



NEMA News

Summer 2012
Volume 56

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President's Message

2012 marks a major change in our state school library association, as we change our name from the Nebraska Educational Media Association to the Nebraska School Librarians Association. NEMA has been part of my life for nearly 25 years, and, like many of my colleagues, it will take me a little time to become accustomed to our new name. Using librarian as our professional title and as part of our organizational name demonstrates our kinship with all library professionals and eliminates some confusion among those who have never quite understood what a media specialist does.

Congratulations to our newly elected board members, Courtney Pentland and Chris Haeffner and thank you to

Beth Foulks and Kim Esser for providing NEMA a wonderful slate of candidates to choose from. Dr. Sherry Crow was elected president-elect and Beth Kabes was re-elected as secretary.

My profound thanks for allowing me to serve as president of the Nebraska Educational Media Association this past year. It has been a great honor and a richly rewarding experience. I am glad that I remain on the board as past president. The support and hard work of the NEMA board was much appreciated, as well as the support of the membership at large, especially those who helped make our fall conference so successful. I hope that many of you may



NEMA President
Karen Buckley

take advantage of the professional development opportunity this summer; a morning workshop, "Connect Tech to Your Curriculum," sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association and UNO's School of Library/Library Science Education Programs.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2012 conference in LaVista.

Election Results



President-elect:
Sherry Crow



Secretary:
Beth Kabes



Board member:
Courtney Pentland



Board member:
Chris Haeffner

Special points of interest:

- NEMA Board meeting July 14, 2012, 10:00 am at Bellevue West High School.

NEMA Name Change

NEMA members approved an organizational name change to the Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) effective July 1, 2012.

Nebraska School Librarians Association serves the school librarians of Nebraska by providing

educational programs, support, networking opportunities, and by being advocates for school librarians and school library programs throughout the state

The organization, which has been in existence since 1969, chose the name change to

align with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) who voted in 2010 to adopted "school librarian" as the official name of the profession. The leadership of AASL says the title "school librarian" sufficiently reflects the role of the 21st-century library

professional as a leader, instructional partner, information specialist, teacher, and program administrator.

Dates to Remember

June 21-26	ALA Conference/AASL Affiliate Association	Anaheim, CA
June 24-27	ISTE	San Diego, CA
July 1	Nebraska Educational Media Association becomes Nebraska School Librarians Association	
July 13	Nebraska School Librarians executive board retreat	Bellevue West HS
July 14	Nebraska School Librarians Association board meeting	Bellevue West HS
July 10-20	Great Plains Google Summit	Lincoln Southwest HS
July 27	School Librarians Professional Development Event	UNO
July 28	Norfolk Public Library's Literary Festival	Norfolk
Oct. 17	Pre-conference Activity: Embedded School Librarian	UNO
Oct. 17-19	Tri Conference of the Mountain Plains Library Association, Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska School Librarians Association	LaVista

National Library Legislative Day - 2012

The 38th Annual American Library Association National Library Legislative Day was held April 23-25, 2012 in Washington, D.C. 350 librarians and library supporters from across the country converged to meet with members of Congress to discuss key library issues. The event focused on supporting federal funding for the nation's libraries of all kinds. This year, I wore two hats: one as a Nebraska Library Commissioner, and another representing NEMA. Because I was sponsored by NLC this was a cost-saving

measure for NEMA. Rod Wagner (NLC), Francine Canfield (NLA), and Charles Gordon (NLC) also represented Nebraska. Many thanks to the Nebraska Library Commission for carrying the water on my expenses.

I first attended a webinar intended to prepare attendees before the event. Once in Washington, April 23 was a great day of discussion of the issues and strategies with all of the state representatives. Keith Michael Fiels, executive

director of ALA, Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, and Jeff Kratz, ALA lobbyist, (among others) presented during the day. Jeff Kratz is from Omaha, so I was able to make a good connection with him. A highlight of the day was a discussion of advocacy strategies by Stephanie Vance.

The next day the whole Nebraska contingent met with Senator Mike Johanns, Representative Adrian Smith, and the various aides

of Senator Ben Nelson, Representative Jeff Fortenberry, and Representative Lee Terry. Rarely are the ALA representatives able to meet with the elected officials themselves, so we were thrilled to meet with two of them in person! We stressed the importance of increasing and continuing monetary funding for all libraries through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Act, as well as the inclusion of school libraries in the Elementary and Secondary Education

National Library Legislative Day – 2012, con't.

Act (ESEA) Reauthorization. A good piece of news I was able to share was the redirection of money (“redirection” is apparently the new way to do business in Washington) from the *Improving Literacy through School Libraries* program to the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy* program at \$28.6 million. I asked our elected officials to support this fledgling effort through the working out of its guidelines and details in a timely manner. About \$14.3 million of it will go directly to under-served school libraries. According to Kratz, “under-served” means at least a 20% free and reduced lunch population. Hopefully,

Nebraska school libraries will be able to write grants to obtain some of this funding. Kratz said he would keep an eye out for us and let us know details as they develop.

Tuesday evening I participated in an ALA/AASL reception honoring Senator Jack Reed (RI) and Representative Rush Holt (NJ). These two gentlemen have done much to support library legislation over the years. We need more like them.

On Wednesday, Charles Gordon and I attended the Nebraska Constituency Breakfast. This Nebraska

tradition is a super way for all Nebraska citizens who happen to be in Washington to meet and rub elbows with their elected officials. It is wonderful to look these people directly in the eye and tell them stories about how libraries affect the everyday lives of Nebraskans. The Nebraska Constituency Breakfast is a wonderful example of doing things “the Nebraska way.”

Does this type of event really make any difference for libraries? Well, it is hard to say whether anything makes a difference in Washington these days; however, the “experts” in congressional persuasion say that

consistent reminders of personal stories relating to real people from the elected officials’ home districts make an impact on their voting record (Vance, 2012). This was my second time to participate in NLLD, and I have to say I am impressed with the organization and process. I enjoyed visiting with our elected officials about library issues and sharing something I’m passionate about from my heart. I feel I made a difference and I hope to participate again.

-Dr. Sherry Crow



Senator Mike Johanns, Dr. Sherry Crow, and Rod Wagner on NLLD, 2012



Rod Wagner (NLC), Francine Canfield (NLA), and Sherry Crow (NLC, NEMA) in front of the capital on NLLD, 2012.

AASL Report

I'm sure you saw that Carl Harvey, President of AASL, launched a White House petition in January. In order for the petition to make it before the President, it needed 25,000 signatures. At first, it didn't appear that the petition would make it, but there was a huge surge and it ended up collecting more than enough signatures. Harvey's petition asked that the Obama Administration ensure every school has a state certified school librarian and that school libraries are funded.

According to ALA almost 50% of school libraries in Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah, do not have state-certified school librarians. In California, that percentage stands at 75.

As ESEA goes through reauthorization, Harvey wanted to assure that Obama looks at school librarians and school libraries as essential,

funded components in public schools. The White House responded to the petition on April 16. Harvey was reassured by some of the language, but he urges us to continue to advocate at the state and local levels. That is why within the next year, you will begin to see NEMA (NSLA as of July 1), creating and offering advocacy tools for you to use.

On another note, Barbara Stripling, a former AASL President, is the new President-Elect for ALA. It is very exciting for school librarians to be so well represented at the highest elected position in the "library world"!

To read Carl Harvey's blog, including his response to the White House response, go to: <http://carl-harvey.com/libraryties/>

-Carrie Turner

Mad Hatter Award

The Mad Hatter Committee is once again seeking nominations for the Mad Hatter Award, presented each fall at the NSLA/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/NSLA Conference will be Oct. 17-19 at the LaVista Conference Center in conjunction with the Mountain Plains Library Association Conference.

Scholarship Winner

Thank you to the NEMA organization for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. I was so excited when I read the letter. I am pursuing an ESL endorsement to help me serve students better in the Media Center. I have many students that love coming to my library classes and I want to learn more so I can provide the best skills for them every day. There are many students with a limited vocabulary, so I want to become skilled at how to reach all students and plan units that build their

vocabulary. I use a lot of themes with my grade levels, so this class will keep me moving forward in the right direction. Continuing my education will benefit everyone I teach as I learn the best practices and strategies to offer opportunities for all my students. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to reach my goal of attaining an ESL Endorsement.

Laurie Schlautman
Schuyler Elementary
School

Something to Shout About

Sharon Bohling, former NEMA Board Member from McCook Senior High, is retiring from the library position she has held there for 32 years. She is pleased to report that since Internet provides most of the reference materials of choice, budget

monies are now freed up to be spent on current fiction. Circulation records indicate there are still many teens who read a lot just for the pleasure of reading. Nice to know.

A huge shout out to Bellevue elementary school librarians Terry Osborn and Beth Agar, for once again organizing the Bellevue Public Schools Operation Read competition. A lot of hard work and many hours go into making this awesome event a great

success and so much fun for some great readers in the Bellevue Public Schools.

Meet UNO student Heidi Clarke

Heidi Clarke is a library student in the UNO program and this quarter's student interview. She presented at NEMA last year with Melody Kenney and plans to present again next year. I hope that you'll read about her and then stop to attend her workshop, *There's an App for that 2* at the next NEMA conference. The following interview ought to give you an idea of this amazing librarian educator and by the time you see her in the fall you'll have plenty to talk about.

Heidi Clarke is currently the school librarian at Cavett Elementary in Lincoln, NE. She previously attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for her undergraduate degree in secondary special education. She then taught 7th and 8th grade for 9 years before deciding to return to school and pursue her graduate degree in library science.

Heidi found the library program when a friend of hers got an e-mail about the UNO library science program. This led them to

attend an informational meeting where they met Dr. Rebecca Pasco. Heidi says that Pasco "inspired me, within seconds, to follow this career path." She has been working on her degree, generally one class at a time, ever since.

One thing she really appreciates about the program is that it takes into account those students that have full time jobs and families to care for while taking classes. Clarke states, "This has made it so much easier to finish my degree". Heidi's course work will be done in December of 2012.

Heidi loves being a school librarian. Her favorite thing is seeing the joy on students' faces when they check out a book they are excited to read. As a former special educator she taught many students who didn't like to read nor could find anything they enjoyed. Heidi says that she is thrilled to be a resource for kids who think they won't find anything that they like.

Heidi also has the foresight to believe that "staying



ahead of the game is the only way that we, as librarians, can make sure those in the community know that our jobs are essential". She has found that knowing the 21st century skills, which align themselves with many of the curricular areas of all grade levels helps her pair her curriculum with her teachers.

Spoken like a 21st century librarian. Thank you Heidi for your time.

-Sharon Axthelm

NEMA Board Meeting Minutes

The April 28, 2012 meeting was called to order by President Buckley. Twelve members were present on site and two via Skype.

The agenda was approved by a motion from Kathy Terrell, seconded by Ruth Walker. Motion carried. Minutes from the January 28, 2012 meeting were approved by a motion from Laura Pietsch, seconded by Stacey Lickteig. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was given with a total net worth of \$21,064.58. The report was approved to be filed for audit.

President's Report - an e-mail motion to support a pre-conference on Wednesday of NLA/NEMA was sent by Karen Buckley. Motion was approved via e-mail. A second e-mail motion to offer a Continuing Education Scholarship in spring 2012 was sent by Karen Buckley. Motion was approved via e-mail.

Executive Secretary's Report - Membership - 354 active, 64 lapsed, Summer Newsletter deadline - May 15. Finance Report was given with

a motion by Ruth Walker to add current CD balance to checking account. Seconded by Carrie Turner. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

AFCON report - Academic Freedom Video Contest for High School Students award and legislative bills concerning schools and libraries.

NDE - sharing ideas for NDE webpage about School Librarians and the AASL Standards.

NLA - shared information about fall conference.

NEMA Liaison to NLA - fall conference planning; the Nebraska Library Commission is making plans for streaming selected conference sessions.

NLC - National Library Legislative Day. ALA website includes legislative issue documents. Documents can be found at: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld>. The Library Commission is preparing next Library Services and Technology Act five-year plan.

Commission's website for news and updates
<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/>

Awards and Scholarships - scholarship application recommendations: **Laurie Schlautman**, for NEMA Continuing Education Scholarship. **Kimberly Jones**, for Karla Wendelin Continuing Education scholarship for School Librarianship. Motion by Ruth Walker to accept scholarship committee recommendations. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Motion carried.

AASL - over 80 Nebraska schools participated in the School Libraries Count Survey. AASL has an Advocacy Tip of the Day blog at: <http://advocacytipoftheday.wordpress.com/2012/04/26/advocacy-tip-263/>. The School Library Petition to the White House received 28,619 signatures. The White House response can be read at: wh.gov/Wgd.

Read Aloud Nebraska - Pre-conference at NLA/NEMA with authors Jim Aylesworth and Lisa Campbell. A book giveaway was held with the next one scheduled for October.

www.readaloudnebraska.org. Membership applications are available until November 1. All schools and organizations must reapply every year. Reading Spotlight Awards to anyone who has donated time to encourage children or teens to read, or have been supportive in some way to promote reading. Nomination directions found on the web site.

NEMA Webmaster - web page move and webmaster role.

Learning 4 Life - program proposals.

Old Business items included Webmaster position being assumed by Carrie Turner. New Business items included finance discussion that was tabled until July Summer Retreat. Ruth Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Sherry Crow. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Kabes, NEMA Secretary



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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/>.

The Embedded School Librarian

Wednesday October 16, 2012 5:30-8:30

Roskens Hall, Room 412, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Like a splinter or like a journalist? Embedded school librarianship

Special Guest Speaker: Sara Kelley-Mudie

The idea of being embedded is at the heart of much of what we believe makes school libraries effective; we don't teach skills in isolation, but rather embed them within the larger curriculum of our schools. We can take these beliefs that are at the core of school librarianship, and expand them in order to redefine--or, really, highlight--how integral librarians are to the larger mission of the school. Embedded librarianship is about moving beyond the physical walls of the library--both virtually and physically--in order make connections between the students and teachers in our schools and resources, information, and people inside and outside of the school.



In this talk, I'll outline the theory and standards that are the foundations for my practice as an embedded librarian, the tools I use to create connections and share resources, and how I've embedded myself in a variety of teaching and learning spaces in my school.

Pre-Conference Agenda

5:30-6:00

Light Hors d'Oeuvres

6:00-7:00

Guest Speaker: Sara Kelley-Mudie

7:00-7:15

Breakout Discussions

7:20-8:30

Breakout Sessions on tools and tips for embedded librarianship

Sara Kelley-Mudie is the Librarian and Educational Technology Facilitator at The Forman School in Litchfield, CT. A former high school English teacher, she has a BA in English from Connecticut College (2001) and an MLIS from Kent State (2007). Sara serves on the board for the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, and was selected as one of the American Library Association's Emerging Leaders in 2011.

Sara writes about libraries, learning, and technology at kmthelibrarian.blogspot.com.

Her experience working at Forman--an independent college-preparatory school for students with dyslexia, ADHD, and other learning disabilities--has shaped her beliefs about libraries, instructional design, and creating accessible learning spaces for all students. She is passionate about working with students and teachers to become independent learners with the confidence and skill to navigate an ever-changing world of information and knowledge.