PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Laura England-Biggs

We recently held a drawing for free memberships to celebrate our 125th Anniversary as an Association. We were thrilled by the response, and look forward to interacting with all the new (and returning) members who participated in that drive.

In case you are still on the fence about joining, I thought I would highlight a few benefits of membership in the Nebraska Library Association:

- You get to connect with like-minded colleagues in the profession
- You can get more involved with your profession through sections, round tables, and committees that interest you
- You can build your leadership skills through volunteer opportunities
- We offer support systems for library staff at all levels
- There are advocacy tools available to help with local, state, and national issues of interest

(Con’t on p. 2)
After 23 years as the Director of the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Library Science Education programs, Dr. Becky Pasco retired on December 18, 2020. She is off to new adventures!

At UNO, Dr. Pasco is affectionately and accurately referred to as “The Library Goddess.” For those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her, even this grand term falls short. As head of UNO’s Library Science programs, she was a visionary leader, an inspirational teacher, and a powerhouse executor of major initiatives. She was also a shining example of “boots on the ground,” driving hundreds of thousands of miles across our state to meet, encourage, and support Nebraska librarians. Her work has ensured accessible, quality library science education for the betterment of libraries across our profession. UNO Library Science is committed to continuing her legacy and is deeply grateful to rest upon the strong foundation she built.

Dr. Sara Churchill is taking over as the Director of the Graduate School Library Education program at UNO. Erica Rose will continue as the Coordinator for the Undergraduate Library Science Education programs at UNO. Inquiries for information regarding the UNO Library Science Education programs should be directed as follows:

Dr. Sarah Churchill  Erica Rose
schurchill@unomaha.edu  ecrose@unomaha.edu
Graduate School Library Program  Undergraduate Library Science Programs

A Note from UNO Library Science Programs

Continuing education and networking opportunities such as annual conference and Third Thursday Chats.

If you are interested in learning more about, or becoming more active in, the Association, reach out to me at nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org. I can connect you to the Section, Round Table, or Committee you may be interested in learning more about.
NLA UPDATES

January 29th marked the first NLA Board meeting of 2021. This was also the first meeting for newly elected members. Committee Chairs and committee members were approved by the Board. NLA President Laura England-Biggs is seeking volunteers to Chair the Auditing and ByLaws & Handbook committees. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Laura at nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org.

Minutes from all the Board meetings are available on the website. The NLA Board meets on a quarterly basis.

125TH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NLA held a drawing for 125 free memberships for 2021 to celebrate the Association's 125th Anniversary. The response was overwhelming! The hope is that participants will become involved and continue their membership in the coming years. If you are a current member, don’t forget to renew your membership when you receive your reminder email - once your membership has lapsed for 3 months, you are removed from the membership list.

INTEREST GROUPS

The Tiny & Mighty Interest Group had their first meeting in January. They will continue to meet virtually on the 3rd Thursday of the month for discussions about various topics. The February 16 theme is COVID-19 Challenges and the March 16 theme is Mighty Marketing. For more information or to join in the discussions, email nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org.

The Diversity Committee would like to switch to an interest group, to be able to open membership to a broader portion of the membership. Watch for more information on this in the coming months.

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 March newsletter by February 15th.) 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
Scott Childers

Q: Tell us a little about your background.
I was born in Albion, Nebraska and bounced around the state living in 10 different houses in 4 different communities (Spaulding, Bertrand, Gothenburg & Loomis) before I had entered high school. I received my BS in Computer Science/Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and my IMLS from Emporia State.

Q: How did you end up working in libraries?
I started as a work study student at UNL Love Library my sophomore year there in the early 90's. After graduating I was lucky enough to get a job as a paraprofessional there, and during this time several librarians suggested I look at going to get my MLS. I loved libraries, but had never thought of it as a possible career until having those discussions.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?
I love that this is a profession that doesn’t do things for profit, but to genuinely help people and make the community they live in a better place.

Q: What do you like to do outside of the library?
I’m currently restarting a couple of writing projects I had to set aside for a while, and I’m happy to get back to them. I’ll also play some video games once in a while and I am a big football fan.

Q: How long have you been involved in NLA? In what capacity?
I started in NLA around 1995 when I was a student getting my library degree. Since then I’ve been on quite a few committees, was a Chair of a couple of round tables and a section in the past. I was the first NLA webmaster and am also a former NLA President.

Q: What are you currently reading?
Presto!: How I Made Over 100 Pounds Disappear and Other Magical Tales by Penn Jillette
PLTS INVITES YOU TO JOIN!

HERE TO SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TRUSTEES

FOR $15, YOU CAN JOIN THIS WELCOMING NETWORK OF PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF AND TRUSTEES ACROSS THE STATE.

PLTS MEMBERS LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, SHARE SUCCESSES AND SOLUTIONS, AND CHAMPION EXCELLENT PUBLIC LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT NEBRASKA.

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR 2021

Winter 2021
Virtual Networking Meeting for PLTS Members

Spring 2021
Spring Meetings: Virtual Tours of New Libraries Across the State

Summer 2021
Virtual Networking Meeting for PLTS Members

Fall 2021
TBD when we know what will be happening with the NLA Conference

YOUR 2021 OFFICERS

- Jessica Chamberlain (Norfolk Public Library), Chair
- Sarah Johnson (Geneva Public Library), Vice-Chair
- Cecelia Lawrence (North Platte Public Library), Secretary/Treasurer
- Devra Dragos (Nebraska Library Commission), Immediate Past Chair
Third Thursday Chat: February 18 @ 11AM
Topic: Public Library Programming: Achieving the Balance

PLTS Winter Networking Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2021
11:00am via Zoom
Register/More Information Here

TINY & MIGHTY INTEREST GROUP
Meets 3rd Tuesdays @ 10am
Feb. 16: COVID-19 Challenges
March 16: Mighty Marketing
for more info:
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

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

Follow NLA! Twitter Facebook LinkedIn

Click Here to see a detailed breakdown of NLA’S budget
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
Cal Li Neuberger
nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Technical Services
Kristine Woods
nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Section Chairs

College & University
Julie Pinnell
nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org

Paraprofessional
Janet Greser
nlatpara@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!