I was thinking about the term 'advocacy' the other day. What does it mean to you? Dictionary.com says this:

**advocacy** [ad-vuh-kuh-see]

noun, plural ad-vo-ca-cies.

the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal:

He was known for his advocacy of states' rights.

https://www.dictionary.com/browse/advocacy?s=t

I don't know how I feel about "pleading for," but supporting and recommending I can get behind. For me, the term that is missing in this definition is 'informing.' Sometimes a person simply does not understand an issue/topic, and once they do, their attitude or opinion changes. I see one role of advocacy as offering information in a transparent way. Don't be confused, I don't do it as well as I wish, but I know I should.

(Con't on p. 2)
The Nebraska Library Association advocates for libraries and their staff every day, in one way or another. We share stories and figures that help support budget requests. We recommend policies and procedures to each other via listservs. We listen and give positive reinforcement when someone is needing to practice a speech for a governing body or public meeting.

Once again, there will be no formal Advocacy Day 2021. The pandemic is still very much interrupting this tradition. Rather, the Advocacy Committee is working to bring you a series of one-hour, bite-sized advocacy you can use every day. The plan is to offer four separate topics (or more) via Zoom, and to make them as accessible as we can. I will let Deb Robertson and her group share the details when we have dates set - but I know it will be a great series.

We're also working on ways to honor your wonderful volunteers, which was part of the traditional Advocacy Day happenings. Be on the lookout for follow-up information from the Advocacy Committee on those topics and more. And as always, reach out to me if you have questions or concerns: nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org.

Committee Chairs Needed!

Looking to add to your resume? NLA needs volunteers to chair the Auditing and By-Laws & Handbook Committees. If interested, please reach out to Laura at nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org.
Apply for the 2021 Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Louise A. Nixon Scholarship! The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon's goals of dedication and vision. This scholarship supports students who pursue full- or part-time graduate-level library education. Applicants must meet the Nebraska Library Association eligibility criteria and submit complete applications before the April 15 deadline.

One award per person is given. Scholarship applicants must deserve the award. Scholarships will not be awarded automatically if only one person applies. Scholarships will be paid by the Lincoln Community Foundation directly to the educational institution.

Visit the Nixon Scholarship Application page for more information about eligibility and required application materials.

2021 NLA Conference Survey

The NLA Board of Directors is seeking input about the 2021 Annual Conference, as your safety and comfort is the priority. Have you completed the conference survey yet? Help guide planning for the 2021 conference which is currently set to be held October 13-15 at the Hilton Downtown Omaha.

College & University Section Seeking Proposals

The Nebraska Library Association College & University Section is seeking presentation proposals to share at the digital Joint Spring Meeting of the College & University Section and the Technical Services Round Table.

The conference theme is "Creating Efficiencies: Work Smarter, Not Harder." How are you and your library changing? Are you creating new streamlined workflows, new services, or innovation in instruction? Here's your chance to share your innovations with your colleagues.

Submit your proposals by March 15, 2021!

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit information for the newsletter by the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. (For example, please submit content for the April newsletter by March 15.) 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@nebraskallibraries.org
Meet Member
Anneka Ramirez

Q: Tell us a little about your background.
I was born and raised in Norfolk and have two older sisters. My dad was from San Antonio, Texas and my mom is from Wisner, Nebraska. After graduating from Norfolk Senior High, I moved to Bellingham, Washington to attend Western Washington University. I have also lived in Tacoma, Washington, Scribner, Nebraska, and Omaha, NE. I am a lapsed poet and mother to an ever curious toddler.

Q: How did you end up working in libraries?
A couple years after getting my undergraduate degree in American Cultural Studies, I was still trying to find my footing. I started taking some of Central Community College’s library courses to see if that was a direction for me. Around that time a director position opened up at the Scribner Public Library. I applied, got the job, and jumped right into the world of public libraries. It was a big leap but I am thankful the board took a chance on me.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?
For me, the heart of librarianship is centered on the relationships we build and nourish. We cultivate connection with our communities, governing bodies, colleagues, collections, and programs. We even develop relationships to the values of our profession and let them guide us in our work. The growing conversations about social justice in libraries have highlighted where relationships need attention and commitment. The importance of connecting and building relationships is truly one of my favorite things about librarianship.

Q: What do you like to do outside of the library?
Outside of the library, I enjoy being with my little human, Ezra; haphazardly crocheting things; writing; going for walks, and of course, reading every chance I get.

Q: How long have you been involved in NLA? In what capacity?
My involvement with NLA started in about 2012 with conference attendance and then as a conference volunteer for registration and co-chair of the audio/visual sub-committee. I have served as NLA Chair, Diversity Committee Chair, and most recently as Chair of the 2020 Ad-Hoc Membership Committee.

Q: What are you currently reading?
I just finished reading Bowlaway by Elizabeth McCracken and am starting Mimi Lee Gets a Clue by Jennifer J. Chow for the library’s Winter Reading Challenge.
News & Events

Third Thursday Chat: March 18 @ 11AM
Topic: TBD

Nebraska Library Association
Educate • Advocate • Innovate

Save the Date!
The World Turned Upside Down:
Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times

TINY & MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
Meets 3rd Tuesdays @ 10am
March 16: Mighty Marketing
April 20: TBD
for more info: nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

Registration is open for ACRL 2021 VIRTUAL

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
JUNE 23-29, 2021 VIRTUAL

Click Here
to see a detailed breakdown of NLA'S budget

Follow NLA!

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Board Representatives

MPLA Councilor
Evonne Edgington
nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org

AFCON Representative
Todd Schlechte
nla-afcon@nebraskalibraries.org

ALA Councilor
Brenda Ealey
nla-ala@nebraskalibraries.org

Committee Chairs

Advocacy - Deb Robertson
nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org

Auditing - TBA
nlaauditing@nebraskalibraries.org

By-Laws & Handbook - TBA
nlabylaws-handbook@nebraskalibraries.org

Communications - Sarah Haack
nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org

Diversity - Tim Lentz
nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org

Elections - Michael Straatmann
nlaelections@nebraskalibraries.org

Finance - Michael Straatmann
nlafinance@nebraskalibraries.org

Professional Development - Emily Nimsakont
nlaprofdev@nebraskalibraries.org

Scholarship & Awards - Lisa Mount
nlascholarships@nebraskalibraries.org

Round Table Chairs

Intellectual Freedom
Wyatt Packard
nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org

New Members
Calie Neuberger
nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Technical Services
Kristine Woods
nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Section Chairs

College & University
Julie Pinnell
nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org

Paraprofessional
Janet Grese
nlapara@nebraskalibraries.org

Public Library & Trustee
Jessica Chamberlain
nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org

School, Children's & Young Peoples
Odessa Cooley
nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org

Special and Institutional
Tom Schmitz
nlasandi@nebraskalibraries.org

Interest Groups

Tiny & Mighty
Rebecca McCorkindale
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

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