2016/2017 Highlights:

- I attended **ALA Midwinter in Atlanta, January 19-25**. There were 8,995 attendees. I mentored and met Samantha Helmick – newly elected Iowa Chapter Councilor. I received information from Washington State Library Association Councilor and staff regarding their publication as NLA discusses possibilities for Nebraska. During the Chapter Leaders Forum we heard from Eli Mina, ALA Parliamentarian, on the topic of Making Meetings Work. NLA was provided a copy of his book – *101 Boardroom Problems and How To Solve Them* – to use as a resource. W. Kamau Bell, author of *The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell*, was the opening speaker and Neil Patrick Harris, author of *Magic Misfits*, a children’s book that comes out in November, was the closing speaker.

- I attended **ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 22-27, 2017**. Total registration at annual in Chicago was 22,702 with 16,192 attendees and 6,510 exhibitors; plus 475 international librarians from 45 countries including two from Cuba – a first since Toronto. At the Chapter Leaders Forum information was shared on the **Advocacy Bootcamp** – which would be great to bring to Nebraska. Opening session was Reshma Saujani, author of Girls Who Code and Women Who Don’t Wait in Line – Girlswhocode.com. She challenged us to put Coding Clubs at every library. ALA Public Awareness Office partnered with Booklist & United for Libraries to launch ALA’s Book Club Central ([http://www.bookclubcentral.org/](http://www.bookclubcentral.org/)) with Sarah Jessica Parker on hand to officially launch as Honorary Chair. Hillary Rodham Clinton was the Closing Session speaker – which drew local and international interest from the press.

- **Jim Neal** succeeded Julie Todaro as ALA President at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The **Libraries Transform** campaign continues through August 31, 2020 and the toolkit is at: [www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/toolkit](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/toolkit). Jim will focus on Libraries Transform, Libraries Lead during his presidency. As of, August 25, more than 7,400 libraries and supporters have joined ALA’s Libraries Transform campaign.

- **ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels** resigned as Executive Director of the American Library Association at the end of July 2017. He gave closing remarks at Council in Chicago that included: “We (librarians) currently face the challenge of our generation...We truly do transform...A town without a library is just a bunch of houses.” **Mary Ghikas** is the interim executive director, until the successful recruitment and appointment of a new executive director.

- I participated in a phone conference with Julie Todaro, past ALA president and the ALA Washington Office, March 2017 that focused on support of funding and not eliminating IMLS and provided state chapters with tools for advocating on behalf of that effort. NLA provided a letter of support for IMLS funds.

- NLA put forward a Resolution in March in support of the American Library Association’s Resolution on **Access to Accurate Information**. It affirmed our opposition to censorship, the right to privacy and the freedom to read; and encouraged Nebraska libraries to acquire, maintain and make available materials that reflect many viewpoints and historical perspectives; and supported programs that teach information literacy skills and how to discern authoritative sources and accurate information.

- The new **#ALAWO Newsline** from the ALA Washington Office comes out twice a week. If you’d like to subscribe here’s the link: [http://ala.informz.net/ala/pages/ALAWON](http://ala.informz.net/ala/pages/ALAWON). It’s a great way to keep up with what’s happening in Washington – plus it’s brief and a quick read or review. **Kathi Kromer** is the new Executive Director at the ALA Washington Office (following Emily Sheketoff).

- Beth Nawalinski was named Executive Director for **United for Libraries** – replacing Sally Gardner Reed.
• 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](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage).

• The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) created a booklist to share the message of creating unity, acting with kindness toward others and promoting peace. The list can be found at: [http://www.ala.org/alsc/unitykindnesspeace](http://www.ala.org/alsc/unitykindnesspeace). YALSA has also compiled a list of free resources libraries can leverage to address concerns of youth and their families: [http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Supporting_Youth_in_the_Post-2016_Election_Climate](http://wikis.ala.org/yalsa/index.php/Supporting_Youth_in_the_Post-2016_Election_Climate).

• There was lots of dialogue following the November election when two press releases were issued through the ALA Washington Office, including a draft release that was posted in error. Each release included examples of how libraries do support and can continue to support economic and cultural growth and make a positive difference in people’s lives during the new administration. Much of the comment to ALA President Julie Todaro felt the press release was not strong enough in condemning assaults on ALA values and policies of intolerance that were promoted by then President-Elect Donald Trump. It resulted in rescinding the release of November 15th and a Q & A related to the new administration at: [http://www.ala.org/aboutala/q-a-related-new-administration](http://www.ala.org/aboutala/q-a-related-new-administration).


• At the end of July 2017, total ALA membership was 55,974, compared to 56,490 in June 2017, and 57,265 in July 2016.


• The ALA Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR) announced the publication of its comprehensive Career Development Resource Guide – which can be found at: [https://indd.adobe.com/view/48e24d69-b882-498a-b51d-014acf9e1763](https://indd.adobe.com/view/48e24d69-b882-498a-b51d-014acf9e1763). It is intended to assist library staff at all levels – new graduates, mid-or senior-level career – in their job search and career journeys.

• **Joint Student Membership Program** - Nebraska officially partnered with ALA to offer a joint student membership program that allows library school students to join a Chapter and ALA for one low price. Membership dues are $38 – which is split equally between ALA and NLA. There are now 44 Chapters that offer joint memberships to their states, and Nebraska was one of 5 new state partners in 2017.

• **2017 State of the Chapter Annual Report** filed for Nebraska to ALA. Thanks to Michael Straatmann and Christa Burns for their assistance.

• The ALA Library answers questions, develops fact sheets and in 2016 started writing these pathfinders as **LibGuides**. Most recently they developed a new Guide – Prison Libraries at: [http://libguides.ala.org/prisonlibraries](http://libguides.ala.org/prisonlibraries). They have also updated the following LibGuides:
  - Interlibrary Loans: [http://libguides.ala.org/interlibraryloans](http://libguides.ala.org/interlibraryloans).
  - Library Cards: [http://libguides.ala.org/librarycards](http://libguides.ala.org/librarycards).
  - Recommended Reading: [http://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading](http://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading).
  - Researching Banned or Challenged Books: [http://libguides.ala.org/researchingchallengedbooks](http://libguides.ala.org/researchingchallengedbooks).
Setting up a Library – http://libguides.ala.org/settingupalibrary.

- The 2017 State of America’s Libraries was released in April: http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2017. It includes the list of Top 10 Book challenges in 2016. Number one on the list is This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki for reasons including: LGBT characters, drug use, and profanity, and it was considered sexually explicit with mature themes. It’s a young adult graphic novel and winner of both a Printz and a Caldecott Honor Award.

American Library Association Conference/Events Schedule:
- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Symposium is in Louisville, KY November 3-5, 2017
- American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference is in Phoenix November 9-11, 2017
- Library Information Technology Association (LITA) Conference is in Denver November 9-12, 2017
- ALA Midwinter is in Denver February 9-13, 2018
- Teen Tech Week 2018 will be celebrated March 4-10 - Get Connected @ your library.
- Public Library Association Conference is in Philadelphia March 20-24, 2018
- National Library Week is April 8-14, 2018.
- Money Smart Week is April 21-28, 2018.
- Choose Privacy Week is May 1-7, 2018.
- National Legislative Day is May 7-8, 2018 in Washington, DC. In 2017, representatives attended from every state with 530 participants. There were also over 1,000 that registered for Virtual Library Legislative Day.
- ALA Annual Conference is in New Orleans June 21-26, 2018
- Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) National Institute is in Cincinnati September 27-29, 2018

Congratulations to Micki Dietrich, Omaha Public Library, elected as NLA’s ALA Chapter Councilor. Micki will do a great job and I’ve been in touch to offer any assistance wanted or needed. It’s been a pleasure serving as Chapter Councilor for NLA and I’ve enjoyed working with librarians and library supporters in Nebraska, nationally and internationally. Thanks for that opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Ealey
NLA ALA Councilor