PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Laura England-Biggs

I've been struggling with what to write about this month. It's Pride month, which should be a no-brainer given my personal commitment to supporting diversity and LGBTQIA+ acceptance. I have wondered if I will offend some segment of my audience by writing this. Will writing about something else entirely offend a different group? I'm not sure. I'm taking a deep breath and diving in.

My own journey to LGBTQIA+ advocacy dates back to 1986, when my twin brother came out to the family over Christmas break. Our parents reacted very differently - Mom cried and Dad said, "You're my son, it doesn't change anything." Mom came around after meeting the folks in PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). She learned that there was nothing wrong with my brother, and nothing wrong with the way he was raised. Rather, being gay is just a part of who he is. (He's also a pediatric nurse, a great singer, and a really good cook.)

(Con't on p. 2)
The odds are good that we as librarians have patrons, co-workers or family who identify somewhere in this group. It's impossible to "tell" just by looking, but the statistics say LGBTQIA+ folks make up at least 10% of the population. I find myself watching what I say more carefully since I was introduced to a non-binary co-worker. Did I just say "you guys" to a group with mixed gender people? Have I mis-gendered someone based on my own assumptions? Is that joke really funny or is it harmful to someone who might overhear? Things to consider.

I welcome your feedback. Reach out to me at nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org.

2021 NLA Conference

Please mark your calendars!

Tues., Oct. 12
Virtual Preconference Sessions

Wed., Oct. 13
Virtual Conference Sessions

Thurs., Oct. 14
In-person Conference Sessions in Omaha, NE

Registration options will include virtual only, in-person only or for the entire experience!

View the Conference Website
Support School Librarians!

Proposed changes from the Nebraska Department of Education may endanger school librarians' jobs. Watch this news clip from KETV Omaha.

NLA Intellectual Freedom Round Table Statement on Book Removal

The NLA Intellectual Freedom Round Table released a statement concerning the removal of the book, *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice*, from an instructional resource list at Papillion La Vista Community Schools. Click here to read the statement.

NLA Third Thursday Chat - June 17, 2021

NLA hosts a monthly hour-long Zoom session on the third Thursday of the month. The purpose behind these sessions is to allow librarians across the state to network and share information on different topics. June's Third Thursday Chat will feature International speaker, life coach and author Michelle Mras. The topic is "Resilience." Click here to register for this event!

Conference Committee Chairs Needed

Volunteers are needed to Chair the Registration Committee and Local Arrangements Committee for the 2021 Annual Conference. Please contact Emily Nimsakont if interested!

New Members Round Table Seeks Officers

The New Members Round Table (NMRT) 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.

Louise Nixon Scholarship Winners

The winners of the $1500 Louise Nixon Scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year are Sylvia Stevens of Omaha, Wyatt Packard of Lincoln, and Alexis Hostert of Omaha. Congratulations!!

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit information for the next 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!

Submit to: nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org
Meet Member
Denise Harders

Q: Tell us a little about your background and how you ended up working in libraries.
I started my library work in 1982. I processed books and typed catalog cards for all 12 elementary schools in Grand Island. Next, I was a clerk and also drove the Bookmobile through several south-central Nebraska counties while working at the Holdrege Area Public Library. After that I worked at the Grand Island Campus of Central Community College as a clerk, and then as the library supervisor for the Hastings Campus. We moved to Texas and I worked as a clerk for Plano Public Library while attending Texas Woman’s University to earn my MLS degree. We moved again when I was hired as the Director for the Republican Valley Library System in January 2011. Since that time, the state combined two Systems, and now I am the Director for the Central Plains Library System, serving some of the same counties where I drove the Bookmobile in the 1990s!

Q: How long have you been involved in NLA? In what capacity?
I joined NLA 10 years ago when I came back to Nebraska. I attend the annual conference every year, with the notable exception of 2020. I was elected Treasurer in 2019 to serve through 2021.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?
My favorite thing about librarianship is the variety of challenges that I face. I have a date book and I schedule visits, but I never know what questions I will be asked. Working in an ever-changing environment is exciting.

Q: What do you like to do outside of the library?
When I’m not working, I enjoy visiting my children and three grandchildren. I also like to spend time outdoors tending my flowers and working in our vegetable garden. If the weather keeps me inside, I love making wreaths and gnomes.

Q: What are you currently reading?
Most of my reading is done through audiobooks these days. I am currently listening to Next to Last Stand by Craig Johnson. I got to hear this author speak at the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Omaha in 2013. I recommended his books to my husband and now we both enjoy his stories.
Third Thursday Chat: June 17 @ 11AM
"Resilience" with Michelle Mras
Register Here

2021 NLA Conference
THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN:
REINVENTING LIBRARIES IN CHANGING TIMES

TINY & MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
Meets 3rd Tuesdays @ 10am
Mark your calendars!
June 15
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

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!
CONTACT INFORMATION

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Interest Groups

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