PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
by Laura England-Biggs

With the end of April, we’ve suddenly turned a corner into a busy time of year for many kinds of libraries. Academics are anticipating the end of the school year. Public folks are stepping up their programming game with plans to launch special programs at the end of May or earlier. Special libraries may be approaching the end of a fiscal year. It’s got me wondering what types of activities are underway across our state.

Technical services is always a hive of activity. Acquisitions folks are busy placing orders and receiving materials. Many of us have gone to patron-driven acquisitions as well as processing requests from library staff for programming. Perhaps you’ve also gone to shelf-ready materials, which frees up the catalogers to work on authority control and special collections. The workflow at my own library includes taking items off new status with the change in months. There are fields to update, books to shelve and new numbers to watch for.

(Con’t on p. 2)
And Interlibrary loan is still going strong, with requests for materials we can’t get from our vendors. Youth Services folks are locking in plans for Summer Reading Program/Club/Insert-Your-Word-Here performers or classes, whether indoors or outside this year due to social distancing guidelines. Maybe they're busy bagging the crafts and storytime/class materials like we're doing at Keene. Could be they're setting up reading challenges in Beanstack or ReadSquared.

Adult Services may be looking at ways to engage their patrons during the summer as well. It’s not just for kids anymore! I've heard of book clubs, Bingo sheets with different genres to read, and special presentations by local authors to try to capture that elusive adult reader who also attends programming.

Office managers are definitely getting in on the act ordering the inevitable "need-it-now" cases of copier paper, processing invoices, receiving on purchase orders and monitoring spending no matter when your fiscal year ends. Directors, if they’re like me, are probably buried in meetings to discuss the next budget cycle or possibly even hiring additional staff.

The Circulation/Reference staff are always going to be busy with increased foot traffic as restrictions are lifted. That means more checking items in and out, reader's advisory, reference questions, computer assistance and re-shelving of everything that flows in and out.

This just goes to show that we all "Spring" into action in our own way, doing our best to keep our libraries relevant. Thank you to all of you out there making a difference!

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!
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 28TH! The Conference Program Selection Committee invites you to submit your proposals for preconference and conference sessions using this Google form. We’re looking for programs on topics from all areas of librarianship - academic/public/special; adult services and youth services; access services and technical services; outreach and storytimes...or anything else you would like to present. Choose to present in-person, live online, or in a pre-recorded video, and share your ideas with your colleagues. Questions? Contact Emily Nimsakont.

We have the following presentation slots to fill:
- 4 virtual half-day preconference workshops
- 4 live online sessions
- 12 pre-recorded online sessions
- 12 in-person conference sessions

**2021 Annual Conference Updates**

**View the Conference Website**

**View the Conference Program FAQ**

**Conference Committee Chairs Needed**

Volunteers are needed to Chair the Exhibitors Committee, Registration Committee, and Local Arrangements Committee for the 2021 Annual Conference. The greatest need at this time is for the Exhibitors Committee. 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.

**Special and Institutional Section Update**

It was proposed at the April 30 Board meeting that due to lack of membership and conference participation, the membership of NLA will vote on the dissolution of the Special and Institutional Section at the annual meeting in October.

**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
Shelby Janke

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

I'm originally from Kearney, NE, and my first "real" job was working as a Library Page at the Kearney Public Library. I loved it! I left Kearney to study Global Studies & Spanish at UNL, and briefly worked in the nonprofit sector after I graduated. After using libraries my whole life, it finally clicked that librarianship is an actual career. In 2019, my partner and I moved to the Omaha area and I've been at the small town library in Waterloo ever since.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?

I work at a rural library with one other staff member, which means I get to touch all aspects of librarianship on a daily basis. I get to catalog new items, develop programs, record virtual story times, provide readers' advisory, and update our website and social media. All of these tasks allow me utilize different parts of my brain in creative ways.

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

I'm a homebody, and enjoy reading with my cats, Troy and Minou. My partner and I are currently watching Game of Thrones. I can't wait for my book club to be able to meet in-person again!

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

I've served on the Communications Committee for one year, where I help run NLA's social media accounts and edit monthly newsletters like this one. If you have any information you'd like amplified through NLA's channels, send it our way!

Q: What are you currently reading?

I'm reading Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro and just downloaded the audiobook The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration, and Resistance in World War II America. I volunteered at Heart Mountain in college and am excited to dig in!
NLA ADVOCACY COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

FROM ADVOCATE TO ACTIVIST

A presentation by EveryLibrary's John Chrastka

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 AT 2:00PM CST

This session looks at how our current advocacy model is failing libraries. We explore strategies and tactics used by some of the best community organizers, political action committees, and politicians. We will emphasize the resources and skills that librarians and library staff need to develop if they want to have the political and community support needed to increase support and funding.

John Chrastka, founder of EveryLibrary, is a long-time library trustee, supporter, and advocate. Mr. Chrastka is a former president and member of the Board of Trustees for the Berwyn (IL) Public Library (2006 – 2015) and is a former president of the Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) multi-type library system. Previously, he was Director for Membership Development at the American Library Association (ALA). He is a member of ALA, the Illinois Library Association (ILA), and the American Political Sciences Association (APSA). He was named a 2014 Mover & Shaker by Library Journal and tweets @mrchrastka.
News & Events

Third Thursday Chat: May 20 @ 11AM

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

Submit your program proposals!

C&U and TSRT Joint Spring Meeting
"Creating Efficiencies: Working Smarter, Not Harder"
May 14 / 9:30am-2:50pm

Register by May 7

TINY & MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
Meets 3rd Tuesdays @ 10am
Mark your calendars!
May 18

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.

NLA Advocacy Presents:
From Advocate to Activist
Friday, May 7 @ 2PM

Register Here!
See pg. 7 for details.

Follow NLA!
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

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

Round Table Chairs

Intellectual Freedom
Wyatt Packard
nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org

New Members
Cali Neuberger
nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Technical Services
Kristine Woods
nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Section Chairs

College & University
Julie Pinnell
nlaandu@nebraskalibraries.org

Paraprofessional
Janet Greser
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