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President's Message

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."
(Charles Darwin)

As president of the Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) for 2012-2013, I am honored to serve and support school librarians and libraries in the state of Nebraska. This is a year of change, starting with the rewording of our association name as of July 1, to more clearly reflect our alignment with the American Association of School Librarians.

Our future depends on more than just a name change. As Charles Darwin said, only those most responsive to change will survive, and his words hold true for school libraries and librarians. In order to remain viable, we

must embrace changes in the world around us and seek opportunities to engage students in the inquiry process and foster the development of 21st Century Skills. We, too, must evolve.

Part of the evolution is a change in organizational purpose. The purpose of NSLA is to advocate for school library programs, to provide professional development opportunities, and to develop leaders in the school library field.

Advocacy information and support will be provided through the unveiling at fall conference of our new website containing advocacy tools to support school librarianship. NSLA will also provide professional development through our pre-conference event on



NSLA President
Stacy Lickteig

October 17th on The Embedded School Librarian. We will be developing leaders in the field by involvement in advocacy and professional development initiatives.

I invite you to embrace change and seek opportunities to highlight our profession and provide tangible proof to stakeholders that school libraries and librarians are vital to student success.

Stacy Lickteig
NSLA President

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Missed the Connect to Tech Session?

This summer NSLA with the support of UNO offered a workshop on connecting technology to curriculum. If you were not able to attend the session, you can still have access to the content for the low price of \$10. Please contact Kim Gangwish contactnsla@gmail.com for further details.

Special points of interest:

- NSLA Board meeting Sept. 26 at 7:00 pm. This will be a virtual meeting.

Proposed Changes to NSLA Construction

At the July 25, 2012 meeting, the NSLA Board voted to recommend to the membership a proposed change to the language of the Purpose of NSLA. The Purpose currently reads: The purpose of the Nebraska Educational Media Association is to provide

visionary leadership, support for educational library professionals, and to advocate for library media programs throughout the state of Nebraska. The proposed change is: The purpose of the Nebraska School Librarians Association

is to advocate for school library programs, provide professional development opportunities for school librarians, and develop leaders in the school library field. In effect, we are purposing the wording change to align

with our new organizational name of Nebraska School Librarian Association. A vote of the membership will take place at Conference during the annual business meeting. Submitted by Stacy Lickteig, President

NSLA Calendar 2012-2013

NSLA Board Meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012	7:00 pm – Virtual
Monday, Feb. 4, 2013	7:00 pm – Virtual
Saturday, April 27, 2013	9:00 am – TBD

State MPLA /NLA/NSLA Conference

October 17-19, 2012 LaVista Conference Center

NSLA Pre-Conference Event – The Embedded School Librarian

October 17, 2012 5:30-8:30 pm – Roskens Hall, University of Nebraska Omaha

National Conferences

AASL 2012 Fall Forum – Transliteracy and the School Library Program	October 12-13, 2012 – Greenville, South Carolina
ALA Midwinter	January 25-29, 2013 – Seattle, Washington
ISTE	June 23-26, 2013 – San Antonio, TX
ALA Annual	June 27-July 2, 2013 – Chicago, IL



MPLA / NLA / NSLA Conference Update

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us in LaVista for the 2012 MPLA / NLA / NSLA Conference on October 17-19, 2012. This year NSLA with the support of UNO is offering a pre-conference session held at UNO on the evening of the 17th. The session titled: **Like a splinter or like a journalist? Embedded school librarianship** will be presented by Sara Kelley-

Mudie. After Sara's presentation, mini sessions will offered on topics related to embedded school librarianship. More information about the pre-conference is provided in the attached flyer or can be found online on the conference site.

Thursday and Friday, the conference schedule is packed with relevant

sessions on curriculum, student engagement, emerging technology, as well as other topics related to school librarianship.

The NSLA board meeting will be held on the 18th over the lunch hour, so make plans to come meet our newest board members.

The keynote speaker in the afternoon is Dr. Tom

Osborne who has long been a supporter of education and libraries. Of course, don't forget to leave some time to visit vendors, network with colleagues, and even attend some social events.

The full details for conference including the schedule can be found at: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/triconference2012/>

Karla Wendelin Scholarship Winner

I just finished my first year as a media specialist for two K-2 elementary schools. Being a media specialist wasn't what I imagined it would be. It wasn't exactly my cup of tea...but it was my cup of coffee. My perfect cup of coffee! Strong, a little cream, sugar, and more sugar. This profession encapsulates my loves in life: literature, technology, and children. The best part is that not only do I get to know 20-30 children; I get to know them all.

I've never been an advocate of doing something just to do it. I've gone down a couple of different avenues in education and while they were all great experiences, they just weren't for me. I kept searching, and I happened to stumble upon a few media specialists who loved their jobs. They shared that love with me, and all of a sudden the movie of my life did a flashback. No wonder why I loved to spend numerous hours in my hometown library over the

summers, and why I was drawn to the media specialists at the schools where I worked. No wonder why I can never get enough of technology, and why I love knowing something about each kid in the school. NO WONDER!

The face of libraries has changed so much since I was a little girl, and they keep changing. This constant change is my challenge to keep pushing to do better and try to incorporate new ideas every single year. It's organizations like NSLA that allow us professionals to get together and share all of the great concepts that we have floating around in our brains on a daily basis. Staying connected was extremely beneficial to me in my first year. I believe that media specialists are very passionate about this profession and they enthusiastically share that passion with anyone that is willing to learn. I'm the youngest of seven children and have always felt like someone was watching out for

me. Becoming a media specialist was no different. I have just joined another large family who truly want to see me succeed. It's wonderful!

In my push to do better each and every year, I know I have a responsibility to give back. So, I am just going to share a few things that I have in mind to incorporate this year. Maybe you've already discovered them, or maybe you can try them with me and we can see how they work together?

I have a goal of integrating some technology into every lesson. Instead of just creating a poster about the Dewey Decimal System, we are going to create a digital poster using, www.artskills.com. Students will use the app called, Puppet Pals, to create book reviews. I will display the new Golden Sowers with an Animoto, from www.animoto.com. The students will then assemble their own short Animoto

about the authors and illustrators of the Golden Sowers. They will create a glog about an inventor they choose using www.glogster.com. iPads can be utilized to record fairy tales that were written and produced by them. Older students will also record and share their knowledge of routines and procedures with the incoming Kindergartners. These are just a few of the ways that I will incorporate technology. There are so many other brilliant apps and websites that I can't wait to try out.

I'm eager to go to future conferences and see what everyone else is achieving in their media center this year. We are vigorously working to set our students up for success. I know their futures will be bright, and part of it will be due to the media specialist who decided to take that child on the best rollercoaster ride of their life.

Kim Jones

Eye On the Organization

One of the key goals of NSLA is to provide opportunities for members to take an active role in the organization through committee and liaison appointment that serve the needs and interests of the organization and the larger library community of Nebraska. As organizational needs change, we must regularly examine these appointments to ensure that we are best fulfilling this goal. This July, the board spent time examining liaison

appointments, and it was determined that the Read Aloud Nebraska Liaison was no longer needed as RAN regularly provides information on events and activities to NSLA via email. Additionally, the Talking Books and Braille Liaison duties will be absorbed by the NLC Liaison. These changes allow NSLA to streamline the work of the liaisons, and eliminate redundancy while making

room for new committee appointments and internships to offer members opportunities for active engagement in the organization's strategic goals of advocacy, professional development and building leadership capacity. In September, the board will continue work on the strategic plan to include a discussion of how we will proceed in determining committee and student intern

appointments. If you are interested in taking an active role in your professional organization, this is an excellent way to begin. You will have a chance to see, from the inside, what is involved in working in a state level organization. Look for more information on committee and intern opportunities in the fall newsletter.

Laura Pietsch, NSLA Board Member

AASL Report

The AASL Affiliates had much to discuss this year in Anaheim. When the liaisons get together we talk about the great things that are happening in our states, and there are many! We also discuss our concerns. Especially those that impact our entire profession. One of those concerns created quite a debate.

Our neighbors in Kansas have fielded a number of questions on their state listserv regarding organizing our school collections by genre. In answering these questions, their state president realized something. One of the things we have done well in our profession is common organization of materials for all of our patrons. If each of us goes forward with organizing our libraries in this fashion, there will be a myriad of classification

names, which will make it difficult for our patrons to easily move between facilities. (Is it Romance or Chic Lit?) That is a problem.

The Affiliates requested AASL to put forth a common recommendation. But we all came to the realization that there is no research gathered to determine if this is actually best practice. Our decisions have always been rooted in research. Time and again we reference these studies to assure our administrators are aware of the importance of our role in schools.

If we are going to move forward with rearranging or "genre-fying" our collections, we need to have research to back up our decision. Research that indicates genre organization improves circulation, makes searching

for books simpler, or whatever it is we are trying to achieve. Many public libraries are looking at the "book store" model as well. So not only is AASL looking to provide us with answers, ALA is looking for answers, too. As librarians; school, public, academic, special; our goal is to assure we meet the needs of our patrons. But it is important to recognize that no matter who our patrons are, or what specialized needs they have when visiting our facility, if they enjoy the experience we offer them, they will eventually use other libraries. Because of this we need to proceed carefully and unified.

As a result of our animated discussions, the liaisons were asked to share with our states that AASL is going to look into this for us. The concern was sent back to the

Executive Committee, which means they will take a look at it during their meetings at Midwinter in January. A recommendation will come out of their discussions. The liaisons agreed that, in the meantime, if a school library has not already sorted their collections by genre, it might be best to wait until there is a recommendation from AASL to assure uniformity in our decisions.

As we head back to our libraries this fall, please know that your concerns are taken very seriously by AASL and they are working to help us be professional & unified. Another reason to support AASL as we all move forward.

Carrie Turner

Something to Shout About

Dr. Sherry Crow and Jennifer Robins were published in the June 2012 issue of *Teacher Librarian*. Their article, "Play in the Library: Primordial Learning," can be viewed at <http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?referral=other&refresh=Td70z21N60Eg&PBID=eae030fd-f08f-4952-9fd7-f475edae2de1&skip=>

Curriculum-Based Learning Centers Coming to BPS Elementary School Libraries this Fall

Some elementary librarians in the Bellevue Public Schools decided it was time to

embrace change when the District decreed that library classes would last 50 minutes instead of the 25 minutes we have had for the last several years. We wondered how we would keep our youngest students engaged for 50 full minutes. After some "aha" moments, a group of five of us asked for and received time to work out a new curriculum delivery model—learning centers in the library.

The initial goal of our group was to plan seven or eight centers based on the existing curriculum for primary students. Our momentum and enthusiasm

were so great that by the end of a week, we had planned more than 35 centers spanning all the grades—kindergarten through sixth.

We not only planned the centers but also came up with record keeping ideas, materials organization methods, and implementation plans. We found GoogleDocs to be a very valuable tool in our planning. Each library will implement centers in ways that work for that building, so no two will be alike. However, since all the centers are based on the existing library curriculum, the students learning skills in the

centers will have the same opportunities to learn as those students receiving more traditional instruction.

We know that we will have to teach students how to operate in center mode and spend a lot of initial prep time creating the centers. Our district is so supportive of this delivery model that we are going to have a professional learning team this fall in order to continue to develop and tweak our centers. We think the end result will be wonderful and are really, really excited to try this new model.

Terry Osborn

Think, Create, Share, Grow!

Learning environments was the focus of this session at the 2012 ALA annual conference in Anaheim, California.

Presenters Susan Ballard, Kristin Fontichiaro, Margaret Sullivan contend that library spaces must be designed to support inquiry and the development of skills, responsibilities, dispositions and self-assessment strategies that students need for success. In most schools, the school library is one of the few large spaces filled with resources where users can meet, plan and collaborate on learning objectives.

Thus, school librarians must consider the user experience. As each school has a unique culture, so it should have a unique school library. Consider the following as you plan the best learning space for your school:

- What does your space look like? Is it usable, enticing, stimulating?

- Does it work for what we know about learning today?
- Study libraries and the educational models. Does the design of your library make sense for the educational model in place at your school?

Too often libraries fall back into “old designs.” The presenters called this the Negative Gravity Theory: when people are uncomfortable with change, they go back to what they already know. The problem with this is that more traditional libraries are designed for librarians, not users. Think about it. Do you envision yourself as one who provides resources for patrons -- a one-way flow of information, or as one participates in and facilitates interactions *among* students, teachers and others – as both a learner and teacher? As we acknowledge the shift

in our role and embrace ebooks and digital content, social media, the common core, content creation and the ever-evolving multimodal information landscape, we must think about our spaces in new ways as well. What follows are the presenters’ top ideas about 21st Century school library spaces:

1. Imagine a circulation desk designed like an Apple Genius bar. Think about how patrons in an Apple store interact – talking looking, watching, sharing, brainstorming collaborating.
2. Libraries as makerspaces: Modeled after hackerspaces, a makerspace is a communal place where people come together to explore their interests, to learn to use tools and materials to develop creative projects.

Makerspaces are flexible

spaces that can be adapted to a wide variety of purposes – both curricular-driven educational purposes as well as personal, creative purposes. Instead of being passive consumers of information, students and teachers collaborate to explore experiment and create. This idea marries play and inquiry. For more information check out Maker Magazine, [Makerspace \(www.makerspace.com\)](http://www.makerspace.com) or [Youngmakers \(http://www.youngmakers.org/ymp-clubs\)](http://www.youngmakers.org/ymp-clubs).

Laura Pietsch



NSLA Board Meeting Minutes

The July 14, 2012 NSLA Board meeting was called to order by President, Stacy Lickteig at 9 a.m. at Bellevue West High School. Nine members were present.

The agenda was approved. The minutes from April 28, 2012 were reviewed and approved. The treasurer's report gave a net balance of activities for 2011-2012 of \$1,745.82. Bills were presented and the report was approved for auditor report.

Board recognized Tammi Mans and Kim Gangwish for their successful transition in their positions.

The Executive Secretary's Report was given. Current members are 363.

The finance report was given with net worth of \$18,863.22.

AASL Report was shared. Dollar General grant “Beyond Words”, eBooks Task Force, Fall Forum, Banned Website

Awareness Day, NASTEMP, and eCOLLAB.

Commendations and concerns approved by delegates, Region IX Director, Cindy Pfeiffer and Ken Stewart, Director-Elect.

Learning 4 Life report was read: 2012 NLA/NSLA Conference presentation approved.

Old Business items discussed: recognized Sara Churchill for

her work as Webmaster. Fall Conference Update, NSLA Summer PD Update.

New Business items discussed: NSLA Finances & Budget. Motion by Ruth Walker to approve the proposed budget. Seconded by Chris Haeffner. Motion carried.

Motion by Laura Pietsch to combine the Executive Secretary position with the Webmaster position and

NSLA Board Meeting Minutes cont.

adjust the salary to \$4,000.
Seconded by Tammi Mans.
Motion carried.

Motion by Ruth Walker to change website and document collection area to Google. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

Motion by Laura Pietsch to approve changes to Liaison Guidelines. Seconded by Ruth Walker. Motion carried.

Motion by Sherry Crow to present to the membership at fall meeting the change in

language of the Purpose statement in the Constitution. Seconded by Ruth Walker. Motion carried.

Motion by Chris Haeffner to present to the membership at fall meeting the change in language of the Bylaws statement. Seconded by Ruth Walker. Motion carried.

Action plans for NSLA goals a. Advocacy, b. Professional development.

Motion by Ruth Walker to replace the computer and software for the Treasurer. Seconded by Chris Haeffner. Motion carried.

Motion by Sherry Crow to purchase Survey Monkey for one year. Seconded by Ruth Walker. Motion carried.

Motion by Karen Buckley to appointment AASL liaison for one more year to match liaison guidelines. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

Membership Lists and NSLA Essentials are available upon request from Executive Secretary.

Fall Newsletter assignments were made.

Motion by Ruth Walker to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Haeffner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Kabes, Secretary

BACK TO THE BASICS:



**BUILDING
THE
FUTURE**

MPLA/NLA/NEMA

TRI-CONFERENCE OCTOBER 17-19, 2012

This year NEMA will kick off conference with a bang by hosting a pre-conference extravaganza at UNO. Join colleagues from across the state to hear guest speaker Sara Kelley-Mudie present on the topic of embedded school librarianship. Participants will walk away with tools and tips for integrating library programs into a multitude of teaching and learning spaces. Conference sessions will start on Thursday October 18th at the LaVista Conference Center.

Over 100 sessions will be offered ranging from Pinterest and Scoop.it to working with primary documents and indentifying ways to close the gap in student achievement. Make sure not to miss the keynote speaker on Thursday afternoon who will be none other than Nebraska's own Dr. Tom Osborne.

From seeing old friends, making new connections, and visiting vendors the 2012 MPLA/NLA/NEMA Conference is shaping up to be a not to be missed event. Registration is already open and can be found at: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/triconference2012/>.



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