

# NSLA NEWS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

NSLA Board Meeting  
April 26, 2014  
Sump Memorial Library  
9:00 am

## President's Message

I had the privilege last month of delivering approximately 500 books to a school for orphans in Kamala, Uganda. The books came from school and public libraries across Nebraska, as well as school libraries in neighboring states (from some of my out-of-state students).



The joy I felt at seeing these beautiful children enjoy BOOKS cannot be measured, and ranks as one of the top ten experiences of my life. You see, these children have had very little exposure to books and I wasn't sure what their reaction would be. Books are rare in this land of low literacy rates, high basic needs, and few resources. These children cannot go to public school because the government will not put resources into people



they think will die by the age of 20 years.

BUT, I was pleasantly surprised. Surprised at seeing how well the children accepted the joy of books. Some had to be shown how to hold them, but others took to the books like ducks to water, and they did not come up for air for a long time. Some went off by themselves to read (yes, several could read pretty well), some paired up with a friend, and others got into groups and passed the books around. There were some who enjoyed gathering them up and putting them into piles by size and color. ALL thoroughly enjoyed experiencing piles and piles of books they had never seen before!

I say I was surprised but I should not have been. For years I have heard that exposing children to books--letting them "dive in" and choose their favorites--is one of the

best ways to motivate them to read and learn. Researchers say that the pleasure humans derive from satisfying their own curiosity is directly connected to their drive for survival, and results in advantages such as increased knowledge, independence, and secure relationships (Ryan, Kuhl, & Deci, 1997).

Thanks for your generosity, school library professionals of Nebraska. For these children of Kampala knowledge is not only power, it is *survival*. If they do not develop the ability to read and seek information on their own, their lives will be difficult indeed. Because of you these precious, mostly-forgotten children were given a little more of a chance.



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## President's Message con't.

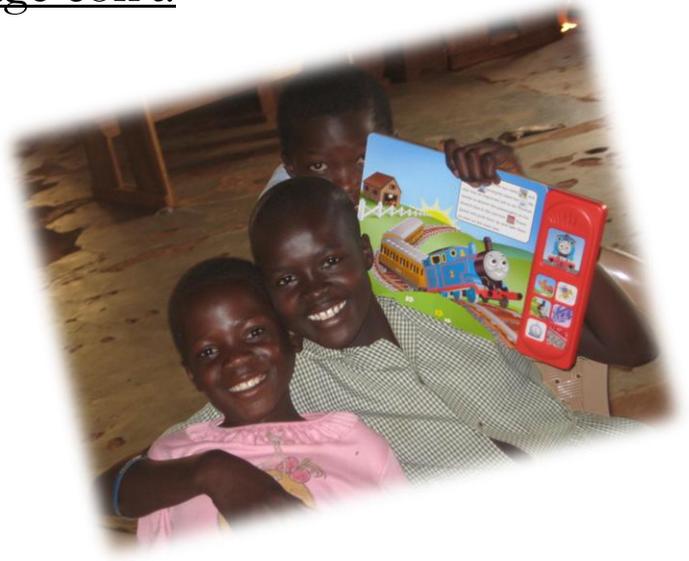
“Libraries are the bedrock of our society.”

-Yvonne S. Thornton

But truly, in this day and age of information technology, isn't that true for children everywhere?

Sherry R. Crow,  
NSLA President

Ryan, R. M., Kuhl, J., & Deci, E. L. (1997). Nature and autonomy: An organizational view of social and neurobiological aspects of self-regulation in behavior and development. *Development and Psychopathology*, 9, 701-728.



## Nebraska Department of Education News

The Nebraska Department of Education has hired a new commissioner. Dr. Matt Blomstedt previously served as director of the Nebraska ESU Coordinating Council. The Nebraska State Board of Education voted unanimously on January 7, 2014 in support of revision of the current Nebraska Performance Accountability System. The revision document is the result of the work of the NDE Statewide Assessment office, NDE leadership, and the Nebraska Board of Education Accountability Committee. The work was guided by three goals:

- To develop an effective system

that provides fair accountability for schools in order to enhance opportunity to learn for every student in every school in Nebraska

- To partner with school districts to provide support for improved student learning
- To partner with the Legislature by providing *NePAS 1.1--Background and Proposal of Framework* to guide NDE as it moves forward.

Details of combining the measures, determining weights, measuring growth and improvement

have not been determined, and much conversation and collaboration will take place in the state as NDE works with districts and policy partners to determine the system design. The timeline for development and implementation is currently being determined and will provide ample opportunity for all districts to give input to the NePAS design. However in the meantime, a senator has introduced LB 952 which would provide a plan for the ranking of schools, A – F, based upon assessment results. Schools in the “A” range

would be eligible for performance-based funding. The bill has been referred to the Education Committee.

The state Board of Education has been presented a draft of new fine arts standards. If adopted, these may provide a new point of conversation for collaboration with fine arts teachers.

Gail Formanack  
NDE Liaison



## Meet the NSLA Board Candidates



### President-Elect: Laura Pietsch

I began my career as a school librarian 24 years ago at Bellevue West High School, and I currently serve as the Supervisor of Library Services for the Omaha Public Schools. Throughout my career I have actively participated in both state and national library associations

offering conference presentations, serving as the Nebraska Library Association SCYP chair, serving two terms as an NSLA board member as well as serving on the publication committee to revise the Guide for Developing and Evaluating School Library Programs 7th Edition, and, most recently, serving on the AASL's Collaborative School Library Award Committee.

I am honored to be a candidate for president-elect of NSLA and have the opportunity to advocate for the needs of school librarians across Nebraska. I enjoy the challenges of working for

school librarians especially during this critical juncture in our profession. The ALA Office of Research and Statistics reports, in their State of America's Libraries Report 2013, the number of school librarians is declining at a rate greater than that of other school workers with the exception of instructional facilitators and supervisors. As president, I would lead in advocacy efforts to share information with school library stakeholders about how well-funded, well-staffed school library programs positively impact student achievement.

### Election Information

There are 2 Board Member-at-Large positions open.

Elections will be held April 1 - May 1. Voting will take place online.

Members will receive a link via e-mail to vote.

If you would like a paper ballot instead, please contact Kim Gangwish at [contactnsla@gmail.com](mailto:contactnsla@gmail.com)

"A library is a house of hope. It's a place where we all, whatever our situation, can feed our ideas and develop our dreams."

-Doug Wilhelm



Image from [www.dvusd.org](http://www.dvusd.org)



### Board Member-at-Large: Michaela Braun

Michaela Braun is the 7-12 School Librarian at O'Neill Public Schools and this is her first year in that position. Prior to that, she spent 21 years as a school counselor, both at the elementary and high school level. She has her Master's degree from Wayne State College in

counseling, K-12 and in the summer of 2013 received her endorsement in Library Media Specialist from UNK. Changing directions and becoming a school librarian was natural for her, as she has been an avid reader since she was a child. She loves finding just the right books for her students and finds it a huge reward when they come back and ask for more of a series or another book "just like the one you recommended".

She attended her first ALA Midwinter conference in Seattle in 2013, and particularly loved the

YALSA sessions. She also attended the NSLA for the first time in the fall of 2013 and was a presenter. During the past year as the library media specialist in her school, Michaela has focused on making the library a welcoming environment and considers it the ultimate compliment when students tell her they love the new look. Her ultimate goal is to continue learning from her peers in the field by staying involved in state level associations, and hopefully even getting involved in the ALA one day.

## Meet the NSLA Board Candidates (con't.)



### Board Member-at-Large: Kim Jones

I am a K-3 school librarian at Blair Community Schools. I am in my third year in that position. Prior to that I taught secondary English. I received my

Bachelor's degree from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a Master's degree in Secondary Education, and an endorsement in Library Media from University of Nebraska-Omaha. It is my priority to provide the best possible experience for my students in the media center. I am driven to keep myself educated with the latest technology, and I work on ways to share this knowledge and incorporate it into my

lessons.

Being a school librarian wasn't something that I set out to be. I loved being at the public library when I was a kid. I was always drawn to the library and librarians throughout my career. I was like a moth to a flame. I've always enjoyed literature, technology, and getting to know many of the students in the school. Then one day....Ding! The light bulb went off, and I

knew what I was meant to do. I love this profession and the family that I instantly joined when I decided to become a school librarian. Every once in a while I hear, "Do you where a bun and glasses?" and "What's it like sitting and reading all day long?" I just smile and say, "Come in and see." This profession has the capabilities to ignite a love of learning in each and every child in the school. Now that's powerful!



### Board Member-at-Large: Audrey Loosvelt

Audrey Loosvelt is the K-12 school librarian at Madison Public Schools. She is currently in her 6<sup>th</sup> year at this position. She received her bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State College. She earned her school library endorsement through UNO.

Before becoming the school librarian, taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Passionate about technology, Audrey led their school in a 1:1 laptop initiative and currently spends part of her day helping teachers integrate technology into their lessons. She also manages 120 iPads at the elementary level.

Audrey served a term on her local public library board and is also a board member for the Northeast Library System. Audrey believes that being on these boards and a member of NSLA and NETA energizes her and keeps her knowledgeable of the newest progression in School Libraries and Technology Integration!



### Board Member-at-Large: Diane Sands

I am in my 10<sup>th</sup> year as the Library Director for Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, NE. Prior to Creighton Prep, my previous positions were an elementary Special Education teacher with Malvern, IA Community School District, and then an elementary Media Specialist for four years with the Council Bluffs Community School District. My undergraduate and

Master's degree were obtained at Peru State College and my Media Endorsement at UNO. I attribute my move from the elementary/public setting to the high school/private setting to Dr. Becky Pasco, Professor at UNO. Working through the changes Prep has made over the past 10 years, with scheduling and technology and the impact they have had on the library, have been challenging yet enjoyable. Prep has allowed me the opportunity to attend national and local conferences each year which include ALA, AASL, JSEA, NETA and NEMA/NSLA.

Working closely with our Instructional Technologist, we ensure the library has the resources necessary to assist faculty with their curriculum and special

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## Meet the NSLA Candidates (con't.)

### **Diane Sands (con't.)**

project needs. Over the past 9 years I have completed, with the assistance of the Instructional Technologist, an extensive weeding of the entire library collection. All areas have been replenished with newer, more up-to-date

titles. Students and teachers are encouraged to make book recommendations throughout the school year. I enjoy the appreciation of the boys when I am able to purchase books they are interested in reading. Slowly, I have started adding eBooks to our collection as well. During

the past few years I have been rearranging and adding new furniture and décor to make the library a more relaxing and inviting atmosphere for the boys.

I strive to keep up with the latest in technology and to know about all platforms. This allows me to better assist our students and

teachers with questions and concerns as they arise. If the answer is unknown to me, I will research to find an answer to meet their need.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a candidate and serve my peers as a Member-at-Large on the NSLA Board.

## Nebraska Library Commission

Congress enacted a budget bill in mid-January funding federal agencies and programs for the remainder of the federal fiscal year, ending September 30. The budget includes a slight funding increase for the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States Program.

The Library Commission hosted "Big Talk from Small Libraries" on February 28. The online conference was held using the GoToWebinar online meeting service. The conference was free and was aimed at librarians from small libraries. Speakers were from a small library or directly worked with small libraries. Topics ranged from technology (new tech and old tech) to programming to new roles for the library. While oriented to public libraries,

the presentations appealed to a broader audience. Big Talk from Small Libraries was co-sponsored by the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

Christa Burns has posted scheduled NCompass Live weekly webinars through mid-April. The February 5 NCompass Live featured Carolyn

Dow, Polley Music Library Manager, Lincoln City Libraries. Carolyn discussed the statewide resource that is the Polley Music Library, along with her involvement in the International Association of Music Libraries.

NCompass Live includes a monthly "Tech Talk" presented by Michael Sauers, the Library

Commission's Technology Innovation Librarian. All NCompass Live sessions are recorded and available soon after presentation.

Rod Wagner  
NLC Liaison

### **School Librarians' Day: Inquiring Minds Want to Know**

**March 29, 2014**

**University of Nebraska @ Omaha  
Roskens Hall, UNO Campus**

Sponsored by Eastern Library System, Nebraska School Librarians Association,  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Registration Form pg. 7

**Kim Gangwish**

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Bellevue, NE 68123

**Phone**

402 293 4084

**E-mail**

contactnsla@gmail.com

**We're on the Web!**

[www.neschoollibrarians.org](http://www.neschoollibrarians.org)

**Twitter**

@NSLAorg

**2013-2014 Board**

President: Sherry Crow,  
crowsr@unk.edu

President-elect: Beth Kabes,  
bkabes@esu7.org

Past-president: Stacy  
Lickteig,  
stacy.lickteig@ops.org

Secretary: Stephanie  
Dannehl,  
sdannehl@esu11.org

Treasurer: Angie Richeson,  
aricheso@esu10.org

Members-at-large: Courtney  
Pentland,  
mrs.pentland@gmail.com

Chris Haeffner,  
chaeffne@lps.org

Alysa Haack, ahaack@lps.org

Paula McClung,  
pmcclung@lps.org

**AASL Report**

In January the AASL Affiliate Assembly met during ALA's Midwinter conference in Philadelphia. The status of several Concerns brought before the Assembly last summer was updated, including four that may be of interest to school librarians in Nebraska.

As background to the Concern process, when a member sees an area in which we need guidance or help in our work, they write a formal Concern. These written Concerns are due to area leaders in May. Then, at ALA Annual in June, all formal Concerns are presented to the AASL Executive Board. If the Executive Board recognizes the Concern as valid and reconcilable, they forward it on to the Affiliate Assembly. The Affiliates' work includes refining the Concerns and suggesting ideas for resolving them.

I worked on a Task Force addressing a Concern from 2012, regarding Capstone/Sr. Projects and school librarian participation. Our report was just completed and submitted to the Executive Board and the resources will be available to members.

For the Concerns from Annual 2013, the

following went through the process and have now reached the level of creating Task Forces consisting of members who work together to resolve the initial Concern.

- 1) A task force is being created to produce products such as position paper, toolkits, etc. and to investigate partnerships associated with **STEM initiatives**.
- 2) The **Lesson Plan Database** is in transition as the original creators and host of the website are no longer in business. AASL is looking for another company to host the site. Once they have found one, the work to strengthen it will begin.
- 3) A task force is being formed to create programming, strategies or resources for **school libraries serving homeless and transient student populations**.
- 4) A **Crosswalk of the Common Core Standards** has been sent to the Common Core Implementation Task Force for review. While this particular Concern does not affect us right now, if Nebraska adopts the Common Core, this resource will be available to us as it

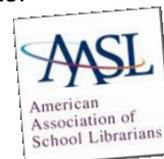
should be completed soon.

As the task forces reach completion of their work, their reports will become available as resources to AASL members. In this way, the Concerns presented by membership play an important role in the process of Affiliate Assembly.

The AASL Fall Forum will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, October 17-18. The theme this year is Anytime Anywhere Learning. In addition to the main site in St. Louis, there will be nine satellite sites. More information will be coming out later this spring.

As your new Affiliate Assembly Liaison begins his/her tenure next year at Midwinter, I will begin a new journey with Affiliate Assembly as well. Last summer at ALA Annual, I was elected to the position of Affiliate Assembly Chair-Elect, duties which I am fulfilling this year. At ALA Midwinter and Annual 2015, I will be the Affiliate Assembly Chair. So I may be ending my term as your state liaison, but I am not ending my tenure with AASL and Affiliate Assembly. A future I am looking forward to!

Carrie Turner  
AASL Liaison



**School Librarians' Day: Inquiring Minds Want to Know**  
**March 29, 2014**  
**University of Nebraska @ Omaha, Roskens Hall, UNO Campus**



**8:30-8:55 am**      *Registration, Coffee and Refreshments*

**Session I (9:00-9:50)**

Inquiry: the Key to Learning in the School Library  
Chris Haeffner, Lincoln Public Schools

**Session II (10:00—10:50)**

Managing E-Resources: Challenges and Rewards  
Chris Gross-Rhode, North Bend Public Schools, David Privett, Wahoo Public Schools,  
& Kim Gangwish, Bellevue Public Schools

**10:50—11:05 Break**

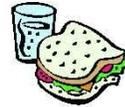
**Session III (11:05-11:55 am)**

Being Indispensable: Leadership Through Professional Development  
Laura Pietsch & Courtney Pentland, Omaha Public Schools

**11:55-12:45**

*Lunch and book sharing time*

**Please bring two books you would like to share.**



**Session IV (12:50-1:40 pm)**

Chrome is the New Black: Google Chrome (Bring your own device with Chrome browser downloaded)  
Angela Daigle & Sheila Bolmeier, Millard Public Schools

**Session V (1:50-2:45 pm)**

Round Robin Book Reviews - K-8  
Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission  
Bridget Kratt, UNO

Round Robin Book Reviews - 7-12  
Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library  
Cathy McMahon, Sump Memorial Library

Cost—\$20.00 (includes lunch). Please register by **March 26.**

Make checks to ELS and mail to: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Eastern Library System School \_\_\_\_\_  
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18 Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
Omaha NE 68144 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
402 330-7884  
bmaass@windstream.net

Parking is free on Saturdays. Park on either the north or south sides of Roskens Hall and enter through the south doors of the building. We will be there to greet you.

Home phone (in case of weather) \_\_\_\_\_  
Special dietary needs (gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_