



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



Looking back at the newsletter for March of last year, that was the first one I wrote up anything about COVID-19. In that issue were pictures of kids doing crafts or huddled together

listening to someone reading a book to them the previous month, advertisements for upcoming workshops, including one for the SELS Training Extravaganza. The early days of the pandemic were hitting us and we were still talking about possibly just needing to shut down for a time measured in weeks as opposed to months.

The newsletter for April of last year included articles of libraries switching to carryout services, a library printing out face shields for hospitals to use, and other discussions of changes libraries were making due to what was going on in their communities. There was a massive shift in priorities over that month, and I do think libraries handled it all very well. It wasn't easy, and I'm pretty positive no one was 100% sure if they were doing the right thing, but it happened.

After focusing on all the things that happened during the past 12 months, what types of

discussions do you want to have looking forward?

What library practices or skills do you feel you need a refresher course on? What new insights about library services for your clientele did you learn over this time are you willing to share?

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Calendar



- March 14, National Write Down Your Story Day
- March 14, Switch to Daylight Savings Time
- March 15, National Napping Day
- March 16, National Freedom of Information Day
- March 19, [CASTL, "Open Meeting Law"](#)
- March 20, Spring begins
- March 31, National Crayon Day
- April, School Library Workers Month
- National Poetry Month
- April 4-10, National Library Week
- April 4, National School Librarian Day
- April 6, National Library Workers Day
- April 7, National Library Outreach Day
- April 12, D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read
- April 15, [Teaching Technology in the Library](#), p. 9
- May 7, [SELS Training Extravaganza](#), p. 10

Photo of the Month



Auburn Memorial Library created a "Readbox," which is its take on Redbox. — Provided by Heather Koenecke

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

March 19

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"Open Meeting Law"

April 23

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"Transforming Teen Services"

May 21

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"How Long Should I Keep These Papers?"

Our February 18th CASTL was on the theme "Leadership: Small Acts, Big Results." Our presenter, Erica Rose, is coordinator of the UNO undergraduate library science program and specializes in leadership and management.

Leadership is not a certain personality type. Everybody has different ideas about what good leadership looks like, and that is often reflective of what they look for in a leader themselves. However, there are certain leadership truths that are timeless.

One is that it is very important to explain why an action is being undertaken. Very few people respond well to "Because I told you so."

Erica introduced us to the Appreciative Inquiry Approach to leadership, which focuses on a positive approach that asks lots of questions in order to understand an organization and the individuals within it. The Appreciative Inquiry Framework involves:

- **Discovery.** It's about overcoming negativity bias to see the best of what is in an individual or organization. It is necessary to spend time listening, observing, and having one on one conversations.
- **Dream.** How do we help people to think about what is possible and push them to grow? Strategies include keeping an eye on trends. It means building professional development into job descriptions and work time.
- **Design.** It is important to honor different perspectives and give staff choices wherever possible.
- **Destiny.** Focus on the whole story and help staff to put items into context (as well as patrons). Explanations are important. Set clear expectations in multiple ways. Make evaluation part of your culture, and validate individual contributions.

This is only a short summary and portion of Erica's presentation. For a recording of the presentation, as well as the presentation slides, [click here](#).

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of upcoming classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
April 1—April 30	Introduction to Cataloging	February 22—March 19
April 19—April 30	Library Finance	March 15—April 9
May 10—May 21	Intellectual Freedom/Core Values	April 5—May 3

News Around the System

Clarks Library Celebrates Read Across America Week

Provided by Barbee Sweet

Last week the Clarks Public Library celebrated Read Across America Week by teaming up with the Senior Seminar class & FCCLA. Both groups were guest readers each afternoon that week and showed the fun of reading to all elementary classes. The High Plains Community elementary school had dress up days that went along with a Dr.Suess book.



News Around the System

Black History Month Display

Picture by Monica Tidyman

A colorful display for Black History Month at Stromsburg Public Library created by Sunni Cooper.



Central Community College's LIS Program

Central Community College offers an online Library and Information Services (LIS) certificate. The courses for the certificate can also be applied towards an Associate Degree.

Libraries are home to more technology than ever before, and the responsibilities of librarians are evolving with that trend. As a library and information specialist, you assist with customizing databases and teaching patrons how to use computer systems to access data. CCC's Library and Information Services program is offered in cooperation with the Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. You acquire the skills on how to acquisition and process all types of materials, organize materials, be proactive in collection management and manage small libraries. CCC's Library and Information Services program provides you the skills needed for certification as a public librarian in Nebraska, with an emphasis on rural needs.

For more information, visit <https://www.ccneb.edu/lis>

Other News

211 Helpline

About 211:

211 is a free and confidential information and referral helpline that matches callers with non-emergency health and human service agencies in their communities. Examples of referrals include:

- Housing Assistance (Rent Assistance, Utility Assistance, Deposit Assistance)
- Clothing
- Counseling
- Employment
- Financial assistance
- Food Pantries/Meal Sites
- Health Clinics
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Legal Services
- Seasonal Services (Tax Preparation, Holiday Assistance)
- Shelters (Homeless, Victims of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault)
- Transportation

In addition to a live specialists answering calls 24/7, 211 offers a texting service, online database, and app. Bilingual staff and tele-interpretation services are able to assist callers in over 100 languages.

211 and Libraries:

Libraries are often the "second responders" in times of crisis. We believe 211 can be a particularly powerful tool for libraries to quickly address the needs of visitors by connecting them with local and state-wide agencies ready to help. Our continuously growing database has over 1,400 agencies with 3,000+ programs located throughout the entire state of Nebraska.

Links & Resources:

- Online "self-service" database: ne211.org
- Data on caller needs: ne.211counts.org
- 211 promotional materials: www.unitedwaymidlands.org/nebraska-2-1-1-resources/
- Our free app can be downloaded by searching for "211 Nebraska/SW Iowa" in Google Play or the Apple Store

If you have any questions or would like print materials to distribute at your library, please email Hannah Phipps at hhipps@uwmidlands.org.



Get Connected. Get Help.™

THE FIRST MOST ESSENTIAL RESOURCE FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS HELP

The 2-1-1 Helpline is a free service that refers callers to these non-emergency health and human services:

- Housing Assistance:
 Rent Assistance, Utility Assistance, Deposit Assistance
- Clothing
- Counseling
- Employment
- Financial Assistance
- Food Pantries/Meal Sites
- Health Clinics
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Seasonal Services:
 Tax Preparation, Holiday Assistance
- Shelters:
 Homeless, Victims of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault
- Transportation

DIAL: 2-1-1
TEXT: 898211
VISIT: ne211.org

Local Calls: **402.444.6666**

Email: **Nebraska211@uwmidlands.org**

Assistance available in over 100 languages using the Tele-interpretor service and bi-lingual staff

**United Ways
of Nebraska**



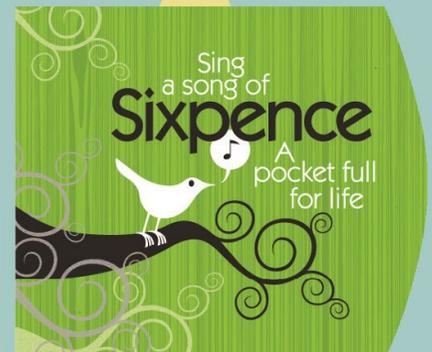
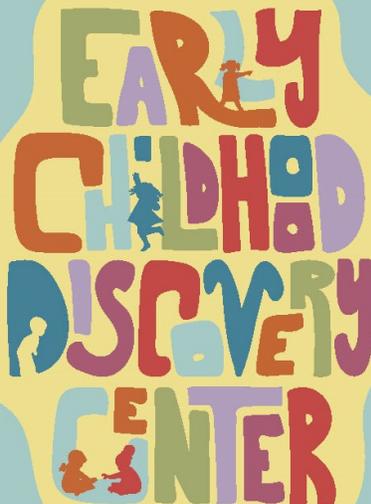
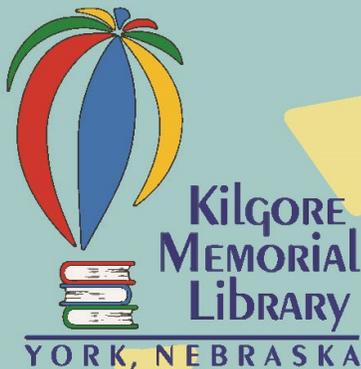
JOIN KILGORE MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND
YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SIXPENCE PROGRAM FOR AN

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 10, 2021

10:00 am to Noon

520 N Nebraska Avenue, York, NE



- Explore the NEW Early Childhood Discovery Center
- Opening comments by Senator Mark Kolterman
- Learn about the Sixpence Program
- Meet early childhood educators from York
- Enroll in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Learn what is coming next at York's Public Library!
- Light snacks & drinks will be provided



**WHAT THE TECH DO PEOPLE NEED?
HOW CAN THE LIBRARY HELP?**

April 15, 2021

1-5 PM

Here's what we will cover in this workshop:

- Identify the tech skills adults really need
- Learn how to teach tech using tried and true methods of library programming & outreach
- Explore new ways to market necessary services
- Brainstorm & share ideas

Instructor: Amanda Sweet

Hosted by SELS



**Nebraska
Library
Commission**



SELS Training Extravaganza

Sessions:

1. "7 Wonders – 7

Lessons: Reasons to Have
Hope in the World" with
Dean Jacobs.

2. "Fact vs. Fiction: Critical Thinking

In the Age of Fake News" with
Dr. Chris Haeffner.

3. "What You Need in a Patron Behavior
Policy " with Christa Porter

May 7th

9:30—12:30

Via Zoom

Register by May 5th at

<http://bit.ly/2021extrav>

Supported in part by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and/or state funding appropriated by the Nebraska legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission .

System Spotlight

Scholarships

Did you know that the Southeast Library System provides scholarships to pay for registration and/or travel costs for continuing education events, course work in library science, and webinars?

Applicants must be residents of the area served by the Southeast Library System or work in a library within the System.

Preference is given to those who have not ever received a scholarship from SELS in the past, and to first-time attendees at the event requested. [Click here for more information.](#)



[Nick Youngson CC BY-SA 3.0 Alpha Stock Images](#)

Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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