



NEMA News

Spring 2012
Volume 55

President's Message

A pertinent question frequently asked at board meetings and less formal gatherings of NEMA officers is, "How can we best serve our members?"

Many members are able to attend our fall conference when we join with the Nebraska Library Association in offering a large variety of breakout sessions, workshops, and nationally known speakers. NEMA and Nebraska regional library systems sponsor workshops such as the Southeast Library System/NEMA workshop in Lincoln March 1 or the Eastern Library System/NEMA School Librarians Day in Omaha March 9.

NEMA supports individual membership educational opportunities through scholarships.

The listserv has served NEMA well for providing library news, for members seeking their peers' advice, and for seeking support for library legislation locally and nationally.

Thank you to NEMA

members who signed the White House petition and wrote to their legislators. I met with a member of Sen. Ben Nelson's office and had a teleconference with two of Sen. Mike Johanns's staff to request their support on the inclusion of school libraries within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly No Child Left Behind. ALA provided me with talking points and a letter that I requested the senators sign for the chairman and ranking member of the Committee of Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The letter opened with "We are writing to encourage you to include provisions in your reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to improve academic achievement by ensuring students have adequate access to effective school library programs. An effective school library program plays a crucial role in the successful education of our children"

On February 27, I joined other Nebraska library professionals at the annual Nebraska Library



NEMA President
Karen Buckley

Association Advocacy Day (formerly known as Legislative Day) to encourage elected officials to continue to support library access and services for their constituents.

This issue contains information about candidates for NEMA's upcoming elections. My thanks to the nominating committee for finding excellent candidates and also to the candidates who graciously agreed to run for NEMA board positions.

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Special points of interest:

- NEMA Board meeting April 28, 2012, 10:00 am at LaVista Public Library.

Meet the NEMA Candidates



President-elect: Sherry Crow

Dr. Sherry Crow is currently Assistant Professor of School Library Science/Educational Media at the University of Nebraska Kearney. She became full-time faculty at UNK in the fall of 2008. Before beginning her career in higher education, Sherry worked in school libraries (14 years), as well as in public libraries (9 years) in children's, adult reference, young adult, and media services. In 2002 she won the

Harold Hill Award for Leadership in Colorado, and in 2004 she was named Colorado Librarian of the Year. In 2010 she received the NEMA Presidential Award.

Sherry has earned a B.S. in Elementary Education, a Master's Degree in Library Science, and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Management. Her area of research is student motivation for information seeking. "I feel strongly that we as librarians (and all educators, for that matter) should make fostering intrinsic motivation and lifelong learning in our children a priority." She is the author of four books, the latest she wrote with her mentor and a classmate from Emporia State, *Information literacy and information skills instruction: Applying research to practice in the 21st century*

school library (2011, 3rd ed.; authored with Nancy Pickering Thomas and Lori L. Franklin). She has presented nationally and internationally on the topics of collaboration, parental involvement, storytelling, and intrinsic motivation. She is currently a Nebraska Library Commissioner as well as the president of the Meridian Library System board.

Her association involvement includes serving as the Secretary to the Colorado Association of School Libraries and as the Colorado Liaison to AASL. On the national level, she served as the chair of AASL's Advocacy Committee, and was a member of AASL's *School Library Media Research* editorial board. She is currently serving on the AASL/NCATE Coordinating

Committee and is a Member of the NCATE Board of Program Reviewers. In Nebraska, she is a NEMA board member-at-large, a member of the SCYP Mad Hatter Award Committee, and has recently served as the NEMA Conference Registration Chair and as a Learning 4 Life presenter for NEMA. She is a member of NEMA, NLA, ALA, AASL, and IASL.

While serving nationally and internationally is important, Sherry is passionate about serving in her own back yard. "The REAL impact of associations is on the grassroots level. I am most excited about rolling up my sleeves and working for the school librarians in Nebraska."



Board Member at Large: Beth Foulks

Beth Foulks, a teacher at Ponca Public School for 33 years, currently serves as the Library Media Specialist. She earned a Masters of Science Degree in Education at Wayne State College and added a Library Science

endorsement at the University of Nebraska Omaha. She was named Teacher of the Year in 1996 by the Nebraska Rural Schools Community Association for her work as a second grade teacher. She serves on the Northeast Nebraska Library System Board and is the director for

Ponca Carnegie Library. Together with her husband, Caleb, they have raised two daughters of whom they are very proud.



Board Member at Large: Kim Esser

I live in Nebraska City with my husband and four kids. I currently work at my alma mater, Lourdes Central Catholic, as part time media

specialist. I received my Bachelor's from Peru State College in Elementary Ed/Special Ed. I later attended UNO and received my Master's in Education with my media degree as well. While I admit, I haven't been overly involved in

organizations, as my focus has been my kids/family and finishing up that Master's, I am hopeful to start playing a more active role in our profession, especially in advocacy for those small school librarians.

Elections cont.



**Board Member at Large:
Courtney Pentland**

Courtney Pentland is currently in her fourth year as the school librarian at Omaha Burke High School. She graduated from UNO with her library science endorsement and a Master's in secondary education in 2009. She is also an adjunct faculty member at UNO for the library science program. Her involvement in the library community includes reading books for the district review committee, leading

her district's high school PLC, serving as the program coordinator for the Metro Area Association of Secondary School Librarians, and writing occasional articles for several library journals. She is also currently serving on the publicity committee for the 2012 NLA/NEMA conference. She has been a member of NEMA since she was a library science student

and has a strong desire to take a larger role in our state organization and work with her colleagues from across the state. "I sincerely believe that a strong school library program is essential to the success of students not only in their academic pursuits but in life. By working together, we can encourage and achieve a level of excellence in each of our schools."



**Board Member at Large:
Chris Haeffner**

I am the librarian at Park Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska. Celebrating my 10th year as a librarian and 15th year as an educator, I have finally discovered my niche in middle school. After years teaching in elementary school, it turns out that I am fluent in pre-adolescence and skilled in the arts of teen angst. Passionate about preparing

my students for the changing world that awaits them, I am an information specialist and a technology pioneer. Blessed with four young readers of my own, I'm constantly trying to keep up with the literature and stories that will mold their lives. I currently hold a master's degree in curriculum and instruction and am working on an

additional certificate in educational leadership.



**Secretary:
Beth Kabes**

"The love of reading was my primary reason," was the response Beth Kabes of Educational Service Unit

7, gave when deciding to pursue a degree in Media. She taught for Leigh Community Schools prior to her current position as the Media and Distance Learning Coordinator for ESU7 in Columbus, Nebraska.

As a member of NEMA, Beth enjoys the valuable knowledge and skills shared among the members and through conferences. She has served as Secretary for the past year for the NEMA organization. She has also

volunteered for NEMA conference committees and has presented on PowerMedia Plus, Technology Integration and on the online repository resource of MediaNebraska (medianebraska.myelearning.org) at numerous conferences. Beth has also shared in the coordination efforts of the Northeast Nebraska Media Specialists Fall Workshops held each year. Beth is excited to have an opportunity to be a part of

the leadership team of the NEMA organization and hopes to share information and initiatives from a statewide perspective as well as build relationships with other NEMA members.

Meet UNO student Lindsay Peterson



Lindsay and daughter, Brooke

Lindsay Peterson is a teacher-librarian at Cottonwood Elementary, part of Millard Public Schools in Omaha, NE. She is the highlighted NEMA student this quarter. I enjoyed getting to know her via email. Lindsay radiates enthusiasm and positive energy. She is a library student already working in her field and she sounds well suited to a job she loves. I asked her a little about her family, career, and the future for her and her students. The following is what she had to say.

Tell me a little about your family.

When I'm not at Cottonwood or UNO, I stay busy trying to keep up with my husband, Brander, and my three children. Caroline is 12 and goes to school at Kiewit Middle School (MPS). Brooke is 11 and is in 5th grade at Cottonwood and my son, Max, is almost 4.

What are you currently teaching? Are you in a library position?

I started teaching 5th grade in August of 2005 and that excitement and hope that filled me on that first day hasn't changed. I still get excited to come to work and I'm lucky to call Cottonwood my home.

I moved to the library 3 years ago and I've loved every minute. I've learned so much about teaching and myself. During my time at UNO and Cottonwood I have learned that through positive relationships, I can change lives. I learned that with passion, I can ignite a love for learning that EVERY child deserves to know. Teaching isn't just a job for me; it's part of who I am.

How close are you to completing your degree?

I'm finishing my last class this semester and will graduate in May. I love UNO and the Library Science Program. I've had such positive experiences. I have found the coursework to be focused on creating things that I can (and DO) use in my library. The library science program

really feels like a close-knit community. I've been SO inspired by the conversations and cooperation of the staff and my classmates.

Any plans once you graduate in May?

My goals beyond earning my graduate degree involve making my library the best it can be. I hope to spend MANY years in this position, but that doesn't mean that my learning stops with the degree. I know that I'm at my best when I am working towards something. Having goals helps to keep me motivated and feeling successful.

What are some thoughts you have looking ahead?

The most interesting and challenging part of my role here at Cottonwood is considering all the changes in this 21st century. If we think back to our own elementary school days, it's nearly impossible to count all the changes in technology alone that have occurred over the past few decades. If we think towards the future it's just as impossible to imagine the changes that will occur in the next few years! Our jobs as parents and teachers are tough ones: to prepare children for the future they will face...to help them to become contributing members of society and to help them discover and focus their personal talents. This is no easy task! To best serve our students and to prepare them the best that we can for their futures, we need to consider not only their test scores, but also their abilities to think critically and create. I

believe kids thrive when we give them the opportunity to question, create and collaborate and I do my best to integrate those skills into my library units and lessons.

You sound like you really love what you do and have a passion for your work.

I do. I am so thankful for my learning and I am constantly changing my vision for what I hope to accomplish in the library. I'm thankful for an administrator and co-workers that are willing to try new things and push and roll with the punches! I'm also thankful for the opportunity to be a part of such an innovative, cooperative community that truly puts the needs of children first!

In closing, I offer a heart-felt thanks to Lindsay for her contagious enthusiasm and to you our readers who continue to support library students.

Submitted by
Sharon Axthelm

NLA/NEMA Conference 2012

This year's NLA/NEMA conference is special for many reasons. The conference will include our colleagues from across our region from the MPLA (Mountain Plains Library Association) and the conference will have a virtual component for those folks who are unable to attend in person. We are looking for the best, the brightest, the most innovative people in our profession to share the excellent ideas and programming they have developed and use every day.

The sessions for this year's conference should reflect what you are doing in your classrooms and libraries, include hands-on components, and reflect the AASL standards. We want our sessions this year to be something that you can use right away and that will make your library program stronger. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a conference session, the conference proposal form is available online right now. http://nebraskalibraries.org/triconference2012/?page_id=8 The deadline for submissions is April 30th. If you know of anyone who does something great, but might be too shy to submit themselves, please feel free to e-mail us their name and

what you think they do that is great, and we will contact them directly. We hope to see as many of you as possible in October and hope that you will consider being one of our presenters as well. Thank you in advance for helping us make this year's conference one that will truly aid you in building the future.

Courtney Pentland
Burke High School

Mad Hatter Award

The Mad Hatter Committee is once again seeking nominations for the Mad Hatter Award, presented each fall at the NEMA/NLA Conference, to a children's librarian in the state of Nebraska who has made an outstanding contribution to children and librarianship.

The nominee must exhibit the qualities listed in the nomination form and be a member of the SCYP section of NLA.

Nominate a deserving colleague for the 2012 NLC-SCYP Mad Hatter Award.

This fall's NLA/NEMA Conference will be Oct. 17-19 at the LaVista Conference Center in conjunction with the Mountain Plains Library Association Conference.

NEMA Name Change

In April, you will be asked to vote on whether to change the name of Nebraska Educational Media Association to Nebraska School Librarians Association.

NEMA ballot

Article I –Name

Section 1 currently states: The name of this organization shall be the Nebraska Educational Media Association.

We are voting on whether to amend the constitution as follows:

Section 1: The name of this organization, founded as the Nebraska Educational Media Association, shall be the Nebraska School Librarians Association.

VOTE:

YES: to change the name to: Nebraska School Librarians Association

NO: to retain the name: Nebraska Educational Media Association (Section 1 would remain unchanged)

Something to Shout About

It started as an idea after Lexington Middle School Librarian Bev Gustafson ran across Kate Messner's blog, in which Messner had suggested that one of her books would be great to use for a mother-daughter book club.

Sprouting from the seeds of this idea was the Mother-Daughter Book Club at LMS.

On Dec. 19, the club held its first meeting and started reading Messner's book *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z.*

The book follows Gianna as she must complete a project in school all while making sure another character in the book does not stab her in the back and take her spot in the cross country sectional meet. More

pressing matters take place; however, as Gianna must deal with her grandmother, who has Alzheimer's disease, and her best friend who starts to see her in a different light.

A second meeting, held Jan. 9th, included a visit from Dixie Montelongo from Plum Creek Care Center,

who gave the group information on Alzheimer's disease.

The highlight of the group's final meeting two weeks later was a Skype session with author Kate Messner. Messner was a lively, interesting author who described her writing process and answered the girls' questions about her characters

NEMA Board Meeting Minutes

NEMA Board Meeting
January 28, 2012
Video Conference: Lincoln,
Blair, Kearney, Scottsbluff

January meeting was called to order by President, Karen Buckley, with 17 members present. The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes from September 17, 2011 were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report was shared online. Current balance is \$11,685.32.

President Buckley met with Senator Nelson's office.

Sarah Mitchell is resigning as Talking Braille Liaison. Sara Churchill is resigning from Web Master. Joie Taylor is resigning from Read Aloud NE. Glenda Willnerd is resigning from NE State Advisory Council on Libraries with Betty Meyer appointed to replace.

Executive Secretary: Current Membership 336 active members, 74 lapsed membership.

Correspondence: thank you received from Jennie Schneider.

AFCON: Student Expression bill and Civics

Education bill. Video contest. NDE Liaison: Share school library articles and information with NDE.

NLA Liaison: 2012 Conference, "Back to the Basics, Building the Future," with Keynote Dr. Tom Osborne. Proposal deadline is April 30.

Nebraska Library Commission Liaison: Deficiency budget request. Deficiency appropriation for the Talking Book and Braille Service request. 5-year report and a 5 year plan for NLC. April 25 National Library Legislative Day. Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries: Federal Library Programs. Nebraska Youth Advisory Board: Activities for "Last Newspaper Boy in America," by Sue Corbit. For book bags, contact NLC. Future choices for One book for NE Kids and One Book for NE Teens.

AASL Liaison: ALA offers retirees with continuous membership for 25 years free membership. NCES.ed.gov School & Staffing Survey. AASL Intellectual Freedom Committee Resources. Email hadams@mansfield.edu example of privacy policy. Freedom to Read Foundation: "Free People

Read Freely." Fall Forum 2012 in Greenville, SC - Topic: Transliteracy. AASL advocacy. Committee on advocacy tools: Carrie Turner, Laura Pietsch, Lora Leibrandt, Deanna Reilly.

Learning 4 Life: L4L-NCompass program. L4L focus on using technology for differentiated instruction.

Old Business

AASL Liaison description. Appoint 3 year term from July to June. AASL member for 1 year prior to appointment. Moved by Stacy Lickteig to accept the description as amended. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

New Business

Motion by Carrie Turner to defer Awards and Scholarships for spring until next meeting. Second by Sherry Crow. Motion passed.

Nominating committee slate of candidates - President Elect - Dr. Sherry Crow, UNK. Secretary - Beth Kabes, ESU7. Board Member Candidates - Beth Foulks, Ponca, Kim Esser, NE City, Courtney Pentland, Omaha,

Chris Haeffner, Lincoln. Moved by Carrie Turner, to accept slate of candidates as presented. Seconded by Stacy Lickteig. Motion carried.

Moved by Betty Meyer to approve SELS-NEMA workshop request of \$100. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

Online membership directory. Submitting proposals for 2012 Administrators Days, and NSBA. Proposals on "Current issues in libraries."

Next Board Meeting April 28, 10:00 at the LaVista Public Library.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Carrie Turner. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Kabes, Secretary

Something to Shout About cont.

and other elements of the story.

Each meeting was attended by 25+ mothers and daughters. Some of the mothers were actually teachers who "adopted" middle school girls for the event. These were girls whose mothers' schedules did not allow them to attend or whose mothers do not speak or read English. Mothers and daughters alike agreed that the Mother-Daughter Book Club was a

fun opportunity to spend time together and form a unique bond. The response to an online survey of the participants indicated an overwhelming interest in

continuing the reading club on a quarterly basis. The group is currently working to decide on a book for 4th quarter!



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