

**Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries**  
Nebraska Library Commission, Atrium Conference Room 206  
Friday, November 15, 2019 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

**MINUTES**

State Advisory Council members present: Sky Seery (chair), Jessica Chamberlain (vice-chair), Scott Childers, Susan Franklin, David Graber, Pat Gross, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Laura Marlane, Tom Pfeifer, Julie Pinnell, Charlene Rasmussen, Allison Reisig, Michael Straatmann, and Matthew Williams. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Mary Sauers, Sam Shaw, Tessa Terry, and Linda Babcock.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Sky Seery welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No additional agenda items added. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2019 Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 19, 2019 minutes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**Reports / Discussion**

Nebraska Library Commission

**Rod Wagner**

Rod Wagner commented on Library Commission appointments. Terms for two Commission members expired in June. Chuck Peek, from Kearney, completed his first term, and chose not to apply for another term. Sandy White, from Sidney, completed her first term. Governor Ricketts made appointments recently. Governor Ricketts appointed Kristen Wiebe from Scottsbluff and Julia Tye from Kearney for three-year terms.

The annual Celebration of Nebraska Books was held November 9. The Celebration of Nebraska Books was sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska History Museum, the University of Nebraska Press, and Humanities Nebraska. Laureen Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library director, received the Nebraska Center for the Book President's Award. The Jane Geske Award was presented to the Nebraska Warrior Writers Project. The Mildred Bennett Award was presented to Sharon Bishop, retired high school English teacher and former Nebraska Center for the Book board member. Ted Genoways, author of the 2019 One Book One Nebraska selection – *This Blessed Earth*, was the keynote speaker.

The Celebration of Nebraska Books event also included announcement of the 2020 One Book One Nebraska selection – *All the Galant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor*, by Donald Stratton.

**Christa Porter**

Christa reported on the four grants offered by the Library Commission, \$18,000 for each, available this year. They are Continuing Education and Training Grants, Internship Grants, Library Improvement Grants (Federal LSTA Funds), and Youth Grants for Excellence. The Continuing Education Grants are being offered specifically for librarians to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Wichita, KS in September 2020. Each person will receive \$500 for conference expenses.

The Library Commission received an Offering More Great Books (OMG) Book Awards Grant from the First Book Organization. The \$28,000 grant award will be available to eligible school libraries, public libraries, Head Start Programs, Native American communities, and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Nebraska to purchase books and eBooks from the [First Book Marketplace](#) for the children and teens residing in their communities.

The Big Talk from Small Libraries web conference will be held February 28, 2020. Calls for proposals are open now. Big Talk from Small Libraries is a national conference broadcasted live with 400 to 700 participating yearly.

#### Nebraska Library Association

##### **Michael Straatmann**

Michael reported that over 900 people attended the 2019 ILA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference. Vendors were very positive about the turnout. Evaluations for the conference are being processed. The next conference will be in Kearney in 2020 and Omaha in 2021.

Library Advocacy Day is being planned for March 5, 2020. Having the event in March places it in a favorable time in the legislative cycle and better weather for those traveling from distant parts of the state. Michael said that the focus for advocacy is being reframed at all levels of the state. They are aimed toward advocacy awareness and community involvement. He said the focus is on the lunch with the senators at the Cornhusker, photo sessions, and opportunities for one-on-one conversations.

Rod Wagner mentioned that, in the past, the State Advisory Council meeting was held on the afternoon of Advocacy Day. Combining the meeting with Advocacy Day participation makes it more convenient for those with long travel distances to Lincoln.

The Nebraska Association of County Officials is planning a kick-off for a leadership book club for all county officials in the state. They are excited to work with NLA and libraries to make this a successful project.

#### Nebraska School Libraries Association – Joy Harvey

Joy was not present. Joy sent a report (attached).

#### State and Federal Legislative and Budget Outlook – Rod Wagner

Rod reported that the upcoming state legislative session is the short session (60 day). The session is expected to include legislation related to the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force recommendations. The recommendations include provisions for public library broadband service improvements.

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved appropriations for an increase in the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program of \$17 million that would allow the implementation of an increase in the base amount for each state from \$680,000 to \$1 million. The Senate has not completed action on appropriations. When the new federal fiscal year started on

October 1, Congress adopted a continuing resolution that provides funding into this month, November, at last year's funding levels. Congress will either extend the continuing resolution for another two months or approve funding for the remainder of the fiscal year. If the Congress appropriates funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, funding may be based on last year's funding level.

Wagner also reported that the House of Representatives approved increases for the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program and the National Library Leadership grants.

Jessica Chamberlain asked about a discussion at the March 12, 2019 SACL Meeting. The Library Commission requested a waiver on the state budget reductions. Rod responded that the Library Commission's request for a state maintenance of effort waiver was not approved. If LSTA funding remains at last fiscal year's level, Nebraska's Grants to States program allocation will be reduced by approximately \$65,000.

### Libraries and Library Services 2020

**Clarissa Suarez-Russell**, Partnership Specialist, U.S.

Clarissa thanked Library Commission staff for previously meeting about the 2020 Census. The count for census every ten years is important for library funding because the count affects how the \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed. Libraries are critical to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau has toolkits available for all libraries. The toolkits are available in electronic format. Mary Sauers, Library Commission government services librarian, has a blog that includes the history of the U.S. Census and other information. Johnny Rodgers has joined the Nebraska 2020 Census Partnership Team. Rodgers he will promote the 2020 Census during sporting events. Clarissa is hoping that Johnny Rodgers will be a guest speaker on an NCompass Live presentation.

Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries, is making the library computer lab available for completing census forms. The LCL will also provide the use of a courtesy telephone for anyone wishing to complete the 2020 census by telephone. Clarissa encourages libraries to partner with the Census Bureau to provide available library resources for patrons to complete census forms.

David Graber asked how the Census Bureau handles individuals at dormitories. Clarissa replied that not everyone is able to provide data in the same format, so the Census Bureau provides materials on how to handle group quarters, correctional facilities, homeless populations, city missions, soup kitchens, nursing homes, juvenile detentions, and other specific groups. She also said she sends out information about reaching 18 to 24 year olds living off campus.

Rod Wagner asked how parents of college students know how to account for census information concerning their child. Clarissa replied that on the top of the questionnaire is information to handle that situation.

Wagner asked if there are any educational programs available for schools so teachers and students are aware of the census. Clarissa replied, yes. The Statistics in Schools program provides worksheets from U.S. Census Bureau to teach students the importance of statistical literacy. Teachers may go to [2020 census.gov](https://www.census.gov) to utilize that information.

In March 2020, U.S. residents will receive a letter inviting them to complete the 2020 census form. Reminders will be sent after that. If, by the fourth reminder, no response is made to the invitee, a paper form of the census will be sent. Paper forms are only available after the last reminder is sent. If no

attempt is made to complete the paper form, a numerator will be sent to the residence to collect the census information. Clarissa added that there are Braille census forms available.

**Mary Sauers** – Nebraska Library Commission, Government Services Librarian

Mary reported on the Library Commission’s resources for the 2020 Census. Mary has provided blog posts and emails to Nebraska libraries pertaining to the 2020 Census. Printable information is available in English and several other languages. She provided information about the history of U.S. Census and applying for a 2020 Census job.

#### Library Service Marketing Strategies and Techniques

**Tessa Terry**, Communication Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission

Tessa presented information and ideas on how to market libraries. Tessa mentioned the importance of communication through email, an active blog, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. She provided information for a successful marketing plan. A planning template is available online in the Library Director’s Guidebook (NLC website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/directorsguidebook/main.aspx>.)

#### Rural Broadband Task Force

**Sam Shaw**, Planning & Data Services Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission

Sam reported that the Nebraska legislature created the Rural Broadband Task Force last year to study access, availability, and affordability of broadband in rural areas. The Task Force’s Homework Gap Subcommittee was created. Sixteen percent of Nebraska homes lack broadband service with over thirty percent in some rural areas. The Task Force issued its report and recommendations at the end of October. Included in the recommendations is employment by the Library Commission of four regional IT technicians to support library broadband connection speeds and provide technical support. The regional IT tech positions would also assist in increasing library E-rate participation.

Sam presented three short videos that he created using Adobe Spark software. He is using these videos to create awareness of broadband and E-rate.

Fact sheets will be available soon through the Library Commission’s website for all Nebraska counties. Each county may take the data within a county, the libraries within their county, and analyze what increases they need for Internet speed.

#### **Noon Lunch**

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

**Julie Pinnell** – Julie reported that Cochrane-Woods Library at Nebraska Wesleyan University received a grant to host the traveling “Americans in the Holocaust” exhibit during October and November 2021. Julie said one of her goals this year is to create a strategic communication plan.

**Gail Irwin** — Gail reported Ainsworth Public Library received the “Smithsonian WWI: Lessons and Legacies Poster” and other materials for the library. She is thankful that her library was not flooded by the recent floods in the area and there were no library budget cuts.

**Joann Jackson** — Joann reported she visited with Deb Robertson, Kilgore Memorial Library director. Clifford The Big Red Dog event held at the library in October was popular with children.

**Scott Childers**— Scott reported that a group of citizens organized in support of York’s Kilgore Public Library. They received a PLTS Award for Advocacy for their efforts. Scott hopes this is a model for other communities to support their libraries. Scott also reported that Plymouth Public Library achieved accreditation for the first time this year.

**Allison Reisig** — Western Nebraska Community College recently completed its building renovation. The renovation included all the administrative offices and the library. Issues have come up due to the way architects arranged the building. Another challenge is that the president and vice-president (and chief-academic advisor) resigned. A new president was recently appointed.

**Pat Gross**— Pat reported that she recently visited Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. Pat is impressed with the library’s inviting atmosphere and student activity at the library. Pat said that Ben Mikaelson, young adult and children’s award-winning author, toured twenty-one counties in western Nebraska. More than 1,000 children attended his presentations. Pat commented that finding a new Western Library System director has been a challenge.

**Charlene Rasmussen** — Charlene reported that staffing at Wayne Public Library is back where it was before budget cuts were made. Interest from a bequest to the library made it possible for staff to be restored at the library. The library has expanded its language collection and is focusing on replacing CD book format to playaways. A challenge is to develop trust in the community that the library is a safe place to get information.

**David Graber** — David reported that Wayne State College had success providing more credit classes for area high schools in northeast Nebraska. WSC gives students in small high schools an opportunity to take an equivalent in advanced education. A challenge and a success is technology support troubleshooting. About a year ago, a technology support service, staffed by the campus IT department, was added to the campus and housed at the library. Students are able to get the support they need, but the librarians have lost that point of contact with the students. The students now look at the library as a place where they can get their cell phone or computer fixed.

**Laura Marlane** –Laura reported that one of the challenges she faces is the Macmillan boycott. Amazon has taken control of over 80% of the market for digital books. Laura said that the Omaha Public Library budget for next year will increase by \$15 million to cover the cost of a thirteenth branch library. Laura has been working with a library-building consultant in planning for a new library near Horizon High School. Grow with Google, a program that offers technology tools and training that is easy to access, came to South Omaha Library recently.

**Matthew Williams** — Matthew reported that the Pride Display at Kearney Public Library has been a challenge for him. The Kearney City Council, city attorney, and the Kearney Public Library board have been supportive in dealing with the problems concerning the display. The Kearney Library Foundation, City of Kearney, and Friends of the Library have donated \$30,000 to buy new furniture for the library.

**Susan Franklin** — Susan reported that this is the third year without a cataloguer at Perkins Library, and second year without an instructional services librarian. Adirondack patio furniture was furnished for the library porch this year through the Senior Student Gift award. Hastings College Foundation Board awarded an innovation grant to Perkins Library for the “Hastings College Archives Project.”

**Sky Seery** — Sky reported that it was a challenge for North Platte High School to be short a paraprofessional for a while, but the position has been filled. The school received a grant to start a makerspace in the library.

### **New Business**

Rod encouraged council members to support the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force recommendations for rural broadband service improvements.

### Recommendations and Resolutions

A motion was made and seconded to support the homework gap and leveraging e-Rate funding as recommended by the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force. Motion approved.

### Special Recognition

Rod thanked Sky Seery for serving as council chair. There are no council members finishing a second term. Several council members, who served their first term, are eligible to serve a second term. Those include Scott Childers, Gail Irwin, Sky Seery, Lori Long, Dana Morgan, and Lisa Olivigni. Rod will make appointment recommendations to the Library Commissioners at their January 2020 meeting.

### Upcoming Meetings

The next proposed meetings dates will be March 5 (Advocacy Day), July 17 and November 20.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

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Attachment:

### **NSLA Report to Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries -- November 2019**

NSLA hosted the first Fall Spectacular on October 5th, 2019 at Papillion La-Vista South High School. There were 20 school library focused sessions for the 85 attendees. During the lunchtime business meeting, Dorann Avey from the Nebraska Department of Education shared proposed changes to Rule 10 in the section regarding school libraries and school librarians. At the luncheon, Dr. Sherry Crow received the Distinguished Service Award.

Current membership is 262. Looking to renew an additional 98 memberships. This is the first year with our global renewal date of October 1.

- **Library Spotlight**-showcasing school libraries from around the state; fill out form here, if interested [bit.ly/2MNzyz7](https://bit.ly/2MNzyz7) Any school library in Nebraska can be part of the spotlight.
- **Webinars**-Continuing to add webinars to support professional learning on our YouTube Channel
- **NETA** (Nebraska Educational Technology Association) Conference March 26-27, 2020 in Omaha, NE Ashley Cooksey will be NSLA's featured speaker. She is being sponsored by NETA as well as NSLA.
- **NSLD** (Nebraska School Librarian's Day) will be Saturday, April 25, 2020, 9:00-12:30 in Omaha, Norfolk, Kearney & Scottsbluff; \$10 members; \$25 for non-members and includes ½ year membership

- **Future Ready Conference** June 15-16, 2020 in Lincoln, NE <https://sites.google.com/esu5.org/se-ne-edtech-conference/home>
- **School Librarians in the Digital Age** June 2020 in Lincoln, NE

Joy Harvey  
Coordinator of Library Media Services  
Lincoln Public Schools  
5905 O Street  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-436-1842  
[jharvey@lps.org](mailto:jharvey@lps.org)