

# Straighttalk

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

November/December 2011

## Neal Shusterman Visits Nebraska

During the last week of October, the state of Nebraska was lucky enough to host Young Adult author Neal Shusterman. Mr. Shusterman spoke to middle school and high school students in Scottsbluff, Alliance, Lexington, Doniphan-Trumbull, Columbus, Battle Creek, Wayne, South Sioux City, Ralston and Blair.

He engaged students during his visits by letting them ask questions for his entire presentation. While answering their questions, he talked about how he became a published author, the process of writing, and what led him to write certain stories or characters.

His advice for aspiring writers was:

- Write—While this may seem obvious, he said that many people dream of being writers without putting the work in to actually writing.
- Rewrite—Shusterman detailed his extensive writing and revising process in which his sixth draft of a book counts as the first draft he sends off to his publisher.
- Read—Good writers are good readers and he encouraged students to read widely in many genres.
- Persevere—He recounted the story of his first novel which was never published. “But I had to write that first book to be good enough to write the second book,” Shusterman said. “And that second book was never published either. But I had to write that second book to be good enough to write the third book.” That third book was *The Shadow Club* which was published when Shusterman was 22 years old. Shusterman’s been writing ever since and just completed his 40th book.

To find out more about Neal Shusterman, you can visit his website at <http://www.storyman.com/>.

The tour was sponsored by the [Nebraska Library Commission](#) and [Nebraska’s Regional Library Systems](#), funded in part by the [Nebraska Arts Council](#), [Nebraska Humanities Council](#), and [Nebraska Cultural Endowment](#).



### In This Issue

Northeast News .....	2&3
Upcoming Events .....	4
One Book One NE 2012.....	5
Intellectual Freedom.....	6
New Items for Loan.....	7
NLA Award Winners.....	8
Tech Review 2011 .....	9
NELS Board Minutes.....	10

# Northeast News

## Welcome and Congratulations!

- April Stevens is the new library director at the Osceola Public Library. Library director Paula Johnson passed away in August.
- Lloydell Swan retired as director of the Plainview Carnegie Library after many years of service to her community and Donna Christiansen is the new director.
- Crys Bauermeister is the new school librarian for the Pierce Public Schools.
- Caroline Johnson is the new school librarian for Emerson-Hubbard Schools.
- Kathy Lundstrom is the new school librarian for Cross County Schools.
- Staci Sandman is the new library director at the Albion Public Library. Mari Hosford, the library director since 1979, has stepped into the assistant director position. Assistant director Sharon Stephens has retired.
- Teresa Horstmann is the new school librarian for Orchard Public Schools.
- Sara Lee is the new library director at the Central City Public Library. Sara is returning to this position that she also held in the late 1990's.
- Cynthia Stogdill is the new school librarian for Lakeview High School.
- Joyce Kirschner is the new school librarian for Crofton Community Schools.
- Jennifer Alder is the new school librarian for the Stuart Public Schools.

## I've Been Wormed!

### From Mary Anne Schwarten, Emerson Public Library Director

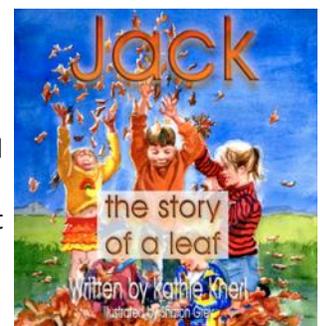
We've had a fun project going on for a month and a half. It is "I've (or We've) Been Wormed" Citizens pay \$5 to get the bookworms put in someone's yard, and then the worm recipients pay \$5 to get them off. Also, if interested, they pay \$5 to insure they never return them. We have received matching Thrivent funds for this project once we met the first \$500 and so it has made Emerson Public Library Friends' Group \$1000. More importantly, it has kept people talking about the library and gotten a few new people in. When we run it again, we will make sure the money is always dropped off at the library. We are getting new shelves in the adult section which are being made by a local cabinet maker. Between fund raising (the Friends also did the Easter egg drawing presented last year in Norfolk and made \$560) and with a few smaller projects and many donations we have \$9000 in our shelf fund. A Gardner grant has been applied for to help us complete the project and a local church endowment fund grant for help with the plaques acknowledging donors.



## Kathie Knerl Author Visit

### From Kathy Muller, Wakefield Public Library Director

On October 18, 2011 Nebraska author Kathie Knerl from Ponca, Nebraska visited Gardner Public Library and primary students at Wakefield Elementary School to read her book *Jack, The Story of a Leaf*. The book was enjoyed by all the students as it told the story of the patience a leaf must have as it waits to change color before it will fall. The mother robin in the tree tells the leaf that all leaves must not be perfect, but whatever you are, you must try to be the best that you can be. This book and author visit would be good for any fall visit to the library.



## International Observe the Moon Night

**From Nicole Snyder, high school science teacher for Wynot and Newcastle School Districts**

I planned the Moon Viewing Night to be on October 8th, but due to an overcast evening, the moon could not be seen. October 14th was a home football game between the two school communities that I teach with, so my students and their parents would be attending. I had planned on viewing the moon around 8 or 8:30, but the moon had not come up over the horizon yet. I decided to focus in on the brightest star in the sky, which just happened to be Jupiter! When I looked through the binoculars, you could see the star and four moons around it. So, the students and community members got to look at Jupiter until the moon finally rose high enough into the sky to see. It was yellowish-orange in color (Harvest Moon) so the students were very, very excited. Ages of students ranged from pre-K to 12th graders. I had parents and grandparents coming to look because they didn't believe their children when they told them they got to see a planet and it's moons. Also, I received a donation from the local bank, Cedar Security Bank of Wynot, NE, of \$35 to purchase Moon Pies for the students and community members to enjoy as they looked at the moon. I lost count at 100 people that joined me for a glance at the moon and Jupiter. It was very successful and had parents, students and community members ask me if I would do it again in the spring.



*The Atkinson Public Library also reported doing Observe the Moon Night at their library. It was a tremendous success there as well! To find out more about this program and how you can apply for a grant to do this at your school or library next year, visit <http://observethemoonnight.org/>.*

## BTOP Open Houses

44 public libraries in northeast Nebraska are part of the BTOP (or Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities) grant. Several of these libraries have received all their furniture and equipment. The following libraries have had Open Houses to welcome the community into their new computing centers and to highlight the services the public can access through the library.

Elgin Public Library— August 31st  
Neligh Public Library—September 19th  
Wayne Public Library—October 14th  
Hruska Memorial Library, David City—October 20th  
Bloomfield Public Library—October 22nd



To find out more about this grant program, visit <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/lbbnc/>.



This summer the Oakdale Public Library made an igloo from milk jugs. Director Judy Hershberger said you could fit 6 kids in there at the same time and they absolutely loved it.

## Pat on the Back Awards

Awards were given to **Crystal Nyman** and **Emily Rood**, both interns at the Meadow Grove Public Library, for being instrumental to the success of the summer reading program.



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

*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](mailto: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>**

**November 4—David Biedrzycki—La Vista Public Library**

David Biedrzycki, Children's Book Author & Illustrator, is presenting at a Read Aloud Nebraska workshop at LaVista Public Library. Biedrzycki will stress the importance of reading aloud during the writing process, share tools for teaching creative writing and demonstrate his digital illustration technique.

Time: 9:00—3:00

Cost: \$25      CE Credits: 4

More details and registration info at: [www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)

**November 10—E-Rate Training—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk**

Christa Burns, State E-rate Coordinator, will cover the basics of E-rate and any changes that have been made to the program this year. There will also be hands-on time, when you can get assistance completing your E-rate forms.

Time: 9:00—12:00

Cost: Free      CE Credits: 3

Registration: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=10898>

**November 16—NELS Board Meeting—Laurel Community Learning Center**

Time: 10:00—12:00

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or [jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com)

**December 6 & 8—Technology Review 2011—Columbus Public Library and Lied Randolph Public Library**

Join us for an overview of library-related technology in the news during 2011 and awesome websites you may not know about. We'll also have 5 eReaders available for participants to try out. Participants will be invited to share their own favorite tech tools too!

Cost: Free      CE Credits: 3

More details and registration information on page 9.

**January 18—NELS Board Meeting—Online Meeting**

If you'd like to join us for this online meeting via GoToWebinar software, contact the NELS Office.

Time: 11:00—12:30

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or [jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com)

**January 13 - TARGET Meeting—Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library**

Let us know if there are topics you'd like to cover!

Time: 9:00—12:00

Cost: Free      CE Credits: 3

Contact: Jessica Chamberlain, 800-578-1014 or [jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com)

**February 16 - Winter Workshop—Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk**

*Save the Date! More details will be coming soon.*

The NELS Office will be closed on the following days:

November 24 & 25—Thanksgiving Holiday

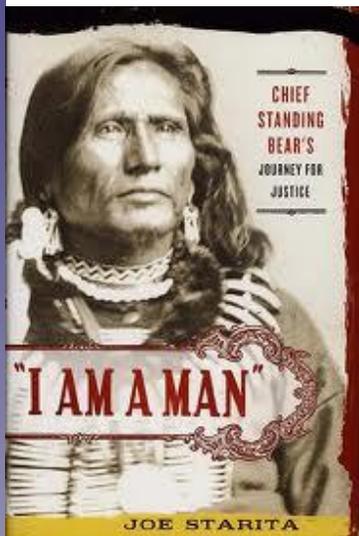
December 26—Christmas Holiday

January 2—New Year's Day Holiday



## 2012 One Book One Nebraska

*"I Am a Man": Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice*, by Joe Starita is Nebraska's reading choice for the **2012 One Book One Nebraska** statewide reading program.



*In 1877, Chief Standing Bear's Ponca Indian tribe was forcibly removed from their Nebraska homeland and marched to what was then known as Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), in what became the tribe's own Trail of Tears. "I Am a Man" chronicles what happened when Standing Bear set off on a six-hundred-mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial ground. Along the way, it examines the complex relationship between the United States government and the small, peaceful tribe and the legal consequences of land swaps and broken treaties, while never losing sight of the heartbreaking journey the Ponca endured. It is a story of survival---of a people left for dead who arose from the ashes of injustice, disease, neglect, starvation, humiliation, and termination. On another level, it is a story of life and death, despair and fortitude, freedom and patriotism. A story of Christian kindness and bureaucratic evil. And it is a story of hope---of a people still among us today, painstakingly preserving a cultural identity that had sustained them for centuries before their encounter with Lewis and Clark in the fall of 1804.*

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, is now in its eighth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected the finalists from a list of forty-eight titles nominated by Nebraskans. After receiving nominations from across the state, the Nebraska Center for the Book board announced the choice for the 2012 One Book One Nebraska at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 22 in Lincoln.

Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2012 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>. One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, and Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information, contact Mary Jo Ryan, [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov), [402-471-3434](tel:402-471-3434) or [800-307-2665](tel:800-307-2665), [www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov) or <http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>.

### We have Flipped!

We are happy to announce that through TechSoup's donation program, the Northeast Library System recently received 6 Flip minoHD video cameras. These fun and easy-to-use video cameras can record up to 1 hour of video.

You could use these to:

- Record a tour of your library to post on your website
  - Record video book reviews
  - Make book trailers with your teens
- Have a video scavenger hunt—the possibilities go on and on!



Let us know if you'd like to reserve one, or the whole set, to use at your library. To find out more about TechSoup's donation program, visit [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org).

# Intellectual Freedom Refresher

By Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator

Figured it's time for a "wee" refresher on the topic of CIPA, filters, and intellectual freedom. And, I know I'm hearing groaning from the audience—but this is an important topic, and I hope you'll do me (and yourselves) the favor of at least reading and even better considering, and asking questions if you have them. Intellectual Freedom is a foundational principle for librarianship. I'm getting the feeling that we familiarize ourselves with other legalities to a much better extent than we do for a principle highlighted in the Library Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics, let alone in the United States constitution. I'm also getting the feeling that we may be approaching the point where we are letting laws like the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) become our justification for censoring those things that make us uncomfortable, or those areas that might get us into those gut-wrenching conversations on ethics. On the other hand, I realize it's a complicated issue and we are not attorneys, we're librarians. I'll give you an out that perhaps we've just misinterpreted our role. So, keep reading—here's what I know:



The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires libraries to filter the internet, IF they receive federal funds for internet access—which would include grants and e-rate discounts. In order for libraries to comply with CIPA without infringing on 1st Amendment protected internet material, it is suggested that:

- Choose the lowest default level of filtering possible, to minimize the amount of protected speech that will be blocked. The internet is NOT like public broadcasting. It has the same level of constitutionally protected speech as books and periodicals. One more time, **the internet has the same level of constitutionally protected speech as books and periodicals.** So, you can't discriminate based on the content of speech or expression. Limitations may be placed on time, place, or manner of access to library resources but they must be viewpoint neutral. You can't refuse to provide access based solely on the viewpoint expressed. Now, having said that, there are areas of speech that receive no protection or limited protection: Commercial speech, Obscenity, Fighting Words, Child Pornography, Defamation and Troop Location at a time of war. Note—just because something is sexually explicit does not mean it's obscene—that's a decision made by the courts and the work must be considered as a whole.
- Develop a procedure for disabling the filter for an adult that does not create an unreasonable burden. **An adult customer does not have to provide a reason for a request to disable the filter.** An adult does not have to run the site they want to go to by your librarian radar first—they just need to ask. And, we already know that this is a step that for many will never happen, as it's an extra barrier to get to what they want - and they won't ask.
- Develop a procedure by which a customer—adult or minor (under the age of 17) - may request that an inappropriately blocked site be unblocked. Now, here's the out for those under 17 in getting to "legit" sites for research, homework, or whatever with CIPA. In this case they again ask the librarian for help getting to a site that's been blocked, and they will provide information on what the site is. Now, again, for many in this circumstance we know they just won't ask, instead they'll be frustrated that they can't get to the resource they want to get to.
- **Notify customers of their right to request disabling or unblocking.** Libraries are encouraged to let customers know if computers are filtered and that they can request that the filter be disabled. This might be explained in the internet policy or use agreement, or perhaps posted by the computer stations, lab, or on the library website—whatever. **Note: There is nothing in the law that prohibits offering voluntary choices of greater filtering level to library customers.**

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

Many libraries make the choice not to participate in programs like E-Rate for discounts on the cost of internet service just so they are not put into the dilemma of protected speech and CIPA. Those are libraries that have decided they cannot justify discounts to the cost of internet with the price of limiting access, or providing a barrier to access, for library customers and staff. (I've included staff, since with CIPA all computers in the library, including staff or non-public computers, are to be filtered if you receive federal funds or discounts for internet services.)

The American Library Association has information on their website (<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advleg/federallegislation/cipa/cipafags.cfm>) that I've used frequently as a resource for information on this issue. Perhaps a worthy activity for library staff, boards and friends this month is to review the Freedom to Read Statement which you can find online [at http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/firstatement/freedomreadstatement.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/firstatement/freedomreadstatement.cfm). ♦

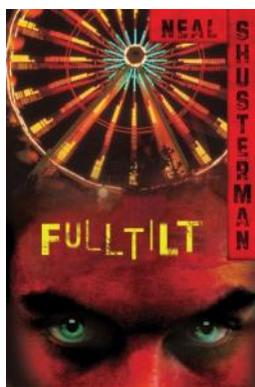
## New Items Available for Loan!

The Northeast Library System has recently added the following items that are available for loan. If you'd like to reserve any of the following items, just let us know!



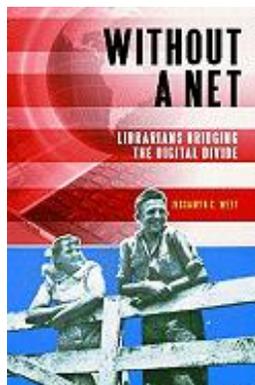
### 15 Copies of *The Schwa Was Here* by Neal Shusterman

Book Description: They say his clothes blend into the background, no matter where he stands. They say a lot of things about the Schwa, but one thing's for sure: no one ever noticed him. Except me. My name is Antsy Bonano-and I was the one who realized the Schwa was "functionally invisible" and used him to make some big bucks. But I was also the one who caused him more grief than a friend should. So if you all just shut up and listen, I'll tell you everything there is to know about the Schwa, from how he got his name, to what really happened with his mom. I'll spill everything. Unless, of course, "the Schwa Effect" wipes him out of my brain before I'm done . . . .



### 15 Copies of *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman

Book Description: Sixteen-year-old Blake has always been the responsible one in his dysfunctional family -- the one who drives safely, gets good grades, and looks after his wild younger brother, Quinn. Quinn is his brother's opposite -- a thrill-seeker who's always chasing the next scary rush, no matter what the cost. But Quinn and Blake are in for the surprise of their lives when they're thrust into the world of a bizarre phantom carnival -- and their souls are the price of admission.



### *Without a Net: Librarians Bridging the Digital Divide* by Jessamyn C. West

Book Description: Jessamyn C. West's experience as a librarian, deeply immersed in technology culture yet living in rural America, makes her uniquely qualified to write this book. Taking a big-picture approach to the subject, she demystifies and simplifies tech training for the busy librarian, providing an easy-to-use handbook full of techniques that can be used with many different library populations. As an added bonus, she also examines the players in the library technology arena to offer first-hand reports on what works, what doesn't, and what's next.

# NLA Award Winners 2011

Each year, the Nebraska Library Association and its Sections give out awards to deserving librarians, library trustees and library advocates from the state. Here is this year's fabulous list of winners:

## Meritorious Service Award

Floyd Smith III

## Mari Sandoz Award

E. Jane Graff

## Presidential Awards of Excellence

Scott Childers

Michael Straatmann

Legislative Committee: Robin Clark (chair), Nancy Larimer, Mary Reiman, Bev Russell, Kathy Tooker, Rod Wagner, Ken Winston, Michael Straatmann, Denise Lawyer, Brenda Ealey, Gayle Roberts

## College & University Section Distinguished Service Award

Joyce Neujar

## Paraprofessional Section Paraprofessional of the Year

Nancy Meyer

## Public Library & Trustee Section Excalibur Award

Bev Russell

## Public Library & Trustee Section Advocacy Award

Wilma Eaton

## School, Children's & Young People's Section Mad Hatter Award

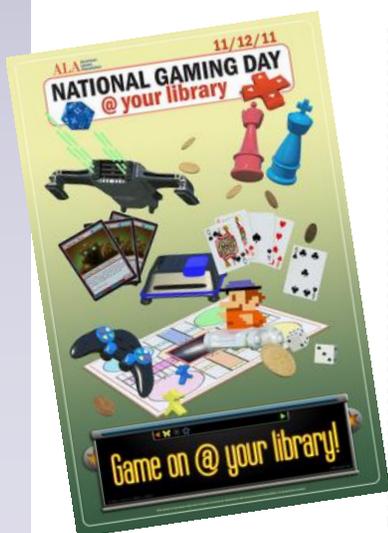
Sally Snyder

## Special & Institutional Sectional Promotional Award

Denise Morton

## Special & Institutional Section Distinguished Service Award

Laura Thompson



More than one thousand libraries across the country are preparing to celebrate the American Library Association's fourth annual **National Gaming Day @ your library** on Saturday, November 12, 2011.

We invite libraries of all types to join in the celebration! You can take advantage of some great free publicity tools at <http://ngd.ala.org/>.

Be sure to [register for the event](#) in order to request a donation and be included on [the national map](#)!

Northeast Library System  
presents

# Technology Review 2011



Join us for an overview of library-related technology in the news during 2011 and awesome websites you may not know about. We'll also have 5 eReaders available for participants to try out. Participants will be invited to share their own favorite tech tools too!

December 6th  
Columbus Public Library  
1:00—4:00  
Cost: Free  
CE Credits: 3

and

December 8th  
Lied Randolph Public Library  
9:00—12:00  
Cost: Free  
CE Credits: 3

[Click here to register!](#)

## **Northeast Library System Board Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011**

The annual meeting of the Northeast Library System Board was held with the general membership during the joint workshop of the Northeast Library System and NNNC on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk.

The meeting was called to order by President Kate Ostenrude. Board members present were Judy Hagan, Michele Hastreiter, Tami Anderson, Melissa Baumert, Dawnn Tucker, Jolene Klein, Beth Foulks, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, and Kate Ostenrude. Kathy Ageton moved to approve Dee Johnson as the alternate for Susan Tyndall. (Ageton 1M /Sullivan 2M) All aye. Library System Director Jessica Chamberlain, and Shelia Cermak, Administrative Assistant, were also present. Absent was Susan Tyndall.

The location of the Open Meetings Act was given. Dee Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. (Johnson – 1M/ Ageton -2M) All ayes. Jessica Chamberlain presented the correspondence and the System Director's report.

Sally Stahlecker reported for the Continuing Education Committee the winners of the NLA /NEMA Scholarships and the Biblionix Stipend Award. The scholarship winners were Connie Bellintier of Clearwater, Donna Christiansen of Plainview, and Cally O'Brien of Schuyler. The Biblionex stipend was awarded to Cindy Simeon of Tilden. Each winner received \$150.

Michelle Hastreiter reported for the Nominating Committee the results of the board member elections. Judy Hilkemann of the Norfolk Public Library will replace Sally Stahlecker for libraries of population over 10,000. Audrey Loosvelt of the Madison Public School will replace Jolene Klein for representing school library media centers. Board officers were also elected. Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library, will be president; Kathy Ageton, Lutheran High Northeast, will be vice-president; and Michele Hastreiter of the Humphrey Public Library will be secretary.

There was no unfinished business.

In new business, current board members were introduced. Also recognized were retiring board members Sally Stahlecker, Norfolk Public Library, and Jolene Klein, Wakefield Community School. Marilyn Quance of Wayne State College recognized book reviewers. Sally Stahlecker moved to accept the Pat-on-the-Back Award nominations for Crystal Nyman and Emily Rood, both interns at the Meadow Grove Public Library, for providing valuable services and being instrumental to the success of the summer reading program. (Stahlecker – 1M / Foulks – 2M) All aye.

Michelle Hastreiter moved to accept the Claims of the Day. (Hastreiter – 1M /Tobias – 2M) Roll call vote – all aye. Joyce Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting. (Sullivan – 1M / Osterude – 2M). All aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene Klein,  
Secretary

## Northeast Library System

3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13  
Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: 800-578-1014

Phone/Fax: 402-564-1586

Email: Jessica Chamberlain [jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com)

Shelia Cermak [nelibrarysystem@gmail.com](mailto:nelibrarysystem@gmail.com)

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



"Kids are living stories every day that we wouldn't let them read."  
~Josh Westbrook

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

ISSN 1064-9816  
©2011

### Our NELS Board Members

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