2015/2016 Highlights:

- **ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels** has formally informed the ALA Executive Board of his plans to retire as Executive Director of the American Library Association at the end of July 2017.
- On September 14th, 2016 **Carla D. Hayden** was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress. She is the first woman and the first African American to hold the position.
- At the end of July 2016, total ALA membership was 57,265. This was 2,800 greater than July of 2015.
- The **Open eBooks** app to put ebooks in the hands of lower income children and young adults aged 4-18 is up and running. More information can be found at: openebooks.net.
- **Jamie LaRue** is the new director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom. We’re fortunate to have Jamie join us for NLA/NSLA 2016 as a keynote and session speaker.
- **Canadian Library Association (CLA)** voted overwhelmingly to disband the organization. CLA has been a voice for libraries since 1946. They have crafted a new organization– the **Canadian Federation of Library Associations**.
- **Canadian Library Association (CLA)** voted overwhelmingly to disband the organization. CLA has been a voice for libraries since 1946. They have crafted a new organization– the **Canadian Federation of Library Associations**.
- ALA applauded the US Court of Appeals decision upholding the Federal Communications Commission’s Open Internet Order to sustain the strongest possible protections for **equitable access to online information, applications and services for all**. www.ala.org/advocacy/telecom/netneutrality.
- You can find new infographics on **Where Does an ALA Dollar Come From** and **Where Does an ALA Dollar Go** at: www.ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage.
- Libraries Transform continues under ALA President, Julie B. Todaro. She will be focusing on Libraries Transform initiative **The Expert in the Library**. You can read an article by Todaro in the September issue of American Libraries titled: **Lead with the Value of You: Don’t Discount the Worth of Your Staff and Your Own Expertise** – which can be found at: https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/09/01/libraries-transform-lead-value-of-you/. The **Libraries Transform** Public Awareness campaign continues and the toolkit is at: www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/toolkit. As of, August 19, more than 3,500 libraries and supporters have joined ALA’s Libraries Transform campaign.
• We utilized Engage as an advocacy tool for NLA – beginning in January 2016, partially as an effort in opposing Nebraska Legislative Bill 969. Engage is a great tool provided by ALA to Nebraska (and other chapters) at no cost. The Office for Library Advocacy worked with United for Libraries, Chapter Relations, and the Public Awareness Office in opposition to Nebraska Legislative Bill 969, which would have required each city and town in Nebraska to change its library board from an independent governing board to an advisory board. ALA President Sari Feldman, United for Libraries President Ed McBride, and United for Libraries President-Elect Steve Laird (also a Nebraska resident and president of ReferenceUSA) authored letters that were sent to appropriate legislators. In addition, Steve Laird wrote an Op-ed which appeared in the Omaha World Herald on February 14, 2016.

• Joint Student Membership Program - Nebraska could partner with ALA to offer a joint student membership program that allows library school students to join a Chapter and ALA for one low price. At the moment the membership dues is $38 – which is split equally between ALA and the participating Chapter.

• 2015 State of the Chapter Annual Report filed for Nebraska for the fiscal year ending 2015 to ALA. Thanks to Nicole Zink for her assistance.

• National Library Legislative Day May 1-3, 2016 had participation by a Nebraska contingency led by Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, that included Julee Hector, NLA President and Steve Fosselman, NLA Advocacy Chair. The 2017 dates are May 1-2.

• I attended ALA Annual Conference in Orlando June 23-28, 2016. There were 16,597 librarians, library workers and library supporters in Orlando, along with 4,995 exhibitors. I attended the Chapter Leaders Forum and Midwinter in Boston January 7th – 12th, 2015.

• The 2016 State of America’s Libraries was released in April: http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2016. It includes the list of Top 10 Book challenges in 2015. Number one on the list is Looking For Alaska by John Green for reasons including: offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited for age group.

• Intersections, is the blog of the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy, & Outreach Services (ODLOS). It highlights the work of library and information science workers as they create safe, responsible, and all-inclusive spaces that serve and represent the entire community, as well as initiatives and projects supported by the office that promotes their work.

American Library Association Conference/Events Schedule:

• Teen Tech Week 2017 will be celebrated March 5-11 with the theme: Be the Source of Change.

• National Library Week is April 9-15, 2017.

• Money Smart Week is April 22-29, 2017.

• Choose Privacy Week is May 1-7, 2017.

• ALA Midwinter is in Atlanta January 20-24, 2017

• ALA Annual Conference is in Chicago June 22-27, 2016

• ACRL 2017 is March 22-25 in Baltimore, MD

• LITA Forum is a technology focused conference - November 17-20, 2016 in Fort Worth, TX

• Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) 2017 is March 22-25, 2016 in Baltimore, MD

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Ealey
NLA ALA Councilor