time and frequency. Regular meetings of the board shall be held on the third Wednesday of July, September, November, January, March and May and a business meeting of the Board may also be one or a part of the System's annual meeting. The Board shall have a minimum of five meetings a year and shall not go longer than four months without a regularly scheduled board meeting. Motion to accept (MS: Johnson/Lofgren). Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holidays: A revised list of holidays when the NELS office would be closed on was presented and approved by the board. Martin Luther King, Arbor, and Columbus Days were added to the list to match the list the state recognizes as holidays.

Investment policy: The budget committee presented a document that will serve as the Northeast Library System's Investment Policy. A copy of the document can be attained by contacting the system office. Motion to accept the policy (MS: Klein/Zwingman) Unanimous approval by roll call vote.

Salary Increase: The Systems Administrator and Systems Administrative Assistant will receive a 3% raise for the next fiscal year. Motion to approve (MS: Stahlecker/Bachman), Roll call approved by board.

Pat-on-the-back award: Laurie Rehnstrom nominated Diane Urwiler, Carol Erwin, Shirley Keifer, and Diane Wemhoff for superb work as aides at the Laurel-Concord Public School Library and Coleridge Community School Library. Kathy Ellerton nominated Carol Becker for her work on the nominating committee and Pam Scott for her work at the NLC.

Claims of the day: motion to approve (MS: Lofgren/Munson) Roll call vote with unanimous approval.

Next Board meeting is at Wayne State College, Wayne, NE on June 1, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Johnson



**Statistic Lovers Alert!!**

The new Statistical Abstract of the United States has been released, and it is easier to use than previous online versions. In addition to the Print Version tab at the top (links to PDF files) there is a browsable topical index. Putting your cursor over a topic brings up a more detailed topic list of files available in PDF or Excel. Give it a test drive here,

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

## Northeast Library System Annual Meeting

June 1, 2006

Northeast Library System annual meeting was held Thursday, June 1, 2006, on the Wayne State College campus during the yearly Institute. Board president, Marilyn Liedorff called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. Board members present were Ann Bachman, Lauran Lofgren, Laurie Rehnstrom, Linda Risinger, Marilyn Liedorff, Sally Stahlecker, Jolene Klein, and Dee Johnson. Not in attendance, Carol Becker, Gretchen Healy, Sharon Jones, and Vernel Zwingman.

Kathy Ellerton recognized board members that would be leaving the System Board and thanked them for their work and commitment to NLS; Carol Becker, Gretchen Healy, Lucy Cooper, and Vernel Zwingman.

Marilyn Liedorff, WSC, gave a report on the CARDS and Book Reviewers program.

Door prizes and centerpieces were given to members of the system.

The nominating committee reported that next year's officers are Lauran Lofgren, president, Ann Bachman vice-president, and Dee Johnson, secretary.

Claims of the day were approved via roll call vote (MS: Lofgren, Stahlecker).

Passing of the gavel was done by out going president, Marilyn Liedorff to Lauran Lofgren.



### **Camping @ your library**

Sleepovers are fun, but imagine the excitement of having one at your library? The Library of the Chathams in New Jersey has held up to six library sleepovers during the school year and it's a resounding success. Former head of children's services, Mary Kennedy, guessed that the program would create a bond between the library and the children and she was right. Once the Brownie troop arrives, a quick 15-minute fire drill is held and then the fun begins. Scavenger hunts, tours, and a crafts activity keep the children busy until bedtime. Simple rules such as: no one is allowed to roam the library and everyone is restricted to the meeting room keeps the kids organized. Everyone leaves the library by 8:30am the following morning. (Taken from *Camp Library*, *School Library Journal*, May 2006, p.35)

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

**"If I have seen more than others, it is because I am standing on the shoulders of giants."  
~~Sir Isaac Newton**

**Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>**



**Northeast Library System  
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