

## ST-5

MPLA Board Report October 2011

Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

The annual Nebraska Library Association (NLA) conference was held jointly with the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) on October 5-7 in Lincoln. This year's theme was "Nebraska's Libraries Cultivating Community Connections". Cassandra Barnett, Fayetteville (AR) High School Library, presented the keynote speech on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Jamie LaRue, Douglas County (CO) Libraries, presented "*Taking the Community to the World*" as the Friday keynote speech on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Battledecks (20 PowerPoint slides, 20 seconds per slide, and no advance preparation) premiered after the NLA/NEMA banquet on Thursday night. The intrepid competitors were Jan Boyer, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Scott Childers, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; Karin Dalziel, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; Amy Mather, Omaha Public Library; Jake Rundle, Hastings Public Library; and Susan Steider, Lincoln City Libraries. After six exciting, extemporaneous performances, Scott Childers was declared the winner by popular acclaim. He's already primed to defend his title at next year's MPLA/NLA/NEMA tri-conference in LaVista.

Judy Anghelescu and Maggie Tarelli-Falcon presented a program about the Omaha Public Library's *Welcome to Your Library*" video on October 7<sup>th</sup>. This multi-lingual production shows visual representations of basic library concepts (borrowing, returning, various materials, and services) for immigrants and refugees. You can view the English version on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCzCbYz6Vd0>. The DVD is also available in Arabic, Karen, Nuer, Somali, Spanish, and Swahili.

The results of the Nebraska Library Association's 2011-2012 elections are –

Vice President/President-Elect: **Gordon Wyant**

Treasurer: **Barbara Hegr**

ALA Councilor: **Brenda Ealey**

C&U Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: **Sally Gibson**

C&U Secretary: **Ben Brick**

Paraprofessional Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Cynthia Vana**

PLTS Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Jessica Chamberlain**

SCYP Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Sally Snyder**

SCYP Secretary/Treasurer: **Bethany Grabow**

S&I Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: **Mo Khamouna**

S & I Secretary: **Susie Dunn**

ITART Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Becky Wymer**

ITART Secretary: **Christa Burns**  
NMRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Bethany Grabow**  
NMRT Secretary: **Holli Beckmann**  
TSRT Vice Chair/Chair Elect: **Angela Kroeger**  
YART Chair Elect: **Lindsey Tomsu**  
YART Secretary: **Melanie Feyerherm**

Mary Koch won the free NLA membership renewal for voting in this year's election.

The Nebraska Center for the Book will honor its 2011 Nebraska Book Awards winners on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts in Lincoln.

This year's book winners are –

**Cover/Design/Illustration** – *The Flower Girl/The Ring Bearer* by N.L. Sharp, Tim Hantula (Illustrator) and Lynn Gibney (Book Designer)

**Cover/Design/Illustration Honor** – *Belle Boy* by Anne Fuller and Gary James Withrow (Book Designer)

**Fiction** – *Lamb Bright Saviors* by Robert Vivian

**Fiction Honor** – *Stolen Horses* by Dan O'Brien

**Nonfiction** – *Life is What You Make It* by Peter Buffett

**Nonfiction Honor** – *The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied, Volume 2, April-September 1833* edited by Stephen S. Witte and Marsha V. Gallagher

**Poetry** – *Cradling Monsoons* by Sarah McKinstry-Brown

**Young Adult Fiction** – *The Red Umbrella* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

**Young Adult Nonfiction** – *Sky Sailors: True Stories of the Balloon Era* by David L. Bristow

The **2011 Jane Geske Award** will be presented to Greg Kosmicki and The Backwaters Press. Kosmicki and his press have contributed much to the Nebraska book community for many years. By founding The Backwaters Press, Kosmicki raised awareness of the Nebraska writing community and supported local poets while publishing a selection of authors with a national reach. In the Nebraska Book Awards' first eleven years, The Backwaters Press accounted for fourteen award winners and honor books. Nebraska's literary landscape wouldn't be the same without Greg Kosmicki and The Backwaters Press.