

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Lincoln, Nebraska
November 16, 2012

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Frank Zimmerman, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Sherry Houston, Steve Fosselman, Betty Meyer, Denise Harders, Ellen Weed, Ceri Daniels, Robin Bernstein, Francine Canfield, Christine Walsh, Deb Carlson, Vickie Retzlaff, Pat Leach.
Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Mary Jo Ryan.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Pat Leach opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of those present.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made by Frank Zimmerman and seconded by Ceri Daniels to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: (March 9, 2012): Rod commented that there were some grammatical or typographical errors we will take care of. A motion was made by Betty Meyer and seconded by Steve Fosselman to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Reports/Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner stated that the “One Book, One Nebraska” title has been chosen, *O Pioneers!* was chosen for 2013 celebrating the 100th year anniversary of its publication. The Cather Foundation is very excited about the opportunity to work with the libraries, the Library Commission, the Center for the Book and the Humanities Council and doing some programming. We have many requests for the book club kits for *O Pioneers!* that go well into June with the current number of titles we have. There is a second “Big Talk from Small Libraries” online conference planned, and it will be held on February 28, 2013 cosponsored by the Association of Small and Rural Libraries (ASRL). That event last year attracted international participation with several hundred people participating.

Sherry Houston commented on the ASRL having its annual conference on September 28, 2013 in downtown Omaha at the Double Tree Inn.

Rod commented that the Nebraska Library Commission has paid for memberships for all Nebraska public libraries to be part of United for Libraries, previously called Friends of Libraries USA, and Association of Libraries, Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. This membership continues into 2013. This membership results in free access to the Trustee Academy courses, and in the future, reduced charges for courses on baby boomers as library volunteers. (The first one is “Meet Today’s New Volunteers”; the second is “Friends and Baby Boomers, Getting New Active Members for Your Group”; and the third is “Library Volunteers: Bringing In Skilled and Committed Baby Boomers”.) There was some discussion on Friends groups, foundations and volunteers with libraries.

Richard Miller commented on the new public library accreditation guidelines project. We have worked with some very fine librarians including Francine Canfield and Pat Leach. The staff people are John Felton, Laura Johnson and Richard. Here are some of the changes that are occurring - there will be minimum qualifications that a library needs to meet before applying for accreditation. We will be doing a series of workshops on planning, since that is very important for these updated guidelines. There was some discussion on this.

Mary Jo commented on the *Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant* project now in its third year. We have secured a one-year extension for the grant. We have found that even though we had a lot of success with our scholarships, stipends and internships, the money isn't being spent quite as fast as we thought it would. It takes a little time to spend even though we are awarding it as fast as we can. We need that extra year; unfortunately there is no extra money, but we do need the time. Ryan handed out a two-year report, basically two full fiscal years, and she will produce an addendum to it.

We have received 99 scholarship applications; we awarded 95, for a total of \$245,000 which is almost half of our scholarship support money. Stipends were also awarded to 63 of those for a total of \$41,768; the stipends are for students to acquire laptops, join a professional association and travel to a professional association's regional or national meeting. We also hosted some face-to-face training, one of which was the E-book & E-reader workshop identified as a need by students. We also held the Tech Rodeo, deemed a success with half of the participants librarians and half students, all of whom had an experiential scenario-learning experience. Seventy-three of the library science students have attended conferences. They are very involved in online social networking. They have a Facebook page called *Nebraska Librarians Learning Together* which started out with just students but which now includes librarians who have joined in.

Regarding internships, we have grants to public libraries to hire interns. Many of them in the summer are asked to do projects, and they get very good orientations to public library work. We have awarded 45 internships totaling nearly \$50,000. Currently we are providing only undergraduate scholarships since we have no money left for graduate scholarships. On November 1st we received 15 applications, and we awarded all of them; five of them were new students, and 10 of them were continuing students.

Nebraska Library Association Update – Christine Walsh handed out a report, and she did a quick rundown of the information. First was revision of the NLA dues structure. The goals were to reduce the number of membership levels; we wanted to encourage membership by lowering dues for the majority of library workers and give them opportunities to participate with NLA. We also wanted to maintain the discount rate for persons wishing to join both NLA and NSLA. We presented that proposal at the annual meeting, and it was passed by the membership. First-time members get a half-price membership for the first year. Christine also gave a conference report from Michael Straatmann, NLA Executive director. Tri-Conference was held October 17-19, 2012 in LaVista with 810 registrations and 103 sessions offered. Dr. Tom Osborne was a keynote speaker, and he introduced Sally Ganam the First Lady of Nebraska. 159 people attended the pre-conferences-- two sessions at the Ford Conservation Center, Read Aloud Nebraska and the Embedded School Librarians.

NLA is trying to do more live streaming with the E-conference opportunity, something we will continue to work on. Electronic poster sessions seem to be popular, making it easier to walk up

to the screens and watch what one wanted without having to have six tables of poster board displayed. The dates for the next conference in 2013 will be October 8-11 in Kearney. Christine went through the election results noting that the new board members start their duties next week in Papillion with their first meeting.

Lindsey Tomsu was hired as the editor of *Nebraska Libraries* which is our new electronic publication. NLA is in the process of migrating the website to a Word Press installation to make it more flexible and responsive; also hiring a new webmaster. The Intellectual Freedom Committee is now a roundtable, and that was at their request because it was so difficult to fill committees and get all of the officers.

Nebraska Educational Media Association Update – Betty Myer reported that she received an email that the organization has its EIN number and is now officially recognized by the government with its new name change to the Nebraska School Librarians Association. At the annual meeting they went through guidelines and bylaws, updating liaison positions, eliminating some and combining others. NSLA has 376 active members and has been working on its strategic plan for 2013. The plan will be on advocacy and support of school librarians, what we can do for schools and school librarians in the state, and also how we can enhance professional development and offer more for school librarians. NSLA had some people retire from the board and gave recognition awards – to Sara Churchill for her work as webmaster, and to Gloria Christianson of ESU #8 (the Sound Off for Media Award). NSLA is continuing to work on finding creative ways to fund scholarships because of organizational money concerns. These monetary concerns have also led to virtual meetings rather than face-to-face meetings because officers are located in so many areas around the state. NSLA is working on a new website.

2013 Library Legislation, Programs, Policies and Issues Outlook – Rod Wagner reported on several federal issues. He mentioned the “fiscal cliff” that is looming if something isn’t done at the Congressional and Presidential level very soon. If that comes about, automatic budget cuts are put into place that would result for many federal programs being cut 8.2% across the board. The budget reduction for Nebraska’s library program under LSTA would result in an estimated \$130,000 loss. This would be in addition to about \$140,000 lost in the last couple of years with budget cuts. However, if a budget tax compromise is put into place, likely there will still be some level of cut which may be less than 8.2%. The projected best outcome for our program would be for funding to continue at last fiscal year’s rate. We are now into the new federal fiscal year without a budget for the full year, and we don’t know what our federal funding is going to be for the full year.

We have some new state Senators, and some who have completed terms, so when the Legislature convenes in January one of the things it will do is elect a new Speaker. Senator Flood is completing his second term and is now started a campaign to run for Governor [Note: Senator Flood recently withdrew from that race due to family health issues.] The Legislature will reorganize, and there will be new committee chairs. One important one to us is that Senator Heidemann, formerly chair of the Appropriations Committee is moving on to the Board of Regents as he leaves the Unicameral. Senator Harms from the Scottsbluff area has been the vice-chair of Appropriations but isn’t interested in serving as chair. One Senator on that committee is Tom Hansen from North Platte. He has expressed interest in chairing the committee and is a very good library supporter. Our state economy has progressed well; tax revenues have either been right at or above projections for a number of months now, so the rainy day fund has grown

to a healthier level. The Governor's approach has been that he likes to see the state general fund increase from year-to-year be under 3% overall.

Advocacy for Libraries and Library Services - Strategies, Data, Stories – Francine Canfield reported on the requested budget - \$925,000 is being asked for eRead, an additional form of direct State Aid for Public Libraries related to electronic books. It will be done on a per capita basis at about .50 per person. For her community that is about \$3,000 to go toward any kind of eBook or audio book. The second part of the budget request is an additional \$90,000 per year for the Regional Library Systems for the next two years, so \$15,000 per year per system. As we all know the systems provide the public libraries with tremendous amount of consulting and workshops and give that extra local hand. The third part is \$25,141 to accommodate the increase in licensing on NebraskaAccess databases and even more importantly to have a database like eLibrary or something like that available for the public and private schools. So the components of this budget really touch all Nebraska residents and how we can improve their lives.

American Library Association (ALA) and Nebraska Library Association (NLA) celebrated National Information Literacy Month in October, and we had a few people come down to meet with the Governor, expressing to him how important Information Literacy is. Our information comes to us electronically whether it arrives on Facebook, Nebraska.gov or through the eBooks we read. We're all involved in that Information Literacy. The NLA Advocacy Committee, as it is now known, is working on a draft of a letter to the Governor to ask him to put the Commission's budget on his priority budget. That draft will be sent out to NLA members, library directors and everyone on the Advocacy Committee. We would like you to submit an email to the Governor and ask him to put the budget request as a priority on his budget; include something personal about this issue in your correspondence. The next phase will be to have an out-state, western Senator champion the bill in the legislature. We continue working with our lobbyist, and I've talked to some directors about having their mayors write letters of support which might come later. It's also important to have the League of Nebraska Municipalities on board, as well as the county managers.

Advocacy Day has been moved up to January 30, 2013, and that's the day many people are coming back from ALA Mid-Winter. We don't have a theme yet; however we will be meeting at the Cornhusker. Our morning speaker will be former Speaker of the Unicameral, Mike Flood, and Rod Wagner and Ken Winston our lobbyist will say a few words, and then we will go over to the Unicameral. Our speaker that afternoon will be Lynn Ziegenbein the former executive director of the Kiewit Foundation; her tagline is Volunteers Builds Communities. We will also be recognizing volunteers.

Mary Jo Ryan mentioned that Richard Miller and she were at the Nebraska Community Foundation annual event with an exhibit booth. People coming to our booth really wanted to talk to us about what libraries are doing and how they can get in on it. One of the things we got was an unsolicited complaint about never getting the books she wants through OverDrive; she said she always has to buy them instead of borrowing from the library. It was such a great moment to tell her our proposal for .50 per Nebraska citizens if the Governor goes along with budget which will increase those resources. We need to act helpful – “do you want to send a letter to the Governor - Do you want to send a letter to your Senator?” The conference was a great moment to capitalize on that, and so Mary Jo wonders if we want to mention something in our discussion

that says, “let’s capitalize on complaints”, because if you’re getting complaints about people not being able to download certain books, well now is the time to get them on board.

Someone asked how the .50 per person works---if we got that allocation from State Aid funds, will we be able to purchase through OverDrive a whole bunch more copies and libraries that aren’t in the OverDrive group could purchase their own copies? Rod Wagner stated that the funding would supplement the funds that libraries already contribute to purchase books. We call it the Nebraska eReads project. We don’t refer to a particular vendor, though currently it’s OverDrive that has 130 some libraries joined together to purchase eBooks. A portion of that money would go to those libraries based upon their percentage of the state population. Omaha, Ralston and Lincoln aren’t part of that group because of population size, but they also supply similar services. There was much discussion – over Advocacy, eBooks, and OverDrive.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook mentioned that her library is about six or seven years old, and that she was on the library board when the building was constructed. It cost about \$620,000 with furnishings included. There was a lot of opposition from the community and not much help. The last election in Lyons, fewer than a thousand people passed a \$2.1 million dollar bond to build a new swimming pool.

Richard Miller commented on an issue in Buffalo County this last election in which voters did away with the township form of government. He spoke to a county commissioner, and was informed there are 57 others counties that have voted to end townships also. We are going to be working with a library there; they have a couple years to work it out, but they don’t know what they are going to do at this point because they had a township library. Townships already had to go through the county to get their money due to legislation passed some years ago.

Council Round Table

Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Lyons - The library has completed its 2012-2013 budgeting process, and the city council generously increased the insurance allotment but took away their money reserve for purchasing books. They are about to institute Biblionics which will be the new cataloging system. They are excited about Nebraska OverDrive program which they’ll be getting soon and a new fiber optic cable. Her librarian asked her to ask all of you if anyone is aware of a grant that would help them get access to Ancestry.com specialty software, an electronic way to search copies of the local newspapers.

Someone mentioned that the Nebraska Community Foundation has a special fund called the Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund Grants for smaller libraries under 3,000 populations.

Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis – Our success is we were one of the last ones to get our equipment from the BTOP grant program, and all was connected on September 25. We haven’t had our open house yet, but it turned out to be a wonderful addition to our services. What held us up was the furniture. Instead of doing the typical tables, we have a special computer counter built because the space restriction we had. The open house will be after the first of the year. We still haven’t gotten into OverDrive; I hear all the comments and complaints about OverDrive, however we did hold our annual fundraiser in October and raised enough money for the setup fee. So I think we are going to jump in and give it a try in fall of 2013. I

know some of the patrons are going to be disappointed and the challenges that will go with it, but I hope there will be a way for it to grow.

Deb Carlson, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library – She wanted to let us know some personnel changes in the Panhandle Library System - Merrillene Woods who was on this council and was with the WNCC library in Sidney has now taken a position in Scottsbluff since Jill Ellis retired at our WNCC Scottsbluff campus. Deb Russell was our director at the Scottsbluff library and retired and has just a week ago assumed the interim library director position at Chadron State College library. She said that the library is in her blood and she is missing it. Our new library director in Scottsbluff is wonderful; Abby Yellman is an amazing combination of youth and vibrant energy that we needed, with great understanding and valuing of customer service and the personal aspects of a library.

We don't have a system administrator, and we do need one. It's starting to be a struggle, and that is our challenge in our system -- vitality and attendance are dropping. We need that administrator. When they first began the process of getting our new library, we made a couple of visits to the Cheyenne library (Laramie County Public Library) in Wyoming. It's an amazing library, and when I went into the children's area of that library, one thing I thought was the coolest thing was their 100 books wall and the idea behind it. This inspired us to do a brochure entitled, "100 Best Books." [The quote on the brochure says, "This booklist includes 100 titles to help young children develop early literacy skills, build self-esteem, and establish a love of reading and the library."]

We also decided we need three copies of every title so at any given time we actually have 300 books. We thought that is the number we need in our community to always have a book on the shelf. We got the Children's Grant for Excellence from the Library Commission, and our Friends of the Library book sales -- the money just came from everywhere. Our project moved forward once we had the money to buy the books, but we want to do something to promote the books. I got permission from one of our last donors to promote it another way. There will be bookplates inside each book with the name of the donor, and a big kickoff event for all the donors and families to announce that if they read all 100 titles, and bring their completed brochure to us, they get either a bumper sticker or a yard sign.

Christine Walsh, Kearney Public Library – We got the renovated building open, and some marketing is next because we felt we didn't have community presence or identity. We now have a new logo for the library and a website so you can get to us online. We do a monthly newsletter with all the programs inside; we borrowed it from a library in Colorado. They have color coded their programs, and we followed that model and created our own. To partner with Parks and Recreation seems natural since they are across the street from us in their new offices. They do a brochure three times a year with all their programs, and they now have a fourth page in there to promote our programs too. We do need to have our programs planned farther out than we have done before.

Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston – Ralston just celebrated its 100th Year, and it's culminated with the opening of the Ralston arena. The community foundation did a community mosaic art project in which 200 6x6 inch canvases were distributed from the library to people; these came back with various kinds of art on them. The chairs of the project -- the mayor's wife and city clerk's husband who are both nationally and state known artists -- put

them together for display at the arena and then at the library. Each tile is being sold for \$25. We are rolling out a new website with WordPress; we are moving to LIS Host and should be up today, and we should be able to link it to Facebook. We brought OneClickdigital up the first of November, and we're going to add Zinio in January. We have hired five new part-time people since April. Now more than 30% of the staff is under the age of 30.

Robin Bernstein, Freeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University - We migrated to a new ILS system which is now in the cloud. We lost the NICLC consortium; we are no longer a part of that group. Grace University joined us in our move to the cloud, so we call it a two-library partnership; we stayed with Sirsi Dynix, and we're happy we did. The migration went very smoothly, and it was primarily extracting the other NICLC libraries' holdings that took time. We haven't experienced any down time since going live. We added their Facebook mobile app., so students can now renew and reserve books through Facebook; we also have a mobile app that we just released today. We started a Patron-Driven Acquisition (PDA) program this fiscal year and allocated about \$10,000 toward this. Students will be able to see every book imaginable that's within the database of Ebook Library, which we've chosen as our platform. SueAnn Gardner and I wrote an article about the RDA initiative that's going on in the state of Nebraska, and it was published in *Library Journal*. We have been getting a lot of positive feedback from that. A group in England has approached us about helping them set up what we have going here in Nebraska. Someone else wants to write a toolkit book, so they want our RDA group to write this for smaller libraries to help them migrate to RDA.

Ceri Daniels, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP, Lincoln – The decision was made once again to change our software, and we're talking firm-wide change. We did this five years ago, and it didn't go well; it was more challenging than anticipated. We're working on all the preparations now; our go-live date is April 1, 2013. We have also decided to do all electronic files from now on, and that is going well. The firm's staff can keep all the paper they want; they just can't bring it back to me when it's time to close it. The staff hasn't done any weeding of older files since before I started, and there were files from in the 1940s.

Ellen Weed, Norfolk Regional Center – We provide therapeutic treatment for male sexual offenders at this time. It has been quite a change for us in the last three or four years when we first started with this population, and all the programming that the library had been doing for the mentally ill population was out the window. The powers that be decided they didn't need a library program, and that it wasn't therapeutic. Well, the program has evolved over time, and they're realizing that these people need therapeutic activities, and library programming is certainly part of that. One of the initiatives is to develop lifestyle choices and leisure activities when they're discharged, so I've been asked to start programming again. We're being recognized as being more important in the program. The challenge for me is going to be looking at new and different programming for this population. We also have been asked to start a book club after the first of the year.

The library still remains the most popular activity at the facility. We never have any trouble when we have any activity getting people there when they know it's sponsored by the library. We always get at least 1/3 of the population, if not more, at every activity, which I think speaks well for what we do for them. I've been very pleased by the way things have been going. We recently lost our immediate supervisor who is not being replaced, so three co-workers and I are

trying to find our way to continue to provide all the services and groups that we've always have done, with one less person.

Denise Harders, Republican Valley Library System – The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) conference was such a positive experience for me this fall. We need to make sure we get as many people there as possible when it's in Omaha next fall. She thought the following is a trend...she has many librarians who have been at their libraries 15 to 20 years or longer, and they are moving on to retirement. Beaver City Public Library has a new library director; Logan County, Axtell Public Library, Alma Public Library and Sutton Public Library also. We have been very fortunate in finding people who have good library background or good library instincts. She spoke with one librarian this week who has no library background but who talked about how important the library is for the community. She wants to make sure she builds library users from the ground up. She talked about programming for children and also providing what the adults need in the community as far as new books. We've been lucky to find people to fill these part-time positions, and this is a challenge for a lot of them. Another challenge is that Systems are undergoing quite a change, Jessica Chamberlain was the Northeast Library System director but is now director at the Norfolk Public Library; Kathy Tooker is retiring at the end of the year from the Eastern Library System; and the Panhandle has been without a director for over a year.

Betty Meyer, Thayer Central Community Schools, Hebron – We just had a bond issue to renovate our school including adding a theatre and other things. Unfortunately it didn't pass--by seven votes! There is discussion on whether to try again in six months since it was so close a vote. Our circulation has gone up in our school library because I have decided in the Jr./Sr. High to start a book club for students to get them starting to read at lunch time once a month. She asked these participating students to go to different English classes and give a little summary of a book and why they like it. She has written these up and posted them by book covers, so it promotes more reading and usage of those titles. She is working on trying to find eReader software that will accommodate their school so they can utilize the one-to-one laptops. It's an ongoing struggle to find something cost effective that we can use. They just received \$500 from the PTA because they are so pleased with the elementary library students. We bring an author in every year for the students, and the PTA has asked that the money be used and kept for that author visit.

Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission – He doesn't normally report during the Council Roundtable, but Jayne Hlavac called and asked if he would give her report. Her challenge at this time is the Infinite Campus initiative -- iPads for each student. She is working with a committee that is developing policies and regulations, and it's going to change the way she orders books and materials. She talked to people in Cozad and Fort Calhoun because they have already done this, and she has picked up some good ideas from them.

Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library – A personal success for him this week is his secretary was on vacation this week, and she trusted him to do the deposits, and nothing bad happened. He has had the opportunity to be more involved in the library's Prime Time reading program with which the library has had great success over the years, and he highly recommends it to a community that has a bilingual population. The library hired more part-time staff, two of which are bilingual. They immediately were put into front line action, and conversations are phenomenal at the front desk. It used to be 20 years ago you would fear somebody hearing a conversation in Spanish at the library; now this is welcomed.

We have really benefited, and we thank the Library Commission and the BTOP people so much for this latest innovation -- the community college involvement with the computer classes. We are seeing that with this partnership for extended learning services, community education is taking on an entirely different atmosphere, and the public library in the center of town is considered beneficial. It also brings out the challenge. We've opened up a box, and we hope we will find ways to keep on funding this. We had 19 classes in November alone, and some of them are in Spanish.

Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission – My challenge is to get the word out about all the things that are going on in the library world. I'm sending around some reminders about the Commission's book club kits. We have a number of book club kits for you to use for your book clubs, and we also have a Wiki that includes book clubs from a variety of different places -- the Regional Library Systems, some of the local libraries that have a lot of books. That way the libraries all over the state can share book club kits. I'm also reminding you of the Letters about Literature prizes -- if you know of any groups of young people who would like to write a letter to their favorite author and tell them why the book they wrote made a difference in their lives. I encourage you to encourage young people to do that. The deadline is January 11, 2013, and it's a really cool thing for kids to do because it's not a fan letter. It's a letter where kids talk about why that book affected their lives. One of the great successes of November is that the Southeast and Eastern Library Systems are sponsoring a colloquium on November 29th with Kathy Dempsey, who is the Accidental Marketer; and she will be the speaker that day.

Our opportunity was, that one of our staff members happened to know her. That's why she's coming to Lincoln, and she will be doing a training session for us on Friday, November 30th entitled, "What Accidental Marketers Need to Know". [A video of Dempsey's November 29, 2012 colloquium presentations can be viewed on YouTube. The session is entitled, "Building Community Partnerships with Kathy Dempsey".]

Sherry Houston, Papillion – She talked about the ARSL conference; Tina Hansen, the person from Iowa that is the liaison, wants to know of any keynote speaker that you would recommend for this conference. If you have any ideas, please send them to Sherry.

Sherry has to pay \$40 a year to use the Sump Library in Papillion because she lives in a SID. We have to do something. Sarpy County is growing by leaps and bounds, and the area is unbelievable the amount of building and new construction. It's not good to have almost half the population not able to use the public library without paying.

Janet Stoeger Wilke, Calvin T. Ryan Library, UNK – Our challenge is definitely our budget. We haven't had an increase from the state in many years, and in the last 12 years we've had budget cuts in 10 of those. We have had to look for others places for funding. From the fees our students pay for the university systems for each credit hour \$4.00 and that money goes to the library. This year for the first time we will receive more money from that fee to purchase materials than we do from funding from the State of Nebraska. She spends far more time working with the UNK Foundation and potential donors than she ever thought she would. Unfortunately, donors really aren't interested in paying that last OCLC bill.

Last month we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of being a Federal Depository library and were one of two in the Third District with the other in Scottsbluff. Senator Hadley spoke at our

celebration. The UNK has a really strong undergraduate research program where students work with faculty on research projects and presenting their research at national conferences. We've had students consistently selected for Posters on the Hill, Washington, DC. We've been talking with the director of that program to have an award for the student that does the best job of using library resources when doing their research. We will have a committee of librarians and departmental faculty who will set up the criteria and the process.

Frank Zimmerman, Auburn – We have a new addition to the new library. It was anticipated at the time of the building a new library that it would be sufficient for a long time. After certain parts of it were made available to the public, we realized it was about half the size it should have been. A quick attempt was made to raise funds to build an addition about double the size the original building, which we were unable to do. But the money raised did allow us to increase the size of the building and move the computer area which was in the midst of everything, off to the side and making it more usable for people. Then we developed the children's section and the librarian's office area, and this has all been taken care of now, except for some of the funding that needs to be continued.

Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries – We're working on a project to begin the process of having a new main library in Lincoln. Right now we are in a waiting mode, because of the new arena being built; the Pershing auditorium is going offline, so that site is available. We put a proposal in, and our mayor is deciding the fate of the Pershing site, so we hope to be able to use it for the new main library. We hope a decision will be made within the next three or four weeks; should he decide not to accept the proposal, there are two other ones out there. Frankly, we're not sure what to expect. Currently we have an exhibit at Bennett Martin Library, the War Time Escape, how H.A. and Margret Rey (the creators of Curious George) escaped from Europe around WWII and made their way to the United States.

We haven't done a lot of adult programming, so we're trying a few different things to go along with that. Our more successful one so far has been a local man, who escaped from Europe around WWII, grew up in Amsterdam and ended up with quite an adventure as a Jewish boy at the time. We will be getting an exhibit of political cartoons, I think, from the Benjamin Harrison presidential library. We're trying to have a lot of ongoing exhibits on the first floor of the library.

Rod Wagner mentioned that the ALA Washington office next Monday, from 3:00-4:00 pm has a webinar on the election update and connecting with the new Congress.

New Business

*Recommendations and Resolutions** - The State Advisory Council on Libraries brings forth the resolution and support of the Nebraska Library Commission's 2013-2015 Biennium Budget request. There was a motion from Steve Fosselman and seconded by Francine Canfield; – motion passed.

Special Recognition – A special thanks to Pat Leach for chairing the State Advisory Council on Libraries. Rod Wagner mentioned there are two people that have been with us two terms, and he presented them with certificates of appreciation. They are Steve Fosselman and Frank Zimmerman who are both now Admirals in the Navy of the Great State of Nebraska.

2013 Council Meeting Schedule – Rod Wagner proposed a few possible dates to meet -- Friday, March 8, 2013 -- this will be the one meeting that the Library Commission will meet jointly with the Council; and July 19th will be an Online GoToMeeting. The third date would be Friday, November 15th in Lincoln.

Pat Leach thanked everyone for their participation and attendance at the meeting. She said that part of the purpose of gathering is not only for us to be informed, but to really support each other in those things that we're doing. It's easy to feel alone or like you're the one with the idea, and therefore you're the one who will be pushing it. We do need to support each other and express what we see in each other's good work and note that and celebrate that. Libraries offer so much. Whether it's on the campus, in your community, in your business place or wherever, libraries have something to offer that is pretty unusual and also really valuable. It's up to each of us to put ourselves in that position, where we are making those offers and making those things happen. It's often going out on a limb and doing some things someone hasn't done before, and pushing through some of that. We need to be persistent and brave because that's how good things happen. We always need to be keeping in mind that going forward takes some courage, as well as some grace and guts and, we hope, a few friends behind you backing you up in those efforts because in the end it really does pay off.

Meeting Adjournment – 2:15 pm

Mary Geibel, Secretary
