



NSLA News

Winter 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2

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President's Message

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the MPLA / NLA / NSLA Conference a resounding success. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces as well as meet those new to the profession. From our pre-conference on Embedded Librarianship to our last sessions of the conference, it was clear our state is filled with passionate and talented school librarians.

Looking ahead to the spring, NSLA is planning a workshop on advocacy around the theme of *Strong Libraries Lift Learners*. One of this year's goals for NSLA is to help librarians across the state to develop documentation which clearly shows the impact school libraries have on student achievement. To help support advocacy across the

state an advocacy page (<https://sites.google.com/site/neschoollibrariansassociation/advocacy>) has been created on the NSLA website. The page contains links for information, contacts, and examples of ways to advocate for your library program. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the NSLA board members or the advocacy committee with questions, concerns, or to share your advocacy ideas.

Stacy Lickteig
NSLA President



NSLA President
Stacy Lickteig

Advocacy Committee Members

- Laura Pietsch
- Courtney Pentland
- Chris Haeffner
- Stacy Lickteig
- Gail Formanack
- Carrie Turner
- Dr. Sherry Crow
- Angie Richeson
- Beth Eilers
- Lynne Wragge
- Linda Scholz

Upcoming Events

ALA Midwinter Conference - January 24 through January 29, 2013

Special points of interest:

- NSLA Board meeting Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm. This will be a virtual meeting.

Meet UNO Library Science Student Ron Frascht

Meet Ron Frascht, a coach, a language arts teacher, a UNO student and a man on a mission.

Armed with a wicked sense of humor, a passion for reading and a profound belief in the power of a great book, Ron is determined to find the right book for every student. He also comes with his very own soundtrack. Please enjoy getting to know him as I have and feel free to sing along.

Everybody Wants to Rule the World (Tears for Fears)

My interest was cultivated by one simple, but very powerful, phrase: Thanks for recommending that book, I loved it! I appreciate the direction this field is moving with librarians co-teaching and being leaders in their building with new technology. I love that this field is at the forefront of teaching responsible use of information and opening up amazing new venues for sharing the massive amounts of information now available to everyone. I'm proud that librarians are on the cusp of new ways of embracing the constantly changing technological revolution that students must feel a part of in order to succeed in their careers and lives. I have to admit, though, that the phrase that I mentioned earlier is still the sweetest sentence to my ears. The idea that I might be responsible for opening the door for a student to a world of amazing experiences through books is the biggest reason I am excited, and privileged, to enter the

Library Science field.

Eye of the Tiger (Survivor)

I'm looking forward to a lot of things as a librarian. I think it's going to be so rewarding to work closely with teachers in helping them navigate the information terrain that can be so tenuous these days. I'm excited to bring new technology, and methods to use the technology, to my entire staff. I will take pride in the fact that my school is preparing students for the world they live in and the world they will exist in the future. I'm most looking forward to inspiring the students and staff in my building to read. I know that might sound like a simplistic statement, but it's the truth. I marvel at the incredible all-encompassing experience truly immersing yourself in a book can be. I want to be the spark that ignites an inferno of literacy in my building by creating a community of book lovers.

Cruel Summer (Bananarama)

I'm not looking forward to weeding. It will be tough saying goodbye to my little ones that, through no fault of their own, might not have accurate facts anymore. Or they were hot for a while, but now their topic has passed and their cover doesn't pop anymore. I'm not looking forward to the expression of sadness, and yes, even forlornness, when I tell a student that the book they are looking for has already been checked out. I'm not looking forward to the last day of school when I pull the covers up over the books and

tell them to sleep soundly for the summer, and have dreams of August when the aisles are teeming with young students clamoring to wake them up again.

Satisfaction (The Rolling Stones)

The only thing I'm truly dying to read is my obituary, but I joke, of course. I always look forward to anything by Stephen King. I think everyone has an author that meshes with their personal style and reading that author is as natural and comfortable as relaxing in your favorite chair. I have to admit that I'm always excited about that book that I don't know about yet, that is sitting out there waiting to blow me away. I'm more excited about the promise of a new book than an actual book on my list sometimes. I do have an urgency once I finish a book to start another immediately. It's very addictive when you truly love reading and I will almost have a physical reaction until I start another book. I'm not saying I'm in an alley with cold sweats in a clandestine meeting with Mr. Barnes and Mr. Noble trying energetically to score a novel. I'm just saying that reading a book calms me and allows me to be a productive member of society.

You Really Got Me (The Kinks)

I teach middle school, so the book talks I have with kids change pretty consistently. They are a pretty persuadable group, so a lot of the new and exciting books, or series of books, are attractive to them. I try to

keep up on those in order to be able to have important conversations with the students I encounter. I also try to expose them to classics that have hooked readers in the past like *Where the Red Fern Grows* or *The Outsiders*. I think it's important to be diverse in my interests and well read so that all students, no matter their genre interest, feel not only comfortable, but excited to talk about the current book they are reading or ask me my opinion on a book they should read.

Call Me Maybe (Carly Rae Jepsen)

I'll be the Match.com of libraries. You come in and tell me your profile and I'll find the book for you. You and your book can sit down on my couches or chairs and get to know each other for a few chapters to see if there is chemistry. If things get serious you can get a bookmark and let your book know you're in for the duration. At BookMatch.Ron we want to see successful book relationships. The best part is it's free!

Submitted by
Jess Valasek



2012 Mad Hatter Award Winner – Laura Pietsch



Laura Pietsch, Omaha Public Schools Library Supervisor, exemplifies the characteristics of a Mad Hatter to the max! One could say she fills both the shoes — *and* the hat!

Laura was born in Sioux City and has two brothers and five sisters. Her husband, Jeff, is a science teacher in the Omaha Public School District, and Laura and Jeff have two grown daughters who live in Omaha. Laura has a fantastic sense of humor and loves practical jokes. She is quite the bargain hunter and likes nothing better than attending estate sales and flea markets on the weekends. Here's why Laura Pietsch is the Mad Hatter of 2012:

Imaginative Interpretation of Library Services

As District Library Supervisor for OPS, Laura has played an instrumental role in providing library services to over 45,000 students in 85 different locations. She has recognized that measuring our success as librarians means recognizing the success of our students in defined and measurable "Target" statements. Based on this philosophy, Laura set out to equip all the OPS librarians with terminology and ideas to incorporate assessment into the OPS Library Program. Now, when an OPS librarian begins a lesson there is a "Target" clearly defined. Additionally, OPS librarians are knowledgeable of strategies to assess the work of their students.

Developing Innovative Programming

Laura has repeatedly been the catalyst for "outside of the box" innovative thinking at OPS. As a librarian in

Bellevue, she was the inspiration for OPS adopting the use of the Big 6 research model. She, along with her colleague Kim Gangwish, began the genre-based book store arrangement of their high school library fiction sections, a model that has become commonplace in Bellevue. In OPS, Laura has tirelessly pursued funding to grow the summer library program in the district, which grew from 10 to 29 libraries just this past summer!

Demonstrating Professional Leadership

Laura has stepped up to the plate whenever she has been called upon to provide leadership in a variety of venues in her profession. For many years, she served on the ESU 3 Media Advisory Committee, helping to make decisions concerning media services for all of the members. She has served on the board of Nebraska Educational Media

Association, and currently serves on the Nebraska School Librarians Association Board and is a current member of SCYP and NLA. Laura has presented sessions at state conferences, and is an active member of the American Association of School Librarians. Laura is a thoughtful, enthusiastic leader and team player who has tirelessly given of herself to support and sustain excellence in her profession.

The Mad Hatter Award, given by the School, Children's, and Young People's section of NLA, recognizes an individual in the Nebraska library profession who has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship and library development for young people.

-Stacy Lickteig and
Dr. Sherry Crow

News from the Nebraska Department of Education

The process for revision of the state social studies standards is nearing an end. Educators from around the state worked in committees to suggest revisions. Following the first round of public input last spring, the standards were further revised and then sent to expert reviewers who have endorsed the current draft. Public input was solicited at meetings, through surveys, and via e-mail. If you have

followed media coverage, you may know that the proposed standards have garnered more public interest than the revisions of standards in language arts, math, or science. As an interested member of the public, I submitted my input regarding the standards, and I would encourage others to take advantage of those opportunities. The State Board of Education will hear a summary of the input and

vote at their December meeting. The revised standards will probably trigger alignment of curriculum and materials in your district, so consider volunteering to be part of this important work. There is no plan to have a standardized, statewide test in the area of social studies, so assessment will remain a local decision. NDE's Network, Education and Technology Team is being reconfigured. Brent

Gaswick has been liaison with NSLA for several years; however he now has different responsibilities. A new person will be hired in the area of e-learning, and that person will assume the liaison role with NSLA. We hope this change will lead to a stronger relationship with NDE personnel.

Gail Formanack
NDE Liaison

NSLA Board Meeting Minutes

2012 Tri-Conference NSLA Business Meeting
La Vista Conference Center, Dapper I
Noon to 1:30 p.m. October 18, 2012

The annual meeting was called to order by President Stacey Lickteig. The agenda was approved with no additions. President Lickteig introduced current board, committee chairs and liaisons. Nebraska First Lady, Sally Gannon, was present as honored guest.

Minutes of October 16, 2011 meeting were shared. Motion by Carrie Turner to accept minutes as presented. Seconded by Lynne Wragge. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Audit of NEMA accounting 2011-2012. Assets: \$18,010.23 Liabilities = \$0. Total net worth \$18,010.23. 2012-2013 Proposed Budget was presented. Motion by Sherry Crow to accept budget as presented. Seconded by Gail Formanack. Motion carried.

Executive Secretary's Report was available in printed form.

New Business items: Constitution Amendments. Moved by Karen Buckley to submit the constitution to the membership for constitutional change, seconded by Jane Neal. Motion carried. Bylaws. Moved by Chris Haeffner to accept the Bylaws changes. Seconded by Courtney

Pentland. Motion carried.

NSLA Strategic Plan 2012-2013 - Advocacy and Professional Development. Looking for additional ideas. Members are asked to complete a survey.

2013 NLA / NSLA Conference – Younes Conference Center, Kearney October 9th-11th, Theme: "Advocacy: Making the Connection". 2014 NLA/NSLA Conference – Marina Inn in South Sioux City, NE.

2012 Conference Report from Michael Straatmann. 810 (82% online) registration prior to conference. NSLA had a 49% growth in attendance. Recognition and Awards:

Presentation to Retiring Board Members – Kathy Turrell, Karen Buckley as Past President. Recognition Award – Sara Churchill. Sound Off For Media Award – Gloria Christiansen.

Moved by Carrie Turner to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Laura Pietsch. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Kabes, Secretary



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