

## Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

GotoMeeting

Friday, July 19, 2019 10:00 AM – 11:05 AM

### MINUTES

State Advisory Council members joining via GoToMeeting: Sky Seery (Chair), Scott Childers, Susan Franklin, David Graber, Pat Gross, Joy Harvey, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Courtney Pentland, Julie Pinnell, Charlene Rasmussen, Allison Reisig, and Matthew Williams. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, and Linda Babcock.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Sky Seery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Charlene Rasmussen and seconded by Julie Pinnell to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2019 Meeting: Pat Gross requested a correction to the March 12, 2019, meeting minutes. On page 1 under Nebraska Library Association, the second sentence was changed to "She is working on speakers for the 2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference." The correction was noted. A motion was made by Pat Gross and seconded by Allison Reisig to approve the March 12, 2019, minutes. Motion approved.

#### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

#### **Reports / Discussion**

##### Nebraska Library Commission

##### **Rod Wagner**

Wagner reported that funding for the Library Commission's 2019-2021 state biennium budget 2019-2021 is stable with some state funds increases. The state budget includes a state funds increase to cover expected licensing fees for NebraskaAccess subscriptions. There are additional funds for the Nebraska eReads program that supplements ebook and audiobook purchases allocated to the Nebraska OverDrive consortium libraries (174), and the Lincoln, Omaha, and Ralston libraries that are not part of the consortium. The state budget also includes a small increase in state funding for the regional library systems.

Due to state budget cuts during the past few years, the Library Commission's state funding fell below the required state maintenance of effort level for federal LSTA funds. LSTA funds reductions are proportional to the percentage drop in state funding. Based on the current fiscal year grant amount, Nebraska's reduction would be approximately \$65,000. The Library Commission requested a waiver on the basis that state budget reductions were based on the state's economy, the decline in state tax revenues, and that the Library Commission's budget reduction was proportional to other state agencies. IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) will consider those factors in determining whether to approve a waiver. Wagner reported that waivers are difficult to receive but he believes the Commission has a good basis for a waiver.

For the 2020 federal fiscal year, Wagner said that the House passed appropriations legislation that includes a \$17 million increase in funding for the LSTA (Library Service and Technology Act) Grants to States program. This amount would increase the base grant amount for each state from \$680,000

to \$1 million. Funding for the Grants to States program includes a base amount and a state population allocation. With Nebraska being among the smaller populated states, the increase in the base amount would be significant.

Wagner said that the Senate has not acted on appropriations for the coming federal fiscal year. A good outcome for the federal library program would be the Senate approving funding that matches the House appropriations bill.

Looking ahead to the longer term, the strategy will be to increase funding for LSTA, including an increase in funding for the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian program, National Leadership Grants, and more. The goal is to increase the Grants to States program to funding of \$1 per capita. That would double the current amount of funding for states. If there is an increase in the LSTA Grants to States program funding, it is expected that it would allow funding for the Library Commission's Library Improvement Grants. The Library Commission has not awarded Library improvement Grants since 2017.

Wagner said that it is the third and final year of the three-year Library Innovation Studios (LIS) project (National Leadership Grant). The goal was to include 30 rural public libraries. The project will finish with 31. The LIS project will have an exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair on August 25 to display and demonstrate the makerspace equipment. Project team members, volunteers from project libraries, and Commission staff will operate the exhibit. Hundreds of people came to the exhibit last year to see examples of makerspaces creations. IMLS invited the Library Commission to apply for a one-year extension of the project with additional funding. If the Commission applies for the extension, some additional libraries would be recruited and there could be funds for a major event at the conclusion of the project.

The Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force was formed to “review issues relating to availability, adoption, and affordability of broadband services in rural areas of Nebraska” by LB994. The task force was authorized by legislation enacted by the state legislature and signed by the governor on April 17, 2018. The Homework Gap/Leveraging Funding Subcommittee was recently formed by the task force to identify strategies to address the homework gap and to make recommendations on leveraging universal service and other funding especially for schools and libraries. The task force will present its report to the governor and legislature by the due November 1, 2019 due date.

### **Christa Porter**

#### *Library Accreditation 2019*

Christa reported that the 2019 public library accreditation process opened July 1. She sent emails to 65 libraries up for reaccreditation. She also sent invites to all other libraries not accredited and that submitted the Public Library Survey and a supplement survey. Library System Directors were sent a list of the libraries invited so they could be included in the process. Six new libraries were accredited last year, 2018.

Christa said that two libraries have already submitted their accreditation applications, and they have been approved. John Rogers Memorial Library (Dodge) was approved at the Silver Level and Atkinson Public Library was approved at the Gold Level.

#### *E-rate*

Christa said that E-rate funding was announced in Wave 13. As of today, 53 public libraries have been funded for a total of \$180,734 in discounts. There are 13 Nebraska library applications pending. A list on the Commission's website (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/e->

[rate2019fundingrecipients.aspx](#)) includes all the Nebraska libraries that have received E-rate funds. Christa updates the list regularly.

Christa also reported that statistics have been gathered on how E-rate is related to broadband. If the state approves funding from the task force's recommendations, libraries will be encouraged to utilize E-rate funding. The plan is to specifically improve internal connections, implement fiber connections to libraries, and provide faster speeds.

#### *Library Commission Grants*

The Library Commission's Library Development staff manages four grants: Library Improvement Grants, Youth Grants for Excellence, Continuing Education Grants, and Internship Grants. Due to lack of funding, some grants are not awarded every year. All four grants are being offered this year, and applications are due this fall. Christa hopes to offer all four grants again next year. The Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference will be held in Kansas next year, and it will be recommended that the Continuing Education grant will be specifically offered for attending that conference.

#### Nebraska Library Association – Rebecca McCorkindale

Rebecca was not present to report today. Scott Childers offered to report. August will be a busy month for NLA. A small group was formed to propose by-law changes, and two virtual meetings are set for August 7 and August 13 to present and discuss proposed changes. NLA members may vote electronically on the proposed changes August 19 through August 30. NLA officer elections will also be held the last week of August.

#### Nebraska School Librarians Association – Courtney Pentland

Courtney encouraged everyone to attend the Golden Sower event the evening before the ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference. Neil Shusterman and all three Golden Sower winners will present at that event. Anyone attending needs to register for this preconference event. The Fall Spectacular will be offered on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Papillion-La Vista South High School for librarians who work during the week and cannot attend the regular scheduled conference.

Courtney also reported that July 20 is the first NSLA PJ PD online event. It is a drop-in session for discussion about specific professional journal articles. Anyone who has read the articles may join in the discussion.

Sky Seery thanked Courtney for her service as the NSLA Liaison to SACL, and welcomed Joy Harvey, the new NSLA Liaison.

### **Council Round Table – Success and Challenges**

**Allison Reisig** – Allison reported that renovation of WNCC (Western Nebraska Community College) at Scottsbluff is continuing. The theater is completed, and the library is scheduled to move the first week of September.

**Charlene Rasmussen** — Charlene reported that Wayne Public Library is busy and successful with family activities, bringing a new audience of patrons to the library.

**Courtney Pentland** – Courtney reported that the school year is rapidly approaching, and many of the school librarians have been attending various trainings across the state during the summer.

**David Graber** — Dave reported that he is very pleased to have newly hired Hayley Zamzow, Librarian Technician, on the Conn Library staff at Wayne State College. Technology challenges seem to be a daily issue the last couple of weeks. The library has been updating software and services in preparation for the new school year.

**Gail Irwin**— Gail reported that she has been short-handed all summer, and finds it hard to fill a part-time position in a small rural town. It has been stressful with the summer reading program, but she is thankful for the library's volunteers. Middle school and high school students have been active in the library's STEM and STEAM events. A recent Build an Alien Workshop was well attended with 50 aliens to stuff.

**Joann Jackson** — Jo reported that her daughter enjoys attending a book club at York's Kilgore Memorial Library. Jo recently visited Centennial Hill Farm, referenced in Ted Genoways' book, *This Blessed Earth*, (2019 One Book One Nebraska selection). Jo found it interesting to see the barn that was built to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline.

**Joy Harvey** — Joy said she is looking forward to her new role as an NSLA board member and working with SACL as NSLA Liaison.

**Julie Pinnell** — Julie reported that Billie Cotterman, Head of Digital Resources and Access Services, has been hired at the Cochrane-Woods Library. She will start August 1.

**Lori Long** — Lori reported that at end of last school year, eighteen new teachers and administrators were hired in the school district. She is excited to work with them and to promote her programs.

**Matthew Williams** — Matthew reported that the library's Pride Display in June was a resounding success and a challenge. Due to the heavy rains in the Kearney area, the library had water in the basement. There was no damage to computer equipment or the server room housed in the basement. Clayton Anderson's presentation at the library for the summer reading program was very successful.

**Pat Gross** — Pat, a retired school librarian, volunteers for the summer reading program at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Pat said that over 2,200 children participated in the library's summer reading program this year.

Pat wishes Noelle Thompson the best of luck in her new position as director of Galesburg Public Library in Illinois. Erin Ashenbrenner has been hired as the new Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Director.

A big challenge for the Western Library System is replacing Jan Jolliffe. Kathy Terrell has agreed to serve as WLS Interim Director. Ben Mikaelson, children's book author, will visit five school districts in western Nebraska this fall. He will travel throughout the region in mid-October.

**Scott Childers** — Scott reported that three libraries in the Southeast Library System region, that have never been accredited, are working toward accreditation. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Services Retreat will be held July 29-30, 2019 at Camp Joy Holling near Ashland. Scott is pleased that the retreat offered for youth librarians has continued so long.

**Sky Seery** — Sky reported that a success is the renovation progress at Mid-Plains Community College libraries in North Platte and McCook. They are moving to a learning commons model, merging with student success centers.

The Pride Display at North Platte Public Library has been a challenge within the North Platte community. They are planning the display for next year.

**Susan Franklin** — Susan reported that Hastings College Perkins Library has started a large weeding project with help from Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System Director.

When the academic year resumes, block scheduling will replace semester scheduling. All students and staff will have iPads and iPens. eBooks will be provided when necessary so students will not have textbook charges. These changes will bring about challenges for the library staff.

### **New Business**

Rod Wagner encouraged council members to consider topics or presentations they would like included for the November 2019 meeting, scheduled to meet in Lincoln.

### Recommendations and Resolutions

There were no recommendations or resolutions brought before the Council.

### Upcoming Meetings

The next advisory council meeting will be November 15, 2019 in Lincoln.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.