



# Plain Speaking

Central Plains Library System

*Educate Connect Inspire*

Volume 3, Issue 6

October—November 2018

## Do You Belong?

Do you belong to a professional association? It can be kind of confusing...and a lot like alphabet soup. NLA, NSLA, MPLA, ARSL, ALA, AASL, PLA, and on and on and on. I often get asked “Which organizations **should** I belong to?” The answer is...it depends. It depends on which groups add value to your work life.

I always recommend that, if possible, everyone with a career in libraries should belong to his or her state library association. For us, that is either the [Nebraska Library Association](#) or the [Nebraska School Librarians Association](#). Both organizations advocate for their members’ programs, provide professional development and networking opportunities, and develop leaders in the library field. The NLA/NSLA Joint Conference is being held October 4-6 in Lincoln. This year’s program includes a diverse set of presentations and conference is the one time each year that we all get to see each other and to connect with people who **really** understand what we do.

The other organization that I strongly recommend for public librarians is the [Association of Rural and Small Libraries](#). I recently returned from their annual conference that was held in Springfield, Illinois. Their conference program is chock-full of sessions that I wanted to attend. Programming, Policies, Personnel Challenges, STEAM, Statistics, and Self-Help. Even though they repeat some sessions, and I went to something **every time** a session was offered, I still did not get to everything I wanted to see.

Membership also entitles you to participate in the Association’s email list. It is a very active list where new library directors of small and rural libraries get their questions answered by librarians that know about being a solo librarian. Conferences are a terrific opportunity to network with people from around the United States. This year’s conference had attendees from 49 states. The one state not represented was Rhode Island. I met the Library Director from Stanley, Idaho, population: 69. They have a thriving library with activities going on all the time!

*Continued on Page 2*

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### Board Members

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Joining ARSL is not hard or expensive. Membership rates start at \$15 per year, and go up to \$49 if you make more than \$30,000 per year. If you attend conference, being a member is definitely worth it for the discount you get. Next year's conference will be in Burlington, Vermont, on September 4-7, 2019.

Only you can decide which groups will help you the most...Local, Regional, or National. There is an organization out there for everyone. As you go through this newsletter, you will find a few of the ideas I got from this conference. Those articles are identified by the letters **ARSL** under the title. If you like what you see, maybe you'll want to go to Vermont with me next year.

*Denise Harders*

## WE ARE SAYING WII TO WINTER!



**According to the Farmer's Almanac, Nebraskan's are in for a long winter. But don't let the winter time blues set in this year. The System Office wants you to have a great, fun-filled winter!**

**We have two COMPLETE Nintendo Wii Gaming System sets we are giving away!**

**Each set includes the following:**

-  **Wii Gaming Console**
-  **2 Controllers**
-  **AC Adapters**
-  **Several Popular Games**
-  **Wireless Sensor Bar**
-  **Book: *Gamers.....in the Library***
-  **Wii Operations Manual – System Setup / Channels & Settings**

**HOW TO WIN ONE OF THESE WINTER-BUSTING SETS:**

**GET REGISTERED TODAY!**

**RANDOM DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>.**



## Fall Selections for Book Clubs

October is **National Reading Group Month**.

Autumn is here! This new season brings apple cider donuts, pumpkin spice lattes, and five must-read book club recommendations.



***The Witch Elm*** by Tana French

Tana French's novels are spine-tingling, suspenseful, and very difficult to put down. It is one of this fall's must-read mysteries and thrillers.

***Sadie*** by Courtney Summers

If your book club loves true crime, they'll find themselves hooked on this YA novel that follows a podcaster's hunt for a missing girl. This is one of the buzziest books of the season, and your book club won't be able to put it down.

***I Should Have Honor*** by Khalida Brohi

Khalida Brohi's memoir takes on a serious subject: the traditional practice of honor killings in Pakistan. This book is Khalida's story, and your book club will be inspired and uplifted by her tireless work on behalf of women in Pakistan.

***The War Outside*** by Monica Hesse

Book clubs looking for historical fiction this month will not want to miss Monica Hesse's YA novel about a family internment camp in Texas during World War II. Inspired by real events that occurred in the Crystal City Internment Camp, Hesse's story chronicles the friendship between a German-American girl named Margot and a Japanese-American girl named Haruko.

***The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock*** by Imogen Hermes Gowar

Transport your book club to 1780s London where they will meet Jonah Hancock, a merchant with a very interesting curiosity on his hands: a very small mermaid corpse. Before long, word has spread that Jonah Hancock has a mermaid, and he is suddenly thrust into the limelight. If your book club likes historical fiction with a pinch of fantasy, look no further for your next book.

### Maltman Memorial Library

Director, Deb Fairbanks, with author and Humanities Nebraska speaker Barbara Eymann Mohrman at the program held on August 6 in Wood River.

The Book Club read Ms. Mohrman's book **Four Blue Stars in the Window** and



invited her to speak to the community following their discussion. Nearly 40 people attended the event.



## A CELEBRATION OF *Nebraska Books*

October 27, 2018

Join Us to Celebrate:

2018 One Book One Nebraska  
*Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry*  
edited by Greg Kosmicki & Mary K. Stillwell  
Nebraska Book Award Winners  
Mildred Bennett & Jane Geske Award Presentation  
2019 One Book One Nebraska Announcement  
Reception and Book Signings

### CPLS Board Meeting Schedule



October 12  
Landmark Center, Hastings

January 11  
Telephone Conference Call

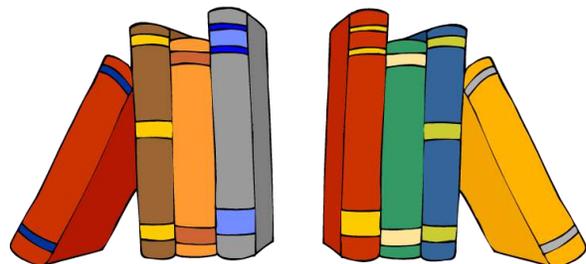
April 12  
Location TBA

July 12  
Annual Meeting  
Location TBA

All Board Meetings start at  
10:00 am.

2:30 – 6:30 pm

Nebraska History Museum  
131 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE



More Information: <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>

## Top Ten Romance Fiction for 2018

The 10 most exciting and outstanding romances reviewed in *Booklist* from September 15, 2017, to September 1, 2018, deliver clever new variations on classic themes, including women taking charge, and sensitive inquiries into social injustice. And there's a motorcycle gang boss posing as a wedding planner!

**Born to Be Wilde**. By Eloisa James. 2018. Avon, \$7.99 (9780062692474).

**A Duke by Default**. By Alyssa Cole. 2018. Avon, \$7.99 (9780062685568).

**It Takes Two to Tumble**. By Cat Sebastian. 2018. Avon Impulse, \$5.99 (9780062821577).

**A Most Noble Heir**. By Susan Anne Mason. 2018. Bethany, \$15.99 (9780764230875).

**Off the Grid**. By Monica McCarty. 2018. Jove, \$7.99 (9780399587726).

**Once a Scoundrel**. By Mary Jo Putney. 2018. Zebra, \$7.99 (9781420140965).

**River to Redemption**. By Ann H. Gabhart. 2018. Revell, \$15.99 (9780800723644).

**The Sins of Lord Lockwood**. By Meredith Duran. 2018. Pocket, \$7.99 (9781501139048).

**Someone to Wed**. By Mary Balogh. 2017. Jove, \$7.99 (9780399586064).

**To Have and to Harley**. By Regina Cole. 2018. Sourcebooks/Casablanca, \$7.99 (9781492667957)

Go to <https://www.booklistonline.com/Top-10-Romance-Fiction-2018-Seaman-Donna/pid=9708922?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> to see the whole story.

## Upcoming Trainings & Webinars

### Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

10/1 - 10/12	Community & Library*	Sam Shaw	9/3 - 9/21
10/22 - 11/2	Management/Supervision	Scott Childers	9/24 - 10/12
11/5 - 11/16	Leadership	Holli Duggan	10/8 - 10/26
12/3 - 12/14	Library Services to Children & Teens	Sally Snyder	11/1 - 11/23

### NCompass Live Webinars

10/10	<a href="#">Virtual Tours in the Library with Nebraska History</a>
10/24	<a href="#">Strategies for Identifying Fake News</a>
10/31	<a href="#">Teaching Digital Literacy in Your Library</a>

# Train Like an Astronaut

Summer Reading Program 2019

**ARSL**



Mission X: Train Like an Astronaut is an international educational challenge focusing on fitness and nutrition to encourage students to "train like an astronaut".

Mission X is focused on fitness and nutrition because we know that a healthy body is necessary to be a Fit Explorer!

Astronauts know the vital importance of physical training for mission success, and we are excited for kids all over the world to learn from them. ESA Astronaut and 2015 Mission X Ambassador Samantha Cristoforetti said, "Your body is your spaceship for life" and the Train Like an Astronaut activities are designed to help you stay healthy through life.

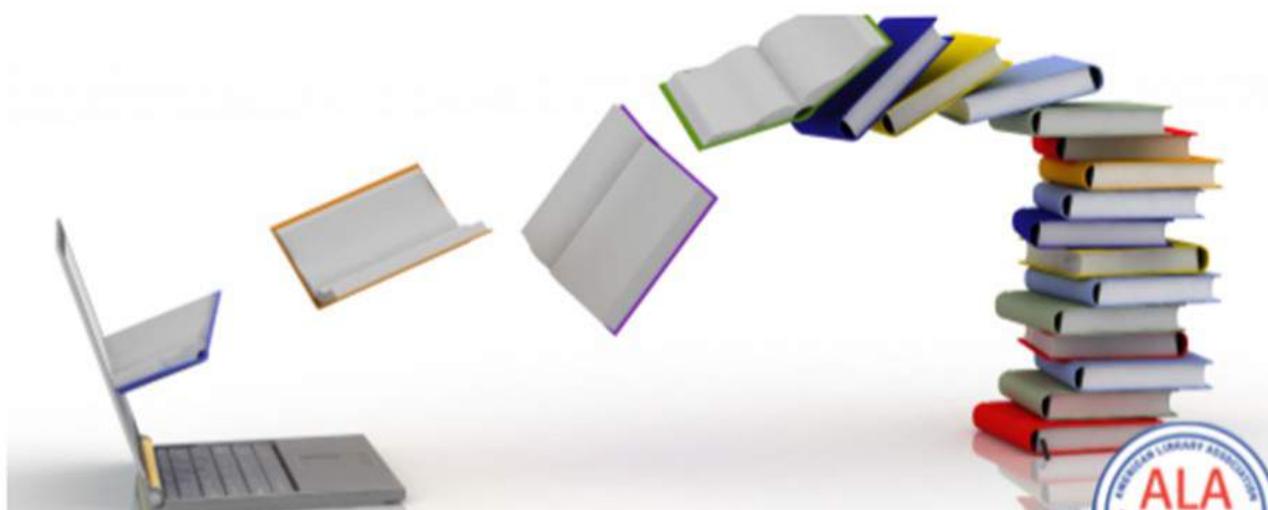
Teams of elementary students will learn principles of healthy eating and exercise, compete for points, and get excited about space and the educational possibilities for their own future. Students will practice scientific reasoning and teamwork while participating in hands-on training missions targeting strength, endurance, coordination, balance, spatial awareness, and more.

To learn how to sign up and to see some of the supporting material, go to <https://www.nasa.gov/tla>.



- [Children's Magazine Month](#)
- [National Book Month](#)
- [Church Library Month](#)
- [Global Diversity Awareness Month](#)
- [National Bullying Prevention Month](#)
- [National Learning and Development Month](#)
- [National Reading Group Month](#)
- [Positive Attitude Month](#)

- October 1-5 [Customer Service Week](#)
- October 1-7 [Mystery Series Week](#)
- October 2 Book Release: *Broken Things* by Lauren Oliver
- October 5 [National Do Something Nice Day](#)
- October 7-13 [National Newspaper Week](#)
- October 9 Book Release: *Dear Evan Hanson: The Novel* by Val Emmich with Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
- Book Release: *My Squirrel Days* by Ellie Kemper
- October 10 [National Stop Bullying Day](#)
- October 15 [National Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day](#)
- October 16 [Boss's Day](#)
- October 17 [Black Poetry Day](#)
- October 18 [Get to Know Your Customers Day](#)
- October 27 [National Make A Difference Day](#)
- October 30 *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austin was published 1811



## University of Missouri

School of Information Science & Learning Technologies

Master of Library and Information Science Program

Are you interested in a career in libraries, information science or archives?

# OPEN HOUSE

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH, 2018 1:00-3:00 PM**

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM OFFICE

2727 West 2nd Street #233, Hastings, NE 68901

### Join us to learn about:

- What you can do with a degree from SISLT
  - Program specializations in Digital Humanities, E-Learning Librarianship, Research Data Management, and Archives
  - Practicum experiences that provide opportunities to work directly with professionals in the field
- ▶ Online program with asynchronous, synchronous, on-site, and hybrid courses
  - ▶ GRE not required
  - ▶ Out of state online students receive in-state tuition rates

## **Music and Movement Program** **Ages 6-24 Months** **ARSL**

Do you have any programming for infants and their caregivers? This is an important group to get started with a library habit. After this program, they will be ready for Toddler Time and then Preschool Story Time.

**Music and Movement** is a fun program where participants will sing interactive songs, investigate instruments, learn sign language, and more. Here is the program format:

- ♪ Meet one morning per week for 30 minutes in 8-week sessions.
- ♪ Caregivers and infants sit in a circle around a story quilt and grab rhythm scarves.
- ♪ Every class starts with the same “Hello Song” which uses sign language.
- ♪ Sing songs for the first 10 minutes – usually songs with rhythm scarves and other movements.
- ♪ The next 10 minutes is called “Instrument Time” where infants have the opportunity to experiment and play with instruments such as drums, egg shakers, xylophones, and tambourines. This is individual play time.
- ♪ Come back as a group for the last 10 minutes and sing more songs.
- ♪ At the end, sing the “Good-bye Song” which is the same as the “Hello Song.”



If you need help finding songs to sing, follow this link <http://letsmovelibraries.org/physical-activity-programs-for-fun-and-for-health/> and click on “Songs for ARSL.” Or go to this YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnjsY7TmClktuQLNCXXra6Q>.

## **Glass Block Decoration**

Tammi Helka

Oakwood Public Library District, Oakwood, IL

**ARSL**



- Ages:** Tweens, Teens, Adults  
**Materials:** Glass Block, Vinyl Sticker, Ribbon, Bells  
**Instructions:** Use the Cricut Maker to create your vinyl sticker. Wrap ribbon around the block and fill with bells. Makes a cute and easy Christmas craft. Can also be done for other holidays.

The Cricut Maker can be borrowed from the CPLS Office starting in January by calling or emailing to reserve. If you want to offer this craft this year, call and we will be happy to cut they vinyl for you.

# \*6 Make\*ing Time for Fun Workshop

Have you ever wondered what you can do to take your Makerspace up a notch? Do you wish you could offer more options but just aren't sure what would work in your library? Do you want to implement items that don't cost an arm and a leg? Central Plains Library System will be holding a Makerspace Workshop in December!



*When:* December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 10am - 3pm (Lunch will be provided)

*Where:* Kearney Public Library

*Topics Covered:* Circuit Hacks, Large Games, Programming Ideas, Coding, STEAM and more!

Mark your calendars now! Due to the nature of this workshop, space is limited to only 25 people. To guarantee your spot at this fun-filled workshop, [register here](#). Come ready to learn and get hands-on experience during this unique learning experience!

## Friends of the Ravenna Library Receive United for Libraries Award

The **Friends of the Ravenna (Nebraska) Library**, along with the Friends of the Shelby (Michigan) Area District Library, have been recognized with United for Libraries' Baker & Taylor Awards for outstanding efforts to support their libraries. Each group receives \$1,000 and a plaque from Baker & Taylor to honor their achievements.

The Friends of the Ravenna Library held 19 programs to benefit its community in 2017, many of which contributed to funds raised for the city of Ravenna's project to build a brand-new library facility. The new facility is three times the size of the previous one at 7,600 sq. ft., providing ample space for the library's annual programs and activities.

The Nebraska Library Commission supports membership to United for Libraries for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness.

Nebraska libraries are encouraged to use a special website ([www.ala.org/united/Nebraska](http://www.ala.org/united/Nebraska)) to access resources, webinars, online training, and publications for Nebraska library trustees, library directors, and library staff at no charge to the participating library.



## Audiobook Collection

CPLS owns over 1,000 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD, MP3, and Playaway formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

*Lincoln's Last Trial* by Abrams, Dan

*That Kind of Mother* by Alam, Ruman

*Us Against You* by Backman, Fredrik

*Disappeared* by Box, C. J.

*Last Cowboys* by Branch, John

*Gathering of Secrets* by Castillo, Linda

*The President is Missing* by Clinton, Bill

*Before and Again* by Delinsky, Barbara

*Stay Hidden* by Doiron, Paul

*Last Seen Alive* by Douglas, Claire

*All We Ever Wanted* by Giffin, Emily

*Conspiracy by of Tall Men* by Hawley, Noah

*Perfect Couple* by Hilderbrand, Elin

*Jar of Hearts* by Hilleier, Jennifer

*Word is Murder* by Horowitz, Anthony

*Captives* by Immergut, Debra Jo

*Liar, Liar* by Jackson, Lisa

*Sleep No More* by James, P. D.

*Fallon* by L'Amour, Louis

*An Unwanted Guest* by Lapena, Shari

*Cottage by the Sea* by Macomber, Debbie

*When We Found Home* by Mallery, Susan

*Bring Me Back* by Paris, B. A.



## Audiobook Collection—Continued from Page 10

*Widow's Wreath* by Riggs, Cynthia

*First Snow: A Will and A Way & Local Hero* by Roberts, Nora

*Rainy Day Friends* by Shalvis, Jill

*Cabin at the End of the World* by Tremblay, Paul

*Rescued* by Rosenfelt, David

*Shane* by Schaefer, Jack

*Something in the Water* by Steadman, Catherine

*Clock Dance* by Tyler, Anne

*When Life Gives You Lululemons* by Weisberger, Lauren

*Between You and Me* by Wiggs, Susan

*Summer Wives* by Williams, Beatriz

View the list of titles on our website under Services  
and then call or email the  
System office to borrow or reserve titles.

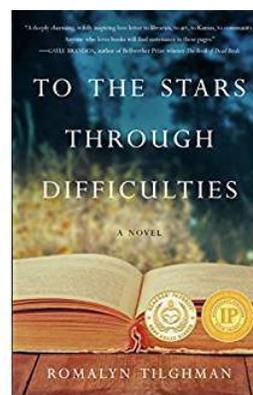
### Gov. Ricketts Names Appointments to Nebraska Library Commission

Gov. Pete Ricketts recently appointed **Arunkumar Pondicherry** and **Lois Todd-Meyer**, both of Lincoln, to three-year terms on the Nebraska Library Commission. Gov. Ricketts also reappointed **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, of Omaha, to a second three-year term.

They join current Commissioners **Michael LaCroix** (Chair, Omaha), **Charles Peek** (Kearney), and **Sandy White** (Sidney) serving on the Nebraska Library Commission—the policy-making body ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services.



### New Book Club Set Coming Soon *To The Stars Through Difficulties* by Romalyn Tilghman



# CPLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to \$200.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.  
Only one scholarship per person per year.  
Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Other information:



**Send your request to:** Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street # 233  
Hastings, NE 68901

## Golden Sower Readers



The Golden Sower Award is the children's choice award for the state of Nebraska. Beginning in 1981, the Golden Sower Award has been given to authors and illustrators of outstanding books chosen for the award by Nebraska students.

Many schools and public libraries are already participating in the Golden Sower process by being voting sites for the children. Thousands of Nebraska's students participate in the Golden Sower Award program each year. Have you ever wondered how the nominee lists are created?

Each award category (Picture Books, Chapter Books and Novels) has a reading committee consisting of librarians, teachers and other interested adults. Volunteer readers are responsible for reading youth books for the publication years under consideration and suggesting books of high-quality to be read by other members. Volunteers read during the months of September through mid-July. At the end of July, readers are asked to submit votes for their top ten titles. Readers are invited to attend a selection meeting held in late July to review the top selections and to determine the titles to be placed on the master list for the children.

- Volunteer readers can choose to read for as many levels as they wish.
- Volunteer readers must vote at least once every two years to remain on the mailing list.
- Being a reader requires the reading of a substantial number of youth books each year.
- It also requires reaching consensus with others who may bring diverse interests & backgrounds.

Are you interested in becoming part of the process? Consider volunteering to become a Golden Sower reader! Contact the following to sign up to be a volunteer reader:

Picture Book Coordinator: Shawna Lindner [slindner@kearneygov.org](mailto:slindner@kearneygov.org)

Chapter Book Coordinator: Shawna Lindner [slindner@kearneygov.org](mailto:slindner@kearneygov.org)

Novels Coordinator: Jill Annis [jannis@epsne.org](mailto:jannis@epsne.org)



# November

Family Stories Month  
National Gratitude Month\*  
National Life Writing Month

National Family Literacy Month  
National Novel Writing Month  
Picture Book Month

November 1	National Family Literacy Day
November 4	Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 4-10	International Games Week
November 8	National STEM/STEAM Day
November 11	National Sundae Day
November 12-16	National Book Awards Week
November 12	National Chicken Soup for the Soul Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 19	National Play Monopoly Day



## Cover One Book Repair Service!



The System has a binding repair machine that fixes a variety of types and sizes of books. This machine easily binds up to a 2½" thick book and it has a sliding wall to hold smaller books in place. It will also work with legal size as well as regular 8½ x 11" size items. Repaired books will be ready to use in just 20 minutes! Go to <http://www.coverone.net> and click on the link for Book Repair Demo on the left-hand side of the page to see it in action.

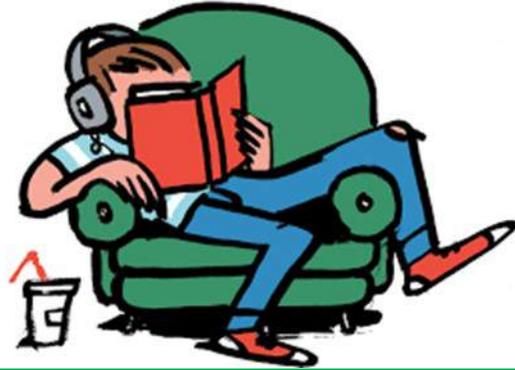
This machine is perfect to repair books with glued bindings that have "popped" and split into several big chunks, paperbacks that have come out of their covers, and books where individual pages are coming loose.

Mail or bring your books to the System Office.  
We will repair them for \$1 per book plus actual return postage.

## Sizzling New YA Titles

From tales of forbidden love and triumph in the face of adversity to sci-fi and fantasy thrillers, these books will surely be devoured by your YA and reluctant readers!

*The Similar*s by Rebecca Hanover  
*After the Fire* by Will Hill  
*Dreams on Fire* by Annette Daniels Taylor  
*Every Little Bad Idea* by Caitie McKay  
*Courting Darkness* by Robin LaFevers  
*Grim Lovelies* by Megan Shepherd  
*We Contain Multitudes* by Sarah Henstra  
*Internment* by Samira Ahmed



## Banned Books Week Displays



**Holdrege Area Public Library**



**Ainsworth Public Library**

## Disc Cleaning and Repair

The System Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System. It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019, each CPLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings.

- If you have more than 10 discs that need fixing, you may send them to us and we will repair them and send them back with an invoice for 50 cents per disc plus return postage.
- If you come to the CPLS Office in Hastings and pick up the repaired discs, the charge is 50 cents per disc. A similar service at a retail video outlet costs more than \$5.00 per disc!



## Reserve Museum-Quality Traveling Banner Exhibits - Free!

ARSL

The Paly Foundation's Nature Exhibits provides science-based, nature-conservation themed exhibits to museums, libraries, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and other qualified organizations for free, excluding shipping. Our exhibits come efficiently packed with easy-to-follow instructions.



Each exhibit includes the following:

- Large, but lightweight and sturdy vinyl panels displaying beautiful graphics and engaging content.
- Stands and hardware for either floor display or for hanging the panels from walls or ceilings.
- Select exhibits feature an Educators Guide with ideas for presenting the exhibit to different age groups, additional activities, games, and resources for a deeper dive into the subject.
- Clear instructions for unpacking, setup and re-packing/shipping.

Appropriate ages – Exhibits are designed for school grades K-12 and beyond. Children in lower grades may need assistance with some vocabulary and comprehension of the presented science.

For information about the available exhibits, go to <http://palyfoundation.org/exhibits/>

## Need Help With Policies??

ARSL

**NEW** online collection of Public Library Policies created by the Colorado Library Consortium and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries just for YOU! This collection is designed to provide librarians from small, rural libraries with **EASY** access to a clearinghouse of policies. Search and download the policy you need and then revise it for your unique situation. Submit your policies and help grow the collection.



Find the Collection at <http://bit.ly/publibpolicies>.

## Central Plains Library System

### Mark Your Calendar

- October 1.....Open House for Creation Station, North Platte, 11:30 – 5:00pm  
 October 4-6.....[NLA/NSLA Annual Conference](#), Lincoln  
 October 7-13.....[Teen Read Week](#) “It Is Written in the Stars...Read”  
 October 8.....[Columbus Day Observed](#), CPLS Office Closed  
 October 12.....CPLS Board Meeting, Landmark Center, Hastings (*see page 4*)  
 October 15.....Quarterly Meeting with NLC, Lincoln  
 October 16.....Stronger Together – Continuing the Conversation, Lincoln  
 October 21-27.....[National Friends of the Library Week](#)  
 October 27.....[Celebration of Nebraska Books](#), Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln (*see page 4*)  
 October 27.....Missouri Open House, CPLS Hastings Office, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (*see page 7*)  
 November 9.....Nebraska Library Commission Meeting, Lincoln  
 November 12.....Veterans Day Observed, CPLS Office Closed  
 November 16.....State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting, Lincoln  
 November 22-23.....[Thanksgiving Holiday](#), CPLS Office Closed  
 December 7.....”Make”ing Time For Fun Workshop (*see page 9*)

**If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries.**

We're On the Web

[libraries.ne.gov/cpls](http://libraries.ne.gov/cpls)

### Late-Breaking News!!

#### Cozad Library Receives Coding Grant

**Wilson Public Library** in Cozad, NE, is excited to announce that they have been named one of 50 recipients nationwide to help youth learn coding through a program called Code Club for Small & Rural Libraries. The Cozad library was selected from 350 libraries across the country that applied for the prestigious grant written by the North Dakota State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the National Leadership Grant for Libraries.

Small and rural communities are at risk of being left behind as computer programming emerges as a critical skill and the gap in access to computer science education widens between urban and rural America. Code Club for Small & Rural Libraries seeks to enable the libraries in these communities to introduce coding to youth aged 8-14, which will help them gain the skills needed for college, career readiness, and life success. Coding clubs teach skills such as digital literacy, computational and critical thinking, “Maker” and entrepreneurial mentality, and relationship skills. Computer science and coding are a way to segue to other science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects.

Prenda Software has been named a partner of the grant and will provide software and training. Wilson Public Library Director Laurie Yocom indicated that Cozad’s weekly Youth Code Club is scheduled to begin in 2019 after staff training occurs. Cozad Elementary Media Specialist Jill Arnold will help with the club and Cozad High School students are in the process of being contacted to help volunteer.

“As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. “IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant as they inform and inspire all in their communities.”