PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Laura England-Biggs

The first thing I need to do is to thank Michael Straatmann for leading by example over the past 15 months. I am humbled and honored to be following in his footsteps. Michael has a way of making everyone feel heard like they were the most important person in the room. I aspire to that kind of listening and leadership.

While nobody can know what will happen in 2021, I do have a few ideas of what I want the Nebraska Library Association to accomplish in the coming year. I want to continue the trend of listening to the members when we ask what you want from your association. I want to see our educational opportunities continue to grow and adapt to the new learning environments available to us. And I want to rebuild the membership in our association by making sure the cost does not outweigh the value to you.

A little bit about me – as I write this, I am the Interim Director at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. (cont. p. 2)
Greetings NLA Members! We hope you are enjoying the new NLA eNewsletter. We really want this tool to be an informal way to keep the membership informed on what is going on with NLA, to advertise upcoming events, and to connect with each other by spotlighting someone every month. We ask that you be involved by submitting information to us so we can include it in the newsletter - especially updates from the Board, and Chairs of the sections, round tables, committees and interest groups. You can reach us at nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org.

Please submit information to include in the newsletter by the 15th of the month for the following month’s issue. (For example, content for the February newsletter would need to be in on or before January 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!

A Note from the Communications Committee

I’m still pulling double duty as Youth Services Librarian and Head of Technical Services too. I’ve been here in my various roles about 15 years as of August 2020. My library career started back in 1991 as a technical services clerk at Bellevue Public Library.

I’ve been a union chief negotiator (in another lifetime) and know the value of bringing like-minded people together. Professional development and access to libraries are important to me, and those key concepts are a large part of why I belong to the NLA. I ran for Vice President/President-Elect hoping I could make a difference within our community and raise awareness of the issues facing information professionals at all levels. We’ll see how that goes this year!

On a personal note, my husband Dale and I live in Omaha, so I understand the challenges of commuting. We have four cats, and love board games of all kinds.
ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

NLA's Annual Meeting was held on December 10. Here are a few important items that were discussed, in case you missed it! Minutes from all the Board meetings are available on the website.

Membership Renewals
You can now renew your membership to NLA and sections / round tables in one simple transaction. Members should receive at least 2 emails that their membership is in need of renewal. Once a membership has lapsed for 3 months, it is removed from the list. If you are a current member, you can login to your account on the NLA website to see your membership expiration date. Questions? Email Ginger at nlaexecutivedirector@nebraskalibraries.org.

New Interest Groups Created
Two interest groups were created at the end of the year. Interest Groups are created by Board approval. They do not receive any funds through NLA, but can hold funds and raise money on their own. For more information about these interest groups, please contact the person listed.

Tiny & Mighty Interest Group (for small and/or rural libraries) - Rebecca McCorkindale
*First meeting is Tuesday, January 19 at 10am via Zoom. Contact Rebecca for the link.

Information Technology Interest Group (formerly ITART) - Scott Childers

Brief Notes
The NLA Bylaws and Handbook have all been recently updated (in 2019 and 2020 respectively) and are available on the website.

Michael Straatmann awarded two Presidential Awards of Excellence to Anneka Ramirez, Chair of the Ad Hoc Membership Committee, and Scott Childers, Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Congratulations to Anneka and Scott!

NLA transitioned their fiscal year to match the calendar year. New officers will also serve by calendar year. Newly elected officers for 2021 are Emily Nimsakont (President-Elect), Allison Sillik (Secretary), and Brenda Ealey (ALA Councilor.)

Annual reports from all the sections, round tables, and committees can be found on the NLA website as well.
Meet Member
Emily Nimsakont

Q: Tell us a little about your background.

I have a master’s degree in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I have worked in cataloging and technical services positions for 12 years. My previous jobs include positions at UNL’s Schmid Law Library and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Q: How did you end up working in libraries?

My first master’s degree was in museum studies, and I initially wanted to be a museum educator. I gradually realized that my real interest was in informal education and that libraries were great places to help people learn. I went back to school to get my MLS and have been working in libraries ever since.

Q: What is your favorite thing about librarianship?

I love the variety of types of work the profession encompasses - there are many different ways to help connect people with information.

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

I do a variety of fiber arts (knitting, crochet, and embroidery) and spend time with my husband, son, and cat.

Workplace: Amigos Library Services
Title: Cataloging and Metadata Trainer

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

I have been a member of NLA since 2006. I have been an officer of both NMRT and TSRT, I was on the 2011 annual conference committee, and I was the NLA webmaster for 2 years.

Q: What are you currently reading?

Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam
Third Thursday Chat: January 21 @ 11AM

Welcome to those who snagged a free membership in our 125th Anniversary Celebration!

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

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

Tiny & Mighty Interest Group
First Meeting!
Jan. 19 @ 10AM
Request the link!

Let's Celebrate 125 New Members In Honor of Our 125th Anniversary!
Welcome to those who snagged a free membership in our 125th Anniversary Celebration!

Follow NLA!
CONTACT INFORMATION

Board Representatives

MPLA Councilor
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AFCON Representative
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ALA Councilor
Brenda Ealey
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Committee Chairs*

Advocacy - Deb Robertson
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Auditing - TBA
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By-Laws & Handbook - TBA
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Professional Development - Emily Nimsakont
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Scholarship & Awards - Lisa Mount
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*Pending Board Approval

Round Table Chairs

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Please note: Chairs of some committees are still being finalized.