

# NLA

Nebraska Library Association

Educate ○ Advocate ○ Innovate



## NLA Executive Board

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## ADVOCACY DAY: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

by Deb Robertson, Advocacy Committee Chair

NLA is lucky to have a robust team of members who work on your behalf to protect Intellectual Freedom, the Right to Read, and, in recent years, defending our rights as professional librarians and educators from potential prosecution. This is a huge job and we cannot do it all! **Advocacy Day 2024** is your opportunity to meet your state association's advocates and colleagues.

Why come to Lincoln to hear from advocates in a variety of library settings - public, K-12 schools, and academic? So that you, too, can be confident when sharing the value of libraries on the local level, or to elected officials who represent your library. You will also hear how to recruit and work with advocates for your library in your community. All of this will take place on the first day!

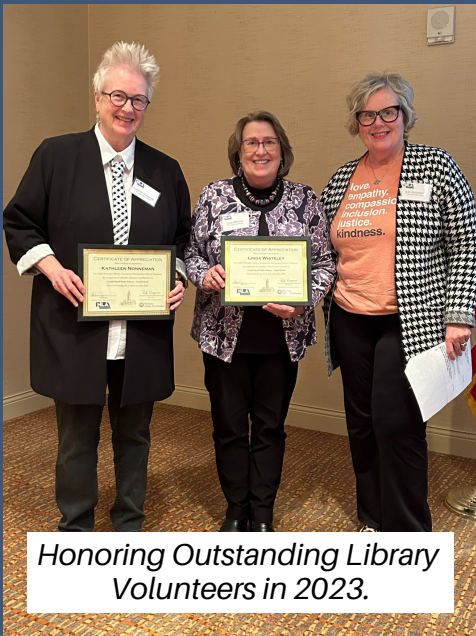
On day two, we will begin at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel with updates from the Nebraska Library Commission director and NLA leaders. NLA's lobbyist will share insights for communicating with elected officials and offer tips for getting the message we have delivered at the right time. A panel of experts, with experience working with elected officials, is scheduled to answer our questions about legislative advocacy. speaking from their experience at the Capitol.

Our annual Outstanding Volunteer Awards will be presented during lunch. Then, attendees are invited to the Capitol to meet with senators and participate in a "I Love Nebraska Libraries" storytime in the Judiciary Hearing Room. (**continue reading**)

This newsletter was prepared by the NLA Communications Committee: Shelby Janke, Megan Jensen, Courtney Kilroy, Melissa Payne. Please submit any and all news to [nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org).

(continued from page 1) If you can attend both days, you will earn up to 12 continuing education credits for certifications required by the Nebraska Library Commission for public library accreditation. For anyone who wants more, we have built in three opportunities for networking with colleagues and learning about ongoing advocacy efforts needed across Nebraska in a relaxed social setting. The social events are at various Lincoln venues and anyone is welcome, so if you are working during the day join us after work - no registration required!

If you cannot attend our event this year, please consider making a donation to help fund the advocacy efforts of the NLA committee by covering the cost of a Senator's meal, or making a contribution of any amount through the registration portal on our website. You can also encourage others to consider joining us to bring back what they learn to you and other librarians in your corner of our huge state.



Honoring Outstanding Library Volunteers in 2023.

# UPCOMING CHANGES FOR NLA

by Tammi Thiem, President of the Nebraska Library Association

The Nebraska Library Association has had a partnership with Creative Association Management (CAM) since January of 2018. CAM provides management and administrative services and support to the NLA. Many of you likely know Ginger Jelinek, as she has been an essential asset to NLA and carries out many core functions. Due to retirement of the owner, this partnership will be terminated at the end of May 2024.

Everything is being done to make this transitional period as smooth as possible. While change is often challenging and intimidating, the NLA board is striving to look at this change as a positive opportunity. This transition may offer the chance to evolve leadership capabilities and allow for a fresh introspective look at roles and responsibilities.

The NLA board welcomes feedback and questions. Information will be shared as this transition progresses and decisions have been finalized. Please watch for exciting updates as options are explored to make the NLA a strong and vital organization for Nebraska libraries.

## JOIN US IN THANKING GINGER

Whether you registered for an NLA conference or renewed your membership, there's a big chance you've interacted with Executive Director Ginger Jelinek over the past six years. Please join us in thanking her for all of her services by sending a thank you note to the NLA post office box:

**Nebraska Library Association**  
**Attn: Ginger Jelinek**  
**P.O. Box 21756**  
**Lincoln, NE 68542**

# ADVOCACY ALERT: CONTACT YOUR SENATOR!

## LB441

would **criminalize** library workers and educators for providing **access to books and information**.



The NLA Advocacy Committee has been monitoring LB441 since 2023 and, unfortunately, its reintroduction in 2024. After much work behind the scenes, we now need your help in stopping LB441 in its tracks.

Here's the long and the short of it:

- If passed, library workers and K-12 educators across Nebraska will be at risk of being **criminalized and fined** for providing access to books and information that are deemed "obscene" by a select few in power.
- Some organizations, including libraries, art galleries, and medical practices, are currently protected from this type of prosecution in State Statute 28-815. LB441 would **remove protections from librarians and educators**, forcing these professionals to live in fear of jail sentencing and losing their livelihoods.

We know that **library workers do not provide access to "obscene" materials**. Please join our fight to **protect Nebraska library workers and stop mass censorship in our state**.

## CONTACT YOUR SENATOR

If NLA members have questions about this bill or others, please contact the NLA Advocacy Committee at [nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org). All members are invited to the weekly Advocacy Meeting on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. CST.

## ADVOCACY ALERT: CONTACT YOUR SENATOR!

# LB441

would **criminalize** library workers and educators for providing **access to books and information**.

### SAY NO TO CENSORSHIP.

We know that librarians **do not** provide “obscene” materials. Please join our fight to **protect Nebraska library workers** and stop mass censorship in our state.

### LB441 IS BAD NEWS FOR NE

- Librarians do not provide access to obscene materials. In fact, there’s not a single story in Nebraska to support this.
- LB441 will result in a drastic waste of taxpayer money as municipalities are forced to fight unnecessary legal battles.
- This bill will only increase the shortage of qualified educators who feel safe working and teaching in Nebraska.
- LB 441 is government overreach that will burden Nebraska courts with an issue that is already overseen by local governing boards.
- 80% of parents say they have confidence in what materials their libraries select. (Hart)

While the LB441 hearing was originally scheduled for Tues., March 12, the busy legislative session continues to push agenda items into the future. As of this writing, LB441 has not yet been debated. That means there’s still time to **tell your Senator** to protect librarians by voting NO on LB441.

## IT’S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON!

NLA’s annual **Louise A. Nixon Scholarship** application will open on **March 22, 2024**.

This scholarship supports students who pursue full- or part-time graduate-level library education. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria to be considered:

- Accepted to an **ALA-accredited graduate program** in library science OR school librarianship and media
- Nebraska resident OR employed by a Nebraska library for at least one year
- Member of the **Nebraska Library Association** OR **Nebraska School Librarians Association** at time of application.

Read more about **Louise Nixon** and her legacy.



Opens on  
March  
22!

*Louise A. Nixon (1895-1989)*

# SAVE *the* DATE

OCTOBER 9-11, 2024



## THE NLA CONFERENCE IS BACK!

Meet us in Kearney this October to convene with **Nebraska's largest network of library professionals!**

This year, we are celebrating the fact that Nebraska libraries are for everyone. Our industry will **Thrive Together** as we learn about:

- Community building
- Organizational excellence
- Intentional advocacy work
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion

NLA invites submissions that embrace this theme, seeking a multitude of voices that can share knowledge and contribute lived experiences towards an understanding of how to face challenges and capitalize on opportunities that face our profession.

### **SUBMIT A CONFERENCE PROPOSAL BY MAY 27!**

Please use [this form](#) to submit a Preconference or Conference presentation proposal for the **2024 NLA Conference: Thrive Together**.

Have an idea but need more contributors? Check out this [networking sheet](#) to brainstorm ideas.

Questions? Review the [FAQ](#), or contact Lane Gibson at [nlapresidentelect@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlapresidentelect@nebraskalibraries.org).

# New Members Round Table Spring Meeting

*April 16, 2024  
10am - 11am*

## *Public Libraries & Trustees Section Spring Meeting*

**May 2, 2024  
9am - 3pm**

Rebroadcast  
via Zoom  
**May 6  
12:30pm - 4pm**

## **SPRING MEETINGS**

The New Members Round Table (NMRT) and Public Libraries & Trustees Section (PLTS) have scheduled their Spring Meetings!

NMRT will meet virtually on **April 16** to plan membership and conference activities for 2024.

PLTS will meet at the Kilgore Memorial Library in York on **May 2** to hear from speakers from the North Liberty (IA) Library and the UNO Library Science Program. The meeting will be rebroadcast virtually on **May 6**. Register online at [nebraskalibraries.org](http://nebraskalibraries.org).

# VOLUNTEER WITH THE GOLDEN SOWER AWARD!

The Nebraska Golden Sower Award committee is hard at work prepping for 2023-24 voting in April, drumming up excitement for the 2024-25 schoolyear, and reading potential nominees for 2025-26!



Help the Golden Sower Award reach even more Nebraska youth with your reading and writing skills by volunteering to write manual pages and read eligible titles for future nomination years:

## GSA MANUAL PAGE WRITER

- Read and discuss eligible titles for the upcoming nomination year(s)
- Recommend your favorite titles to the Golden Sower Award Committee
- Vote for titles to be GSA nominees!

## SELECTION READER

- Read your favorite GSA nominees for the upcoming schoolyear
- Write a summary and book activities, vocab words, and puzzles for the titles you choose
- Educators will be able to use these activities in the classroom!

Interested in volunteering? Email Samantha Rundle at [nlagoldensower@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlagoldensower@nebraskalibraries.org).



# 2024 LEGISLATIVE WATCHLIST



The NLA Advocacy Committee has reviewed the bills introduced in the 108th Legislative Session for activity surrounding libraries, library workers, intellectual freedom, and data privacy.

The Nebraska Library Association has determined its stances on these bills. Please see the color-coded key below to learn how these bills will impact Nebraska libraries and residents.

**Strongly support**

**Support**

**Neutral/Monitoring**

**Oppose**

**Strongly Oppose**

Sign up as a **Library Advocate** to be the first to know when we need your help in urging senators to protect Nebraska libraries.

LB #	SENATOR	TOPIC
79	Erdman	Nebraska EPIC Consumption Tax
308	Bostar	Genetic Information Privacy Act
939	Erdman	My Student, My Choice Act
1064	Lippincott	Prohibit tenure at certain postsecondary educational inst.
1071	Dugan	Protect Rights of Student Journalists and Media Advisors
1092	Erdman	Online Age Verification Liability Act
1241	Von Gillern	Property tax levy limits provisions
1294	Bostar	Data privacy
1330	Murman	Prohibit public edu inst. from certain DEI actions
1336	DeKay	Broadband Bridge Act
1371	Vargas	Media Literacy Act
1399	Murman	Change provisions to educational decision makers

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE WATCHLIST

Strongly support

Support

Neutral/Monitoring

Oppose

Strongly Oppose

Wondering what you can do to **support libraries in Nebraska**? Here are a few simple actions that will build our crew of advocates:

1. Attend the **Creating Advocates Workshop and Advocacy Day** on March 19-20 in Lincoln.
2. Review our **Legislative Watchlist** on the NLA Advocacy webpage.
3. Use the **Prepare to Advocate!** widget to sign up as a Library Advocate, and be the first to know when we need your help in urging senators to protect Nebraska libraries.

CARRYOVER BILLS FROM 2023

LB #

SENATOR

TOPIC

71

Sanders

Parent Access to Learning Material

371

Murman

Prohibit individuals under 19 or 21 from attending drag shows

374

Murman

Parent Bill of Rights

441

Albrecht

Change provisions relating to obscenity

635

Albrecht

Requirements on school/library digital resources/databases

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

LR6CA

Erdman

Governments only impose retail consumption taxes and excise taxes

LR7CA

Erdman

Impose a consumption/excise tax on all new goods/services but grocery items

LR278CA

Murman

Change membership of the State Board of Education



## WE CARE FOR KIDS

The Nebraska Library Association is a proud partner of We Care for Kids, a nonprofit organization that works to ensure that all Nebraska families have access to quality early childhood education for their children. Is your library or organization positioned to support early childhood care in your community? [Become a We Care for Kids partner today.](#)

Caring about quality early childhood education for all families is caring for Nebraska's future.

Join us at [NebraskaCaresForKids.org](https://NebraskaCaresForKids.org)



# JOB OPENINGS



## Assistant Library Director

Do you have a love for literature, learning, and being creative? Are you a detail-oriented, self-starter that wishes to play an integral part in an organization? If so, you may be a great fit for the City of Chadron's Assistant Library Director!

*Chadron • Full Time • \$33,030-\$46,404/year*

## Technology Assistant

North Platte Public Library is looking for a self-motivated, dependable individual who has strong skills with a variety of software, a desire to learn new things, and great customer service and communication skills.

*North Platte • Part Time • \$17.91/hour*

## Library Director

The City of Battle Creek is seeking a Library Director to provide a welcome, accessible and comprehensive public library that meets the needs of the community while adhering to Library Board policies.

*Battle Creek • Full Time • \$21/hour*

## Library Coordinator

Little Priest Tribal College is seeking a Library Coordinator to manage and oversee all functions of the library under the direct supervision of the Vice President of Teaching & Learning.

*Winnebago • Full-time • \$50,000-\$60,000/year*

## Santee Librarian/GED Tutor

Nebraska Indian Community College seeks a full-time employee to serve as the Santee Campus Librarian with the ability to also teach at NICC.

*Niobrara • Full-time • \$35,568/year*

***Looking for a Change?  
Just starting out?***

Find more job opportunities at  
**Now Hiring @ Your Library.**

# CONTACT INFO

## Board Representatives

### **MPLA Councilor**

Michael Straatmann

[nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **AFCON Representative**

Wyatt Packard

[nla-afcon@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nla-afcon@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **ALA Councilor**

Amy Dissmeyer

[nla-ala@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nla-ala@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Committee Chairs

### **Advocacy** - Deb Robertson

[nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Auditing** - Amy Dissmeyer

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### **By-Laws & Handbook** - Lane Gibson

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### **Communications** - Shelby Brodersen

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### **Elections** - Holli Duggan

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### **Finance** - Holli Duggan

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### **Professional Development** - Tammi Thiem

[nlaprofdev@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaprofdev@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Scholarship & Awards** - Lisa Mount

[nlascholarships@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlascholarships@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Round Table Chairs

### **Intellectual Freedom (IF)**

OPEN

[nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **New Members**

Lacey Partlow

[nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Technical Services**

Joyce Melvin

[nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Section Chairs

### **College & University**

Cali Biaggi

[nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Public Library & Trustee**

Monica Tidyman

[nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **School, Children's & Young Peoples**

OPEN

[nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Interest Groups

### **Tiny & Mighty**

Joy Kyhn

[nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Diversity**

Lane Gibson

[nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Interested in committee leadership? Contact [Tammi](#).