



2023 Annual Report

PLTS Spring Meeting

This year's spring meeting was held over two days. Tuesday, April 11 from 10am-noon, we met in person at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln, NE for presentations from Commission staff introducing us to services they offer to public libraries. A few of the topics covered included accreditation, NebraskaAccess, tech kits, Public Library Survey and Bibliostat, basic skills courses, Talking Books, and book club kits. Thursday, April 13, from 1-2:30pm was held via zoom. Representatives of the four Nebraska Regional Library Systems introduced us to the services they provide to public library staff and patrons. There was also a review of Nebraska Library Commission services for those who were not able to attend the in-person meeting.

8 people attended the in-person meeting. 27 people registered for the Zoom meeting, but no number was recorded for actual attendance.

Awards Committee

Committee members included Becky Baker, Seward Memorial Library; Laurie Yocum, Wilson Public Library; and Michael Sauers, Do-Space. Applications for the PLTS Advocacy Award were announced in August and accepted through October 15, 2023:

PLTS ADVOCACY AWARD

The Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association is now accepting nominations for the PLTS Advocacy Award. This award recognizes a trustee, user, friend, foundation, or library board that has provided exceptional support for their local library. The award can be given to an individual or a group. The award will be given for support of the library or library community. Some of the areas include but are not limited to the following:

- *Advocacy in supporting the library in the community or state.*
- *Significant contribution to a specific program or support of the library.*
- *Contribution to the work of the Nebraska Library Association.*

It is preferred that the nominee(s) are residents of Nebraska. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, street address, email address and telephone number; the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, title, street address, email address and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination. The Awards Committee may, at their discretion, request additional information, support, or endorsements from the nominee's co-workers, board members, or others. The award will be presented mid-November.

The Advocacy Committee only received one, but very deserving nomination, Vicki Wood from Lincoln City Libraries, nominated by Deb Robertson, Kilgore Memorial Library, and NLA Advocacy Committee Chair. The Advocacy Committee was in Sarah Johnson delivered the award to Vicki in Lincoln. See below for nomination letter and award picture.

The Awards Committee will be accepting nominations for the Excalibur Award in 2024.



Bylaws Committee

Committee members included Becky Baker, Seward Memorial Library, and Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library. No changes to the PLTS bylaws were presented to the membership this year.

Nominating Committee

Committee members included Todd Schlechte, SELS; Julie Dinville, Bellevue Public Library; and Denise Lawver, Wahoo Public Library.

There was one nominee for next year's Chair-elect (Matt Kovar, Papillion) and one for Secretary/Treasurer (Sarah Johnson, Geneva). Both were elected and have accepted the positions.

Annual Business Meeting

The PLTS Annual Business Meeting was held December 18th via Zoom.

- Tammi Thiem presented the 2023 Financial Report Summary (see below)
- Monica Tidyman presented a summary of next year's spring meeting: It will be held on May 2 at Kilgore Memorial Library in York and be a full day event. In the morning, Jennie Gardner and Kellie Forkenbrock from North Liberty Library in Iowa will be presenting "Policies of Yes". After lunch, Erica Rose and Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede from the University of Omaha will present "Adults need to play, too!". Following their program, Dr. Cast will give a short presentation about the University of Nebraska Library Science Program.
- The PLTS Board for 2024 will include Monica Tidyman, Kilgore Memorial Library in York, as Chair; Sarah Johnson, Geneva Public Library as Secretary/Treasurer; Matt Kovar, Papillion Public Library as Vice-Chair; and Debbie Aden as immediate past Chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Aden
2023 PLTS Chair

NLA Public Library and Trustee Section			
2023 Financial Report			
Beginning Cash Balance	1/1/2023		\$7,670.90
Income			
	Interest YTD	\$2.44	
	Allocations	\$465.00	
	Spring Mtg	\$0.00	
	Other Income	\$60.00	
	Total Income		\$527.44
Expenses			
	Spring Meeting	\$0.00	
	Other Expenses	\$529.47	
	Total Expenses		\$529.47
Ending Balance	8/31/2023		\$7,668.87

October 14, 2023

Nebraska Library Association
Advocacy Committee Chair

Nebraska Library Association
Public Library and Trustee Section
Advocacy Award Selection Committee

Hello Selection Committee Members,

As the chair of our association's standing Advocacy Committee, I have been thinking about this nomination for months. There are so many amazing candidates for this award on our committee. I have tried to decide which one committee member stood out for a nomination for the PLTS Advocacy Award in 2023. For the first time ever, I am thrilled that I am a procrastinator! One of our committee members retired a few weeks ago and before her last day of employment, I asked if she would stay on our committee and continue to work with us. She said, YES!

This nomination is for Vicki Wood. Vicki retired from Lincoln City Libraries in August. As an actively employed librarian Vicki made many connections with library supporters in the Lincoln region. In this era of unprecedented numbers of challenges to library services and attempts to censor collections in school and public libraries, what we desperately need are citizen advocates. Vicki has announced that she is reaching out to the people who have asked her how they might help libraries and librarians to offer advocacy training sessions to help citizens speak against censorship in our state. She has the first two sessions scheduled at the Mill on Innovation Campus, in Lincoln, on Saturdays, October 28 and November 11. Vicki has shared at our weekly Advocacy Committee meetings that she is willing to travel to other communities to offer this training to citizens across the state. This service to our profession is necessary and a retired librarian is the perfect spokesperson. She can call willing citizens to action to support libraries and librarians without the restraints of working for a municipal, tax supported agency.

Vicki is uniquely qualified to do this work because she has been involved with advocacy efforts for years. In 2023 alone, Vicki has written letters in opposition to adverse legislation for libraries; has testified at Legislative hearings in support of Libraries and Librarians; leads the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska, as the current President, where she writes a Presidential column for *The AFCON Signal* the newsletter of this organization; and she has written a letter to the Senators appointed to the Judicial and Education Committees of the Unicameral in 2024 to educate them on issues related to intellectual freedom and censorship. Vicki has done a lot for our profession in her career, and I am excited to write this nomination letter to thank her publicly for all her excellent work.

I hope you will agree that the work Vicki Wood has accomplished as an active librarian and now continues to do in retirement is worthy of your professional award for advocacy in our state.

Sincerely,



Deb Robertson
Chair, Nebraska Library Association Advocacy Committee

NLA's Public Library and Trustee Section 2023 Spring Meetings

Meet the Nebraska Library Commission and The Four Nebraska Regional Library Systems

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00am -12:00pm CT

IN PERSON at the Nebraska Library Commission
in the Atrium Conference Room on the 2nd Floor
The Atrium 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE

Following an introduction and overview of the Nebraska Library Commission from Rod Wagner, staff will introduce us to services they offer to public libraries. A few of the topics covered will include accreditation, NebraskAccess, tech kits, Public Library Survey and Bibliostat, basic skills courses, Talking Books, book club kits, and more!



Nebraska
Library
Commission

REGISTER HERE FOR NLC DAY

Thursday, April 13, 1:00-2:30pm CT

A free, virtual panel discussion, where representatives of the four Nebraska Regional Library Systems will introduce us to the services they provide to public library staff and patrons. For those who were not able to attend the in-person meeting at the Nebraska Library Commission, there will also be a review of their services.



REGISTER HERE FOR ZOOM MEETING

Central Plains Library System

Denise Harders, Director

402-705-1409

denise.cpls@gmail.com



Southeast Library System

Scott Childers, Director

402-467-6188

scott.childers.sels@gmail.com



Three Rivers Library System

Tammi Thiem, Director

402-330-7884

tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com



Three Rivers Library System

PROMOTING COLLABORATION AND EXCEPTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES

Western Library System

Cindy Osborne, Director

308-632-1350

cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov



For more information, please contact: nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org.

Membership in NLA or PLTS is not required to join the live session.

Participants can submit 2 CE credits for the in person meeting, and 1.5 CE credits for the Zoom meeting.