

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries
GoTo Meeting

Friday, July 20, 2018 10:00 AM – 1200 PM

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present via GoToMeeting: Cecelia Lawrence (Chair), Andrew Cano, Jessica Chamberlain, Scott Childers, John Dale, Susan Franklin, Pat Gross, Gail Irwin, Joann Jackson, Lori Long, Laura Marlane, Dana Morgan, Lisa Olivigni, Julie Pinnell, Sky Seery, Noelle Thompson, and Matthew Williams. Advisory Council members absent: Beth Kabes, Courtney Pentland, and Charlene Rasmussen. Commission staff present: Rod Wagner, Christa Porter, Mary Jo Ryan, and Linda Babcock.

Welcome and Introductions

Rod Wagner 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 March 6, 2018: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Public Comment: None.

Reports / Discussion

Nebraska Library Commission – Commission Staff

Library Services and Technology Act State Program and Budget Update - Rod Wagner

Rod Wagner reported that the Museum and Library Services Act was introduced for reauthorization by Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island. Senator Susan Collins from Maine and other senators have joined him as co-sponsors. There has not been further action on the legislation to this point. Wagner reported that Senator Reed intends to propose an amendment that will increase the base amount for the LSTA Grants to the States program from \$680,000 to \$1 million (with a hold harmless provision that no states will lose funding if the base amount is increased). Funds are allocated to states based on state population, and if this legislation is enacted, increases will depend on appropriation levels. Another proposal, originating with the Western Council of State Libraries, was to increase funding of the LSTA Grant to States program to \$1 per capita, which would double funding from the current level.

If Congress does not act on the Museum and Library Services Act this session, which ends in December, new legislation needs to be introduced in 2019 with a new sponsor. Senator Reed will be retiring at the end of this year, and he would like to see this legislation enacted during his term in office. The House and Senate appropriations committees have included LSTA funding for the coming federal fiscal year at the current levels. Congress has not yet acted on appropriations for the coming fiscal year.

Public Library Accreditation, Public Librarian Certification, and Educational Resources – Christa Porter

Christa Porter reported that applications opened for Public Library Accreditation 2018 on July 1, 2018. Fifty-eight libraries are up for reaccreditation, and fifty-six libraries that are not accredited have been invited to apply. This includes 36 libraries in CPLS (Central Plains Library System), 27 in SELS (Southeast Library System), 32 in TRLS (Three Rivers Library System), and 20 in WLS (Western Library System). To apply for accreditation, libraries needed to complete the Annual Public Library Survey and the NLC Supplemental Survey. The deadline for all accreditation information to be submitted is October 1, 2018. Christa will respond to all applications by December 1, 2018.

Christa demonstrated online resources for library accreditation, librarian certification, board certification, and Basic Skills classes on the Library Commission's website (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/>). Holli Duggan, CE Coordinator, and Allison Badger, Cataloguing Librarian have developed, implemented, and piloted the first self-paced Basic Skills: Introduction to Cataloguing class. The class was very successful, and more Basic Skills self-paced classes are planned. Currently, there are seventeen Basic Skills classes being offered once a year. Self-paced classes offer more flexibility for the students to take the classes at their own pace and schedules.

Christa highly recommends WebJunction (<https://www.webjunction.org>) as a free website that provides support, training, and other recourses for librarians. Jessica Chamberlain said that she has used WebJunction resources for new staff training, and Julie Pinnell said that she utilizes customer service training through WebJunction.

2019-2020 State Biennium Budget Process and Issues - Rod Wagner

State agency budget requests are due on September 15, 2018. The Library Commission requests will include higher levels of funding for current programs and services and requests for new items. These items include increases in the State Aid to Libraries program and some new items. The budget process will be difficult because state tax collections were less than projected. The end of the state's last fiscal year (June 2018) resulted in tax collections of \$36 million higher than estimated. However, State Commissioner, Tony Fulton, cautioned that the agricultural economy is uncertain, and it may affect the tax collections in the future. Other challenges include proposals to the legislature for property tax relief and state income tax reduction.

There are several major items funded under the State Aid to Libraries program. State aid to accredited public libraries and aid to regional library systems (half state funded and half federal funded) are funded through the State Aid to Libraries program. Some other items included in the State Aid to Libraries program are interlibrary loan compensation, NebraskaAccess, Nebraska eReads, Student Library Internships, Motion Picture Licensing Agreement, statewide membership in United for Libraries (ALA division), and continuing education.

Nebraska Library Association – Andrew Cano

Andrew Cano reported that NLA conducted a survey asking what would be the best way to communicate in the organization, and the results indicated that members preferred to communicate through email. An electronic newsletter will be sent out to members soon. The newsletter will include an NLA budget update.

Andrew reported that a new NLA Handbook will be approved in September, and the bylaws will be updated next year. An NLA Membership Committee has been formed with Jake Rundle as Chair.

The NLA Professional Development Committee is working to meet the needs of librarians in the state.

NLA has a discounted rate for Library Juice Academy (<http://libraryjuiceacademy.com/courses.php>).

It is a self-paced, educational website and Andrew is currently taking a six-week, four-course certificate program in XML & RDF. NLA is sponsoring a 2019 Emerging Leader for librarians who are new to the library field. The deadline for nominations for the Spirit of Mari Sandoz Award is July 30, 2018.

Andrew reported that a survey was sent by email to NLA members asking their preference for the location of future NLA conferences. Based on the results of the survey, that future conference locations are 2021 in La Vista, 2022 in Kearney, 2023 in Kearney, and 2024 in La Vista. No future conferences are scheduled for Lincoln.

Andrew reported that seventy-seven early bird registrants for the 2018 NLA Conference have been received so far. He is pleased with the diversity of the proposals. The schedule for the conference will be available soon.

The conference theme is set for the NLA/NSLA/ILA 2019 Joint Conference, a logo is in the final stages, and the keynote speaker will be announced soon.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Rod Wagner reported that Angie Richeson has a new position as elementary school principal in Gothenburg. Courtney Pentland, the new NSLA president, will now represent the NSLA on the state advisory council. Due to the short notice about the council meeting, Courtney was not available to participate in today’s council meeting.

PBS “The Great American Read” discussion– Mary Jo Ryan

Mary Jo Ryan began the discussion on “The Great American Read” Public Broadcasting System Television program. Mary Jo suggested that libraries conduct a community vote to increase participation and interest in libraries. Cecelia Lawrence and Gail Irwin said that they have been posting information on Facebook. Jessica Chamberlain said Norfolk library customers are interested in The Great America Read. Jessica said that she is planning a special display in September. Voting for your favorite book is now available online.

Mary Jo mentioned several events happening this summer. Nominations are being sought for a new Nebraska State Poet. Twyla Hansen, current Nebraska State Poet, will end her term in December. She does not wish to be considered for re-appointment. Nominations are due by August 1. The Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held on August 27. The Nebraska Book Festival will be held in Lincoln at the UNL Union on August 27. Information about the festival activities can be found at <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>. The Norfolk Literature Festival will be held on July 28 with four Golden Sower nominated authors attending. Author Craig Johnson is coming to the Norfolk Public Library on July 18 for a presentation.

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Charlene Rasmussen – Charlene Rasmussen is in Stockholm, Sweden, visiting family. Rod Wagner reported for Charlene. Heather Headley, Director at Wayne Public Library, is challenged with staffing at the library, having over fifty percent staff with less than a year’s experience. The library has started Music Trivia Night, Crafting and DIY nights, and Escape Rooms.

Beth Kabes – Beth is traveling across the state this week for training sessions and not available to participate in the council meeting.

Dana Morgan – Dana Morgan reported that her greatest success is that she will be returning to Leyton Public Schools as K-12 librarian and K-8 principal. The challenge she faces is the high school circulation that has decreased by 95%.

Matthew Williams – Matthew Williams reported that he is looking forward to Craig Johnson’s presentation at Kearney’s World Theater on August 20. This is the fifth year Kearney Public Library has sponsored major author presentations. All the equipment for the makerspace at the library has been installed, and many items need to be worked out such as policies, procedures and fees. The library will be conducting staff harassment training and active shooter training.

Noelle Thompson – Noelle Thompson reported Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is preparing for the installation of the Library Innovation Studio equipment in September. Noelle will be on maternity leave starting in September. The Summer Reading Program has 2,195 children registered. Noelle’s challenge is that her teen librarian position is currently vacant.

Sky Seery – Sky Seery reported that her success and challenge is that she is starting a new job as a media specialist at North Platte High School.

Julie Pinnell – Julie Pinnell reported her challenge is preparing and teaching a success seminar for the first time. Another challenge for Julie is working on the Higher Learning Commission Report. A lot of work has been done in the Cochrane-Woods Library archives this summer.

Lisa Olivigni – Lisa Olivigni reported that one of her challenges is a shortage of staff since December. The library has been short about 100 hours due to staff retiring and staff finding new jobs. A success is that all of those positions have been filled except one, and her branch has been given two new twenty-hour positions.

Laura Marlane – Laura Marlane reported that the improved broadband project at Omaha Public Library is nearly completed. The library’s summer reading program has 31,000 participants. She is working with Innovative Interfaces, a software company that provides library services, to handle library checkout and renewals. The library is in the preliminary stages for a southwest branch to be built near Millard High School.

Lori Long – Lori Long reported that she was provided two extra weeks of staff services in May. During that time 2,500 books were weeded from the collection. The library has a new reading area. Lori’s challenge is that the Accelerated Reader’s program was eliminated from her elementary school. Lori is involved in an ad hoc committee to come up with a solution for replacing the Accelerated Reader’s program.

Cecelia Lawrence – Cecelia Lawrence reported that the North Platte Public Library was closed for two and one-half weeks for constructing a makerspace room. The library was selected to receive makerspace equipment September through January 2019 as part of the Library Innovation Studios grant. Two successes at the library are new charging stations and a Friend’s of the Library bookstore. Her challenges for the next year are working with partners, writing grants, purchasing and replacing equipment, and replacing firewalls. Another big project is replacing SirsiDynix to move to a cloud-based system.

Joann Jackson – Joann Jackson recently visited Blair Public Library, Wahoo Public Library, and Alice M. Farr Library in Aurora.

Gail Irwin – Gail Irwin reported that a challenge for the Ainsworth library is having a small staff, as she is the only full-time employee. Gail is looking into cameras for the library and a panic button for contacting the Sheriff's Office due to recent patron behavior. Ainsworth Public Library participated in the Innovation Studios grant project. Gail will attend the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island to assist with the Library Innovation Studios exhibit and demonstration. The library held its first fundraiser event for a makerspace, raising \$550. The library is very successful with programs for the Spanish-speaking population in the community.

Pat Gross – Pat Gross said that as a retired school librarian she enjoys staying active in libraries, especially Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Pat recently attended the WLS (Western Library System) annual meeting at Chappell Memorial Library and Art Gallery. She suggests anyone passing near Chappell visit the library and art gallery. There are over 200 art items in the library's art collection. The Library Innovation Studio project was very successful at Bridgeport Public Library. The challenge in WLS is the system director vacancy.

Susan Franklin – Susan Franklin reported that her challenge is not having a collection management librarian. The library intends to hire a part-time person for that position. The library launched a Bronco Boast campaign last October, raising over \$14,000 since then. The funds will be used for updating library furniture.

John Dale – John Dale reported that the Lincoln City Library board chairman has indicated that the board would be interested in the Pershing Auditorium site, not the building, for a new Lincoln City Libraries main library. The Lincoln City Libraries' budget will be presented to the city council this month.

Scott Childers – Scott Childers reported that two Southeast Library System successes are that Clarks Public Library and Plymouth Public Library are applying for accreditation next year for the first time. Scott is especially impressed with the progress Plymouth Public Library has made with a new board, new director, and revitalizing library services in their community. Odell is starting a library in the Old West Trail Center Museum. A challenge is that Palmyra Public Library's building foundation is collapsing, and the director and board at Palmyra are planning to relocate the library.

Jessica Chamberlain – Jessica reported that her biggest success is completion of the new Norfolk Public Library facility expansion and renovation project. Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Library Commission representatives (Rod Wagner and commission members Michael LaCroix and Susan Warneke) attended the ribbon cutting celebration on May 29. Jessica also said that June was the busiest month ever on record at the Norfolk public library. A challenge for the Norfolk library is working with new equipment installed for the new building.

Andrew Cano – Andrew Cano reported that he has a new position at UNL as Open Education Librarian. Nancy Busch, Dean of UNL Libraries, and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean have both announced retirement plans. The search to replace Dean Busch has been postponed, as it is difficult to have two national searches at the same time. The size of the College of Arts and Sciences makes it a priority, so Nancy will remain Dean of UNL Libraries for the next academic year.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

Andrew Cano suggested that the council have a future conversation about how and who should handle public statements about controversial subjects concerning libraries. Rod Wagner said that this issue could be included on the November meeting agenda.

Special Recognition

Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, will be retiring from the Library Commission on September 10. Mary Jo was congratulated with appreciation for her many years of service and contributions to Nebraska library development and services.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting council meeting will be held on November 16 in Lincoln in the Atrium Conference Center (1200 N Street).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.