

NLA

Nebraska Library Association

Educate • Advocate • Innovate

NLA Executive Board

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A FINAL NOTE FROM NLA PRESIDENT

by Tammi Thiem, Nebraska Library Association President

As 2024 comes to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future. Serving as the NLA President over the last year has been an incredible experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such passionate and talented people.

This year brought many exciting changes and opportunities for growth. Having monthly meetings increased communication, and that is always a positive factor. The restructuring that happened due to no longer having an executive director allowed everyone the chance to learn more in-depth responsibilities of the association. While that was a challenge, it gave everyone appreciation and insight into the skills necessary for success.

As my term comes to an end, I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who made this year so successful. Your support, collaboration, and dedication have been the driving forces behind our accomplishments. I am excited to welcome Lane Gibson as the new NLA President. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a bright start to the new year!



MEET NLA'S NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT!

by Bri Weichel, as told to Shelby Janke Brodersen

Please join us in welcoming Brianna (Bri) Weichel to the Nebraska Library Association as our new Administrative Assistant! Bri will assist the organization in records management, processing memberships, supporting conference activities, and tracking financials with the NLA Treasurer. Bri can be reached at nlaexecutivedirector@nebraskalibraries.org and will ensure that internal or external communication with the organization finds the appropriate NLA representative.

Without further ado, let's meet Bri!

Where are you from and what is your library background?

I grew up in Fairbury, Nebraska. I began my library career as the Circulation Coordinator at the Hastings Public Library and now manage Perkins Library at Hastings College, along with the Spirit Shop - a unique and fun aspect of my role!

What are you most excited about working with NLA?

I am most excited to connect with others in the library field and to make a meaningful impact through my role.

What are the three best books you read this year?

My favorite books I read this year are:

1. *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See
2. *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore
3. *How to Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question* by Michael Schur

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time, you can find me at the dog park, thrifting, or watching *The Office*.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

by Deb Robertson, Chair of the NLA Advocacy Committee

Working closely with the [Nebraska School Librarians Association \(NSLA\)](#), the NLA Advocacy Committee has developed this legislative agenda outlining the key priorities for advocating on behalf of Nebraska libraries, library professionals, and the communities they serve. These issues are critical for maintaining the integrity of libraries as essential public institutions:

1

Support of Intellectual Freedom

Safeguard the rights of individuals to access information freely and without censorship in all libraries. Defend the values of librarians through the [Library Bill of Rights](#) and [Freedom to Read Statement](#).

- **Opposition to Censorship:** Advocate for legislation that protects libraries from attempts to ban or censor materials. Support legal protections for libraries and librarians who provide access to diverse and controversial materials. Promote public awareness campaigns on the importance of intellectual freedom.
- **Privacy Rights:** Advocate for strong privacy protections for library users, including limits on surveillance and data collection. Support legislation that ensures confidentiality of library records and user information.
- **Digital Access and Net Neutrality:** Support policies that ensure equal access to digital information and oppose actions that would limit access based on content or ability to pay. Advocate for the continuation and enforcement of [net neutrality](#) principles.

Important Date: The 109th Legislature of Nebraska will convene on January 8, 2025.

2

Support of Economic & Fiscal Initiatives

Secure sustainable and equitable funding to support the operations, programs, and growth of libraries.

- **Increased Federal and State Funding:** Work closely with the American Library Association and other state library associations to support the reauthorization and full funding of the Library Services and Technology Act, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Universal Service Fund. Support continued and full funding of budget requests of the Nebraska Library Commission supporting libraries with access to digital resources, grants, and training. Monitor potential state initiatives offering dedicated funding for library infrastructure improvements, especially in underserved and rural communities.
- **Local Funding Initiatives:** Support local initiatives that provide stable and predictable funding for libraries, such as bond measures or local tax levies. Work with local governments to ensure libraries receive an equitable share of municipal budgets, and monitor and oppose proposed legislation that limits or reduces taxing authority that impacts funding for all libraries. Monitor proposed legislation regarding the governance of libraries, prioritizing local control.

SAVE THE DATE!

03.17.2025

Advocacy Day 2025 | Downtown Lincoln

3

Support of Protections for Public Workers

Ensure the safety, fair treatment, and job security of library workers and all public employees

- **Worker Safety & Health:** Advocate for legislation that ensures safe working conditions for library workers, including protects against workplace violence.
- **Job Security and Workers' Rights:** NLA will oppose any legislation that criminalizes librarians, teacher librarians, educators, or students performing duties that are aligned with the core tenets of librarianship. Support the right of library workers to organize and engage in collective bargaining and support legislation that protects public workers from unjust termination.

This legislative agenda represents the core values and priorities of the Nebraska Library Association. By advocating for intellectual freedom, adequate funding, and protections for public workers, we aim to strengthen libraries as pillars of democracy and community resilience. We call on policymakers to support these initiatives and recognize the vital role libraries play in our society.

As the Nebraska chapter of the American Library Association, NLA vows to defend intellectual freedom and access to information according to the core values of librarianship.

Read ALA President Cindy Hohl's full statement [here](#).

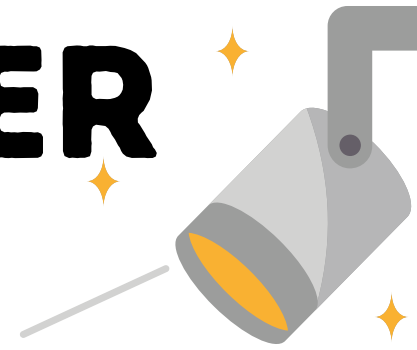
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We know that many of our members are concerned that the election results portend attacks on libraries, library workers, and readers. Whatever happens, ALA will stand up for all Americans' freedom to read – and we will need everyone who loves libraries to stand with us.

- ALA President Cindy Hohl

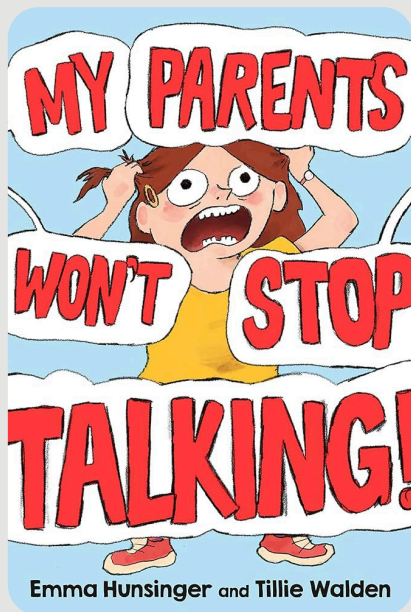
ALA American Library Association

GOLDEN SOWER SPOTLIGHT



Each month, all year long, we'll spotlight a 2024-2025 Nebraska Golden Sower nominee from each category in the NLA e-newsletter! In alphabetical order by title, we'll share a synopsis of the Little Bluestem, Honeybee, and Meadowlark nominees that Nebraska's young readers will enjoy during the 2024-2025 school year.

Little Bluestem

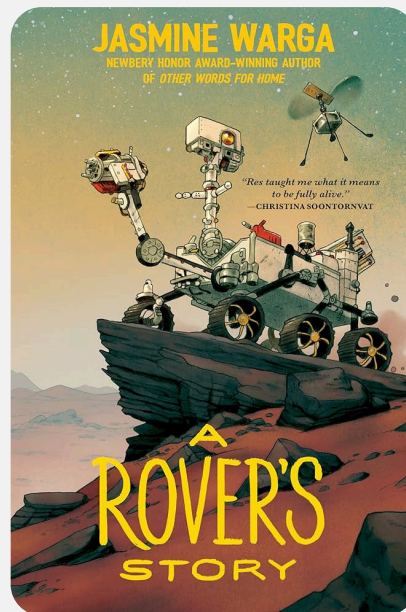


My Parents Won't Stop Talking!

by Tillie Walden,
illus. by Emma Hunsinger

A child's plans are ruined when her parents have the gall to stop to talk to the neighbors in this laugh-out-loud picture book about patience.

Honeybee



A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. He was built to explore Mars—not to have human emotions. But he develops human-like feelings from the NASA scientists who assemble him.

Meadowlark



Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy by Angie Thomas

The author of *The Hate U Give* makes her middle grade debut with a suspenseful fantasy trilogy about being Remarkable in an Unremarkable world.

JOB OPENINGS



We're seeking volunteer Committee Chairs!

Email [Lane](#) if you're interested in chairing the Communications or Auditing Committees.

Library Clerk

Part-Time 9-12 hours per week including one Saturday morning per month. Desired skills include computer skills, friendly personality, good work ethic, and ability to bend and lift.

Alma • Part-Time • Unspecified

Library Page

Perform a variety of library support activities in the shelving and straightening of materials and books; and to provide assistance to library patrons in the location of materials and the operation of equipment.

Grand Island • Full Time • \$16.77/hour

Library Systems/WHS Library Assistant

Westside Community Schools is seeking a half-time library services assistant and half-time library assistant primarily at Westside High School.

Omaha • Full Time • Unspecified

Library Page

The fundamental purpose of this position is to assist the Library Director in shelving, maintaining and organizing all materials of the library. Ten hours per week.

Gretna • Part Time • \$14.61/hour

Library Assistant

The position is 20 hours per week and will include day, evening and weekend hours. Bilingual communication is a plus.

Columbus • Part Time • \$15.51-\$20.96/hour

CONTACT INFO

Board Representatives

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Intellectual Freedom (IF)

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