

ST-5 Nebraska State Report

MPLA Board Report

December 13, 2023



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MPLA Activities

- Shared MPLA news and announcements with the NLA Board of Directors, including direct request to more broadly encourage "Chew and Chat" attendance
- Requested MPLA newsletter content

NLA Activities

- Attended NLA Board Meetings
- Attended NLA Third Thursday Chats
- Serve on NLA Advocacy Committee as MPLA Rep
 - Continue to Develop Advocacy Toolkit
 - Strengthen local and regional library advocacy efforts
- NLA Strategic Planning Group

NLA News

In lieu of formal fall conference for 2023 – Nebraska Library Week (Nov 12th-18th) - This was our first attempt at this type of "dispersed" conference.

- Theme - Connecting Communities – celebrating the ways libraries connect the communities they serve to each other, to information, and to the world.
- We had 66 libraries sign up as official participants, which included public, academic, K-12, special, and institutional libraries. We had representation all across the state, including many small and rural libraries participating!
- There were 70 events that were submitted to be part of the calendar, but many libraries had their own celebrations which they did not submit to be added to the calendar. Activities included story times, community gatherings, contests, staff spirit weeks and much more.
- Governor Jim Pillen declared Nebraska Library Week by signing a proclamation during a ceremony at the capitol building on November 6th. Many Nebraska towns also proclaimed Nebraska Library Week including Lincoln, York, and Ogallala
- We distributed over 1000 "I Love My Library" postcards for anyone to fill out. Some libraries displayed those stories, while others will be sending them in.
- Nebraska Library Week featured in multiple local news stories, including TV and radio interviews given by Lane Gibson and Amy Dismeyer about our events.
- Nebraska Honorary Chair Tosca Lee travelled around the state during NLW, giving book talks and meet & greets and spreading the message about libraries and their work.
- There was a lot of buzz on social media, with many libraries sharing under the #NebraskaLibraryWeek hashtag.

- We had a wonderful time in Hastings, NE at Library Prom: An Evening of Elegance where we enjoyed a beautiful venue, amazing food, signature cocktails, and an evening of dancing and merriment including a split-the-pot raffle, voting for prom royalty, and a silent auction.