PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Laura England-Biggs

July is almost over...how did that happen? Summer Reading Program is winding down here at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont - just one week left to log minutes for prizes and another two weeks after that to claim prizes. I am aware of other public libraries that have just started their SRP. School & academic libraries are gearing up for back-to-school. Some special libraries don't get a break - they function year-round. Corrections, law libraries, everyone has their ebbs and flows I'm sure.

Your Association has been hard at work planning the 2021 Annual Conference. I expect you'll be able to register in the next week or so. The schedule is set and will be available soon. We won't have a Tuesday pre-conference, so it's a two-day event this year. You will have great sessions to choose from, presented by your colleagues. Wednesday is a virtual day with a keynote and a mix of live and recorded sessions. Thursday, we'll gather in Omaha at the Downtown Hilton (1001 Cass Street) next to the CHI Health Center.  

(Con't on p. 2)
I need to acknowledge the folks behind the conference as they are a big part of this event. Emily Nimsakont, Vice President/President-Elect, is the Conference Chair. Ginger Jelinek is our Executive Director and keeps us on task throughout the process. We have wonderful volunteers working behind the scenes on exhibits, programs, and more. They are:

**Conference Programming Committee**
- Margaret Mering
- Megan McIntosh
- Cali Biaggi
- Janet Greser
- Sarah Johnson

**Exhibits Chair:** Sarah Johnson  
**Registration Chair:** Tanya McVay  
**A/V Chair:** Jean Hurst  
**Publicity Chair:** Sarah Haack  
**Golden Sower Chair:** Kathy Schultz  
**Scholarship & Awards Chair:** Lisa Mount

Several of the sections and round tables have stepped up to plan Wednesday night events to entertain you if you arrive early. Check out a haunted Omaha walking tour, a game night, and more! The ever-popular Golden Sower event will also take place Wednesday night with options for meal or no meal attendees.

This year’s conference promises to be a blend of pre- and post-COVID experiences. We are excited to see everyone again and hope you will join us for "The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times." I look forward to reconnecting with many of you and meeting new friends.

**View the Conference Website**

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**2021 NLA Board Meetings**

via Zoom  
Fridays @ 1:00pm  
**July 30 - Rescheduled to August 3**  
October - TBA

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**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Please submit information for the NLA newsletter! We especially would like updates from the sections, round tables, and committees, events or programs open to members, and recognition of award winners. We are also happy to share your events on NLA's social media. Thank you in advance for your help in contributing information! Happy reading!

_nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org_
**New Members Round Table Seeks Officers**

The [New Members Round Table (NMRT)](https://www.nebraskalibraries.org) is seeking officers to fill Vice-President/Chair-Elect and Secretary positions. They are currently meeting by Zoom as needed. Questions? Email Donna Kruse at nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org. This is a great way to learn from the inside and to give back to your library community.

**Next Advocacy Presenter: Dan Brower**

Dan Brower will present "Getting Started with Library Advocacy" on Friday, July 30 at 2:30pm via Zoom. Library advocacy can seem intimidating, especially for smaller libraries, but it is simpler than you might think. We'll talk about where to begin, how to make a connection, and how to grow relationships with policy makers. Learn to tell the story of your library and the people you serve to make a difference. Dan is the Assistant Director of Cass County (MO) Public Library and the Legislative Committee Chair for the Missouri Library Association. Register on the NLA webpage.

**Conference Exhibitor and Sponsor Information**

Exhibitor Registration is open for the 2021 Annual Conference! Commercial and non-profit exhibitors are welcome. Early Bird discount pricing is available through August 6. All the information and pricing can be found [here](https://www.nebraskalibraries.org). Sponsorship Opportunities are also available! Sponsorships are available for both the virtual portion and the in-person portion of the conference. More information can be found [here](https://www.nebraskalibraries.org).

**UNMC Opens Wigton Heritage Center**

The University of Nebraska Medical Center recently opened the new Wigton Heritage Center. The facility includes meeting and reception space, interactive displays that include archives, instruments and books that pertain to the history of medicine at UNMC, and a link to the McGoogan Library of Medicine. More information can be found on the [Wigton Heritage Center site](https://www.nebraskalibraries.org).
Meet Member
Jessica Chamberlain

Q: Tell us a little about your background and how you ended up working in libraries.

I have worked many jobs in many fields, including stints as a gas station attendant, retail salesperson, bank teller, group home manager, and substitute teacher. When I stumbled into a part-time job at my neighborhood library in Ohio, I was hooked. I started my first library job in 2002 and never looked back.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?

Librarianship combines all the things I love about learning and working with people into one glorious profession. Whether I'm helping a curious person find an answer they are looking for, or connecting a reader with a story that will expand their world view, as I'm helping someone else, I also continually get to learn and grow. It is both challenging and fulfilling and no two days are ever the same!

Q: What do you like to do outside of the library?

I love spending time with my family and friends, attempting to garden and be handy around my house, watching cheesy TV mysteries, writing and, of course, reading.

Q: How long have you been involved in NLA? In what capacity?

I started getting involved in NLA in 2010 when my family moved back to Nebraska. I was PLTS Chair in 2012, helped on the NLA Conference Planning Committee when it was held in South Sioux City, have been on a few PLTS Committees over the years, and am currently the PLTS Chair again this year.

Q: What are you currently reading?

I'm listening to Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing and reading Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano.
THE NLA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

GETTING STARTED WITH LIBRARY ADVOCACY

A presentation by Dan Brower, Legislative Committee Chair of the Missouri Library Association

Library advocacy can seem intimidating, especially for smaller libraries, but it is simpler than you might think. We'll talk about where to begin, how to make a connection, and how to grow relationships with policy makers. Learn to tell the story of your library and the people you serve to make a difference.

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 AT 2:30PM CST VIA ZOOM

Dan Brower is the Assistant Director of Cass County (MO) Public Library and the Legislative Committee Chair for the Missouri Library Association. Serving on the Legislative Committee since 2014 and as the chair since 2018, Dan works with libraries on advocacy throughout the year. He has led Missouri librarians to Washington DC multiple times to speak with US Senators and Representatives about the importance of libraries.
News & Events

Third Thursday Chat: August 19 @ 11AM

Save the Date!
"Getting Started with Library Advocacy"
Presented by Dan Brower
Friday, July 30 at 2:30pm via Zoom
Register Here!

TINY & MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
Meets 3rd Tuesdays @ 10am
Mark your calendars!
August 17
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

2021 NLA Conference
The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times

NMRT Resume Review
If you have been in the library profession for four years or less and would like feedback on your resume or CV, please email NLAresumereview@gmail.com. We will accept the first 20 resumes received each month. Please allow up to two weeks for feedback.

Still Needed!
We are still seeking volunteers to chair:
Auditing Committee
Bylaws & Handbook Committee
Contact Laura if you are interested!

Follow NLA!
CONTACT INFORMATION

**Board Representatives**

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**Interest Groups**

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Please note: Chairs needed for the Auditing and By-Laws & Handbook Committees!