

2015 Nebraska Library Association Annual Meeting

AGENDA

**October 15, 2015
Lincoln, Nebraska**

NLA Executive Board Present: Gayle Roberts, Sarah Watson, Julee Hector, Megan Klein-Hewitt, Terry Wingate, Brenda Ealey, Jake Rundle, Michael Straatmann, Scott Childers, Ken Winston, Nancy Black, Carolyn Dow, Emily Nimsakont, Wendy Luckert, Steve Fosselman, Brian Maass, Jon Ritterbush, Amy Wenzl, Ruth Carlock, Rod Wagner.

NLA Executive Board Absent: Linda Parker, Rachel Kenny, Joyce Neujahr, Todd Schlechte, Rebecca Stavick, Holli Duggan, Kathryn Brockmeier.

A. Call to order – Gayle Roberts

1. Announcements and Introductions:

Revised agenda for today, switching agenda items E1 and E2.

2. President's Report

NLA has had many accomplishments for this year: Resolved the deficit budget, Addressed bylaws – thank you to Jon Ritterbush. Reviewed job descriptions and contracts. Files redesigned and ready to pass on to the new board and in a single place.

Membership software – new and implemented. Thanks to Michael and Scott.

Thank you to the Advocacy Committee for Legislative Day, and thanks to Steve Fosselman. Ken Winston, our lobbyist, is moving on to a new position. Thank you to him for his years of service.

In September, NLA drafted and sent a letter and resolution to ALA in support of ALA in calling for a Librarian in the position of Librarian of Congress.

Gayle mentioned LR288 and LR290, and stated that we need to be in support of our ethics, core beliefs and our patrons. We need to work to protect our freedoms that we believe in.

Thank you for support this year.

B. Secretary's Report – Terry Wingate

Report is on the website for your review.

C. Treasurer's Report – Megan Klein-Hewett

TY for patience with Your Membership – especially the sections and roundtables for waiting for the financial distributions.

Board voted to close Ameriprise CD account. Moved to Money Market account.

Megan listed the amounts currently in each of our 5 accounts.

D. Conference Report, Executive Director's Report– Michael Straatmann

470 pre-registrations – up 30% from last year. Of those, only 15 were done by manual registration. We've come a long way in 7 years – that number was inverse when he started. Registrations were done through the Content Management system, which is coming along. Thank you for support during the changeover to the new system.

Several Nebraska Humanities speakers were here for presentations.

Surveys and feedback are important, so please let us know. Use the URL in the program.

4 pre-conferences this year with 108 attending – highest number in several years.

Michael said that he has made so many friends over the last seven years. He sees people at each table and people he knows, family, community and friends. Like Ken, this is his last year.

He will not be renewing his contract at end of this year. Other obligations he must attend to. Thank you all for being here. He will still be around, will still volunteer. But thank you for being who you are. (Standing ovation).

E. New Business (changed agenda order – switched #1 By-law changes with #2 Dues structure changes).

2. Dues structure changes – Michael Straatman

Dues have in the past been based on salary level. Personal salaries were evident and visible. Members asked for change. Board examined different structures that we could potentially adopt.

Proposed structure is self-select. Members will choose which level they identify with. The proposal is based on an analysis of what we all currently pay with dues.

Average membership cost: \$45.20.

The NLA Board finds it necessary to slightly raise costs.

Regular membership is proposed to go up to \$60.

Right now – 25% of dues go to your section. Round tables are all at \$5.00 each, and all goes to the Round Table. Proposing the same structure for the sections at \$15.00. If people wish to join multiple sections, the cost would be \$15.00 for each section. The Board looked for the most minimal increase and came up with \$15.00. The difference in financial allocation to the sections depends on the sections, but all end up with a 14% to 19% increase at the \$15.00 dues.

Michael fielded questions from the membership:

Q – Is the \$15 in addition to the membership dues? A – Correct. No section membership is included with the initial dues.

Q – Would you have to have a membership in order to join a section? A – Yes. Can't join a section without an NLA membership.

Q – Round Table memberships still \$5.00? A – Yes, Round Tables set their own dues, but currently all of them are at \$5.00.

Q – Trustee membership plus the Trustee Section almost doubles the price? A – Yes. Would pay for both membership and section.

Q – Calculated the projections based on a potential drop? A – Yes, but we could only estimate based on current numbers.

Q – If people don't choose a section, the section does not receive money? A – Correct.

Q – When in effect? A – Next membership year – 2016.

Q – What about for people who pay here at conference? A – Virtually no one pays membership dues here at conference.

Q – FYI – her library's budget already passed, doesn't have the extra money for the additional dues that she pays for her staff would require.

Q – Could we amend the motion to activate the new dues in 2017 instead of 2016? – Rose Barcal moved. SueAnn Gardner seconded. Discussion: potential issue with delaying the new dues. It would mean another year with a deficit budget.

Gayle spoke about the things that NLA can't do: no promotion and marketing budget, nothing for things that come up throughout the year. Michael spoke about the need to have a savings in reserve. Conference costs between \$75,000 and \$85,000. If disaster strikes and blizzard hits at conference time, we would still have financial obligations.

Megan brought up that some \$ goes to our contracted staffers, ALA councilor to conference, support legislative day, advocacy day (which typically loses money), NLA maintains a booth at League of Municipalities event for library support and advocacy. We provide allocations to sections and RT's so that they can do their work. Money is given to committees when they need it.

Steve Fosselman addressed the membership. Every organization that is member-based has interests that they support. For example, with the LR 288 and LR 290 issues, we think that it can be discussed through these organizations. We are not like the Nebraska Library Commission, who advocates for every single library. We advocate for OUR members. We hear from our members and we advocate for our members. For us to have the strongest advocacy for our members, we sometimes bite the bullet and have a budget to do the work we need to do. For us to postpone the dues increase another year would be problematic. It is a crucial time when the membership has a very high stake in the decisions that are being made this year.

Q – When did NLA last raise dues? A - Maybe 10 years.

Comment to the membership – it's not like they are asking for that much more.

Discuss something we should do, and something that we should. Becky Simms, director of the Papillion library, will fund 50 of the \$20 increases.

b. vote

Voted on amendment currently on the floor to postpone membership dues increase to 2017 – Nays have it.

Voted on dues structure as proposed to take effect in 2016 – Ayes have it.

Membership Dues have been changed.

1. By-law changes - Jon Ritterbush

Distributed proposals online, but there are also a few hard copies in the back and on tables.

Summarized 7 propositions, opened the floor for discussion, stated the vote will be by majority.

Proposition 1- To strike Article III, Section 2. Institutional Membership. This membership option was discontinued by a unanimous vote of the NLA Board on April 11, 2014, and no longer appears on NLA membership forms.

Proposition 2- To strike Article III, Section 3. Corporate Membership. This membership option was discontinued by a unanimous vote of the NLA Board on April 11, 2014, and no longer appears on NLA membership forms.

Proposition 3- To amend Article VI, Section 1. Number, Qualification, and Terms of Office. The Treasurer's term would be revised to coincide with the close of the annual meeting, as is the case for all other NLA officers, and would be tied more closely to the Association's October 1-September 30 fiscal year.

Proposition 4- To amend Article IX, Section 1. Authorized Round Tables. Due to declining membership and two years of non-compliance with the NLA Bylaws, the Young Adult Round Table was dissolved by a vote of the NLA Board on June 19, 2015.

Proposition 5 Article 10, section 3 – authorized affiliates and associates – NSLA name changed in 2012.

Proposition 5- To amend Article X, Section 3. Authorized Affiliates and Associates. The members of the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) approved a name change to the Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) effective July 1, 2012.

Proposition 6- To amend Article VIII, Section 4. Dues for Sections. This would reflect the proposed new membership dues and allocation structure.

Proposition 7 – To amend Article IX, Section 4. Dues for Round Tables. This change would align more closely with Article VIII, Section 4 and current disbursement practices.

Discussion – question about the minimum allocation to sections. Clarified that the section would receive minimum \$150 no matter how many members there are.

Question about minimum number of members. These propositions do not address that situation.

President Roberts called for a vote. Ayes have it. Bylaws have been amended.

F. Other Reports

1. ALA Councilor – Brenda Ealey.
Copies on line of her report. You'll enjoy Sari Feldman. Nervous with Ken leaving, but we are going to be trained on Engage for our Advocacy issues. Booth upstairs – ALA midwinter in Boston. ALA Annual in Orlando.
2. MPLA Representative – Jake Rundle
Joint dues proposal in Montana – both State dues and MPLA dues. Maybe we can consider. Plug for MPLA and MPLA Leadership Institute. Visit the booth.
3. Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner
Thank you to colleagues at NLA and NSLA. Rod reported on NLC's successes in the last year, especially with e-book funding. He talked about LR288, which is another look at the relationship between village and library boards in Second Class Cities (under 5000 population). The option is likely to be passed that a board can be either advisory or governing. The celebration of Nebraska Books is coming up on November 14th at the Nebraska Library Commission building.
4. Scholarship & Awards Committee – Ruth Carlock
Ruth announced the winners of the Louise A. Nixon scholarship: Rachel Kenny, Monica Maher, and Mandy Peters. Each received \$1000. Twyla Hansen, Nebraska State Poet, won the Mari Sandoz Award. Nebraska had three applicants for the ALA Emerging Leaders award. The Nebraska winner will be announced later in the American Libraries magazine. New NLA officers are:
5. Nominating Committee – Sarah Watson
Newly elected NLA officers are:
 - President-Elect – Robin Bernstein
 - Treasurer – Christa Burns
 - MPLA Representative – Jake Rundle
6. Lobbyist/Advocacy Committee – Ken Winston/Steve Fosselman
Ken reported that the Legislature has found money for e-reads twice. He said that LR288 is another attempt to limit library governance based on misrepresentations by others. Libraries need to find champions as people love libraries. He announced that he is moving on to other ventures. He will miss librarians who are fun, and he will always be a library advocate.

G. 2015 Presidential Awards for Excellence – Gayle Roberts

Gayle Roberts announced that it was too difficult to choose just a few people for a Presidential Award. She gave her award to everyone as “all of you are the heart of the library, community, and NLA.” Gayle had a heart with a star for everyone to wear today as a symbol of their excellence. Gayle handed the gavel over to Julee Hector as the incoming president.

H. Conference 2015 Invitation & Adjournment – Julee Hector

Julee gave Gayle an award for being President in 2014-2015. Julee announced that the 2016 NLA conference will be in Omaha at the Coco Keys Resort October 18th through the 20th. She adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Future Conference Dates:

2016: Omaha, Oct. 19-21

2017: Kearney, Oct. 11-13