

2020 Nebraska Library Association Annual Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting

- A. Michael Straatmann called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.
1. With the new start date of January for officer terms this year, without an October conference, this annual meeting took place in December to facilitate the transfer of officers.
 2. This meeting will use the [Consensus Voting](#) model, in which a call for objections will be made.
 3. Approval of the consent agenda. Vote: all yes, no objections.
- B. [Secretary's Annual Report](#) - Bailey Halbur
1. Bailey will be transferring Secretary items to the new officer Allison Sillik by the end of the month. The Annual meeting minutes from 2019 are available online, along with the 2019 board meeting minutes.
 1. [2019 Annual Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Vote: all yes, no objections.
- C. [Treasurer's Report](#) - Denise Harders
1. [Annual Financial Report](#)
 2. The fiscal year has been moved to coincide with the calendar year. Due to this change, there were some gaps in reporting. Budgets have also looked quite different this last year than we had planned for due to extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19.
 - a. Approval of the Treasurer's Report. Vote: all yes, no objections.
- D. President's Report - [State of the NLA Presentation](#) - Michael Straatmann
1. Straatmann reported on the past year and everything that NLA has accomplished. The NLA Board is a unique set of volunteers that all faced COVID-19 situations personally and professionally while also being asked to step up and serve other libraries and librarians. Beyond COVID-19, this past year we saw mass protests, economic disparities, racial injustices and funding cuts. We saw these go on in our own communities and libraries. Through this, NLA worked with public officials, made public statements, provided support and advice to individuals and libraries, and much more. Straatmann thanked everyone for doing their part in serving others during those difficult times this past year. See the attached presentation for more information on NLA specifics.
- E. 2020 [Conference Report](#) - Laura England-Biggs
1. England-Biggs discussed the cancellation of the 2020 conference, and how difficult that was for the board to make that decision knowing how important the conference is for networking and CE for the members. After surveying the membership, the decision was made to cancel the conference. Then conference proposals were transitioned for use by the Sections and Roundtables for virtual presentations, which went over very well.
- F. New Business
1. Announcements
 - a. Treasurer Role - Michael Straatmann
 - i. The Treasurer's position is being considered for a transition to a more streamlined, supervisory role of financials, with the Executive Director in charge of the day to day

process to make the role a more appealing one for future Treasurer candidates. In the discussion of reducing budgets for this year, this change has not been moved forward with yet due to the costs involved. It is still being considered for the future.

- b. [Membership Renewal/Join](#) - Ginger Jelinek
 - i. The Executive Director reported that the renewal process on the NLA website has been streamlined. Members can now renew their membership and section/roundtable membership in one step, in an online shopping cart style purchase. If your membership has lapsed for 3 months or longer, you have a separate portal to go through for renewal. This should make for a less complicated process and an increased renewal rate for sections and roundtables.
 - c. [Handbook/Bylaws section on the NLA Website](#) - Michael Straatmann
 - i. The updated handbook and bylaws of the association are now located on the NLA website. The committee that updated the bylaws last year just completed an update of the handbook this fall as well. Thanks to Scott Childers, Angela Kroeger, Becky Baker, Devra Dragos and Michael Straatmann for being a part of that committee and for all of the time and effort they put in!
 - d. Interest Group Creations - Michael Straatmann
 - i. Interest Groups were added as a new group type with last year's bylaw revisions. In these groups, members with a similar interest can meet. This group type can also be an entry level vehicle for new or changing sections and roundtables. These groups do not receive dues or raise money through membership fees, but they do have the standard slate of officers. This year we saw two created Interest Groups, one being Small & Rural Libraries, which will be headed by past president Rebecca McCorkindale. The second was a transition of ITART to an Interest group, which will now be named ITIG. Both were approved at the December board meeting and will be available as options for joining or renewing members going forward via the website.
2. [Digital Reports](#)
- a. Reports are now available on the NLA website.
3. Elections Committee - Rebecca McCorkindale
- a. [Results posted](#) - Results have been posted online for all of the newly elected offices.
 - b. The new officer's starting date is January 1, 2021.
4. Verbal Reports from Committees:
- a. [Advocacy](#) - Scott Childers
 - i. This past year the Advocacy Committee was able to host Advocacy Day in Lincoln in early March, albeit with lower attendance. The main takeaway from the day was how important consistent advocacy on a local level is. A virtual Advocacy Day may be a possibility for 2021.
 - b. [Diversity](#) - Tim Lentz
 - i. Tim Lentz described the goals of the committee in building and supporting libraries and librarians in an effort to create a more diverse set of staff, as well as supporting our diverse communities and patrons. The Diversity Committee made a statement on behalf of the association over the summer, and highlighted diverse reading materials with the Nebraska Library Commission on NCompass Live, their educational online platform. It is their goal to broaden participation and membership in the new year.
 - c. [Membership](#) - Anneka Ramirez
 - i. This ad hoc committee worked to review the entire membership environment. Through direct interviews with section & roundtable leaders, as well as survey results from the Our NLA and Communication Committee surveys, the committee was able to identify attitudes and opinions surrounding NLA and membership in general. From that, the

group created a set of recommendations in which they focused on three categories: communication, benefits of membership, and advocacy. Several questions were posed that can be used in working towards improving membership, in which a shift towards membership community and togetherness can be the end result. These recommendations were presented to the board in their December meeting.

5. [Lobbyist Summary](#)
6. President's Awards - Michael Straatmann
 - a. Straatmann awarded the President's Awards to two people who he wanted to thank for their dedication this past year.
 - i. First, Anneka Ramirez was presented the President's Award. She always strives to improve anything she sets her mind to, and was the person to help redirect and set NLA back on course by reminding association members of their mission to serve.
 - ii. Second, Scott Childers was also awarded the President's Award. He has shown dedication and support to NLA for decades, and this year in particular, provided support and advice above and beyond for the Executive Board, and to the President in particular.
7. Transfer of Office - Michael Straatmann
 - a. Michael Straatmann turned the office of NLA President over to Laura England-Biggs.
8. Vision for 2021 – Laura England Biggs
 - a. Laura England-Biggs discussed her vision of the association for the upcoming new year. As libraries have had to reevaluate everything this past year, so too will the association. Communication and membership engagement will be major focuses for this upcoming year. Several surveys have gone out in the last year, and the board hopes to continue hearing from our membership and use that feedback to revitalize and streamline what the association is doing for its members. She was so thankful to have gained a wealth of knowledge from Straatmann and McCorkindale in working with them in 2020, and Laura looks forward to continue serving the association in 2021.
 - b. [Conference](#) Invitation and Information - October 13-15, 2021, Hilton Downtown Omaha
 - i. Please join us for conference in Omaha in October 2021 with the theme The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times. The logo was created by Rebecca McCorkindale.

G. Adjourned by Laura England-Biggs at 11:59 am.