

NLA

Nebraska Library Association

Educate  Advocate  Innovate

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AN UPDATE FROM THE GOLDEN SOWER AWARD COMMITTEE

by Dr. Sara Churchill, Chair

NLA membership voted at the end of November to make the Golden Sower Award a separate standing committee. After the vote was finalized, work began recruiting committee members. An initial committee meeting took place in January to set goals & priorities, as well as to determine roles. The committee started drafts of new official documents that are currently being refined. The new official documents will be shared publicly in the coming months once they are completed.

The committee will also be looking at new avenues of partnership and promotion while still working with school and libraries across the state to promote reading for enjoyment in Nebraska's youth.

The committee wants to thank all of the volunteers who have worked on the award over the years, from the readers, to the committee members, to the teachers and librarians who have tirelessly promoted the award, you've built this into the institution that it is. But most of all, we want to thank the kids because they are why we do this!

JOIN US IN APPLAUDING OUR 2023 NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!



Ruth and Don Bergmeier
Ravenna Public Library
pictured with Joy Kyhn



**Kathleen Nonneman
and Linda Whiteley**
Grand Island Public Library
pictured with Kim Mettenbrink



Laurie Killeen
Nebraska Library Commission
Talking Book & Braille Service
pictured with Annette Hall



Reema Rida
Lincoln City Libraries
pictured with Melanie Newell



JoAnne Thiele
Lincoln City Libraries
nominated by Vicki Clarke



Judy Smith
Lincoln City Libraries
pictured with Vicki Clarke



Moria Winters
Valley Public Library
nominated by Sami Stewart

STATEMENT REGARDING CENSORSHIP IN FREMONT, NE

BY THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

On February 14th, the Fremont City Council introduced and passed a concerning amendment to the Keene Memorial Library policy manual, by a 7-1 vote. This amendment allows a parent or legal guardian to relocate any book from the children's section of the library to the adult section, as long as their child is eleven years old or younger. According to the Fremont Tribune, this decision comes on the heels of one Fremont citizen's continued attempts to ban sex education and LGBTQ+ books from the public library. The amended policy is now set to go into effect on March 13th. The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) firmly stands in opposition to this amendment and urges the Fremont City Council to reconsider its passage.

While this amendment does not completely remove books from the library by itself, it disregards the expertise and ethics of trained library professionals while ignoring the library's established policy for handling book challenges. This formal review process, by which an item may be removed from or relocated within the library, already exists and allows for more careful consideration of materials. If this process is entirely disregarded, book banning becomes easier. By allowing anyone the ability to alter the library's collection with no standard review process, individual ideologies will become the primary determinant of the library's organization systems, resulting in censorship by a few, for the many.

When deciding what items to purchase for the library and how to organize these materials in the physical or virtual collections, trained library professionals select books and other resources that represent many view-points of their community, not just their own or those of a singular group. Inherently, a well-developed public library will and should contain items that some people disagree with, because disagreements exist within communities. The right to seek and access information "from all points of view without restriction" (American Library Association), or intellectual freedom, is a core value of librarianship. Public libraries affirm that parents or guardians can already restrict what information their children, and only their own children, consume. Additionally, public libraries should not be expected to interfere with those parental responsibilities for all members of the community. What one parent believes to be inappropriate or harmful material, another parent may find helpful to their own child's development and education. One parent or guardian should not have the power to limit the right to access information for any other child or family.

Formalized public library policy, which has long helped to maintain diverse library collections and guard against censorship, should not be disregarded by legislative bodies or city leaders due to political or social reasons, especially not as a response to pressure from vocal individuals. The NLA urges the Fremont City Council to reconsider this amendment and we applaud the Fremont citizens who have made their voices heard by standing up for the intellectual freedom of their community.

NLA's Public Library and Trustee Section 2023 Spring Meetings

Meet the Nebraska Library Commission and The Four Nebraska Regional Library Systems

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00am -12:00pm CT

IN PERSON at the Nebraska Library Commission
in the Atrium Conference Room on the 2nd Floor
The Atrium 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE

Following an introduction and overview of the Nebraska Library Commission from Rod Wagner, staff will introduce us to services they offer to public libraries. A few of the topics covered will include accreditation, NebraskAccess, tech kits, Public Library Survey and Bibliostat, basic skills courses, Talking Books, book club kits, and more!

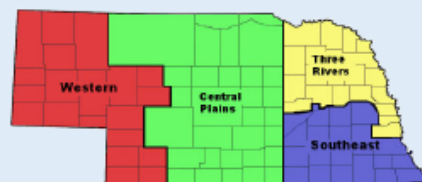


Nebraska
Library
Commission

[REGISTER HERE FOR NLC DAY](#)

Thursday, April 13, 1:00-2:30pm CT

A free, virtual panel discussion, where representatives of the four Nebraska Regional Library Systems will introduce us to the services they provide to public library staff and patrons. For those who were not able to attend the in-person meeting at the Nebraska Library Commission, there will also be a review of their services.



[REGISTER HERE FOR ZOOM MEETING](#)

Central Plains Library System
Denise Harders, Director
402-705-1409
denise.cpls@gmail.com



Southeast Library System
Scott Childers, Director
402-467-6188
scott.childers.sels@gmail.com



Three Rivers Library System
Tammi Thiem, Director
402-330-7884
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Western Library System
Cindy Osborne, Director
308-632-1350
cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov



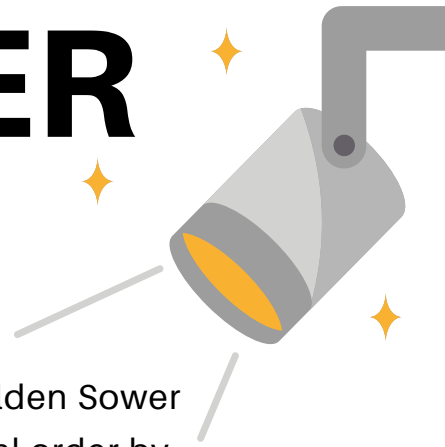
For more information, please contact: nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org.
Membership in NLA or PLTS is not required to join the live session.
Participants can submit 2 CE credits for the in person meeting, and 1.5 CE credits for the Zoom meeting.



ADVOCACY DAY 2023 WAS ONE FOR THE BOOKS!

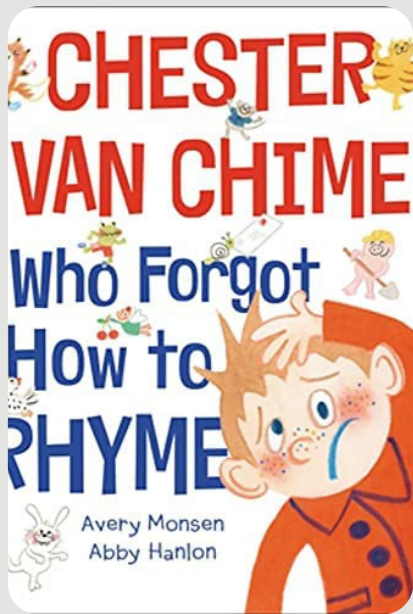


GOLDEN SOWER SPOTLIGHT



Each month, all year long, we'll spotlight a 2023-2024 Nebraska Golden Sower nominee from each category in the NLA e-newsletter! In alphabetical order by title, we'll share a synopsis of the Picture Books, Chapter Books, and Novels that Nebraska's young readers will enjoy during the 2023-24 school year.

Picture Book



**Chester Van Chime Who
Forgot How to Rhyme**
by Avery Monsen
illustrated by Abby Hanlon

In this humorous story that reads like a nursery rhyme, Chester tries his best to recover his rhyming talent when he suddenly loses the ability that once came so naturally to him.

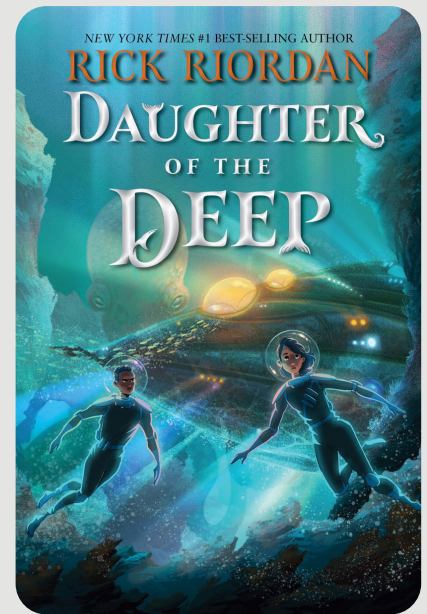
Chapter Book



Imaginary
by Lee Bacon
illustrated by Katy Wu

At 11, Zach "should've" outgrown his imaginary friend, Shovel, by now. But after the death of his father five years ago, he needed an escape, and his friendship with Shovel has yet to fade away. Until Zach gets to middle school and things start to get awkward.

Novel



Daughter of the Deep
by Rick Riordan

In this modern take on *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Ana Dakkar puts her leadership skills to the test when, on a weekend class field trip, she and her schoolmates witness a terrible tragedy that will change their lives.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



2023 Legislative Report Card

Bill

Description

NLA's Stance

LB71

Change provisions relating to parental involvement in and access to learning materials in schools

NLA supports the Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) concerning the availability of curriculum and content to all students.



LB374

Adopt the Parents' Bill of Rights and Academic Transparency Act

Censors books and information, burdening school staff with the expectation of reviewing every material in the school library.



LB412

Provide powers for the Public Service Commission under the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act

Allocates ARPA broadband money to unserved and underserved areas of the state, especially in rural areas of Nebraska.



Bill**Description****NLA's Stance****LB441**

Change provisions relating to obscenity

Censors legally protected information and burdens tax payers and the courts for the unwarranted prosecution of library professionals, contributing to the shortage of qualified librarians and educators who will no longer feel safe working in Nebraska.

**LB635**

Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission

Encourages the censorship of important academic content while wasting taxpayer and state funds by increasing technology costs to schools and the Nebraska Library Commission.

**LB683**

Create the Nebraska Broadband Office and provide duties

Improves and maintains broadband access across Nebraska.

**LB722**

Provide authority for the Public Service Commission regarding construction of broadband or other telecommunications infrastructure

Improves and maintains broadband access across Nebraska.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host a Librarians & Libations Happy Hour in your community!

Want to host an NLA happy hour in your part of the state? Contact the Communications Committee and we will help you advertise!



Email nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org.

Tiny & Mighty Interest Group

Next meeting:

Tues., March 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. CDT
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

Did you attend Advocacy Day? Submit your CE hours!

If you attended Advocacy Day on March 3, your participation is eligible for Continuing Education hours through the Nebraska Library Commission's Librarian Certification program.

Use this [form](#) to submit your CE hours. The State Library Tour counts toward these hours, but the happy hour does not!

Mark your calendar for the PLTS Spring Meeting!

The Public Library & Trustee Section (PLTS) presents two opportunities to meet Nebraska's regional and statewide library systems.

April 11: [Meet the Nebraska Library Commission](#) in Lincoln from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

April 11: [Meet your regional library system](#) via Zoom from 1 - 3 p.m.

Follow NLA!



Have news you'd like to share? Send an email to nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org for submission to the NLA newsletter and social media.

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Intellectual Freedom (IF)

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Interest Groups

Tiny & Mighty

Rebecca McCorkindale

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Diversity

Lane Gibson

nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

WE'RE ALL EARS!

Email nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org to submit your news, announcements, action items, and stories! Submissions can be placed in the newsletter and on NLA social media.

