



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



There's a quote that I'd like to share with you.

"Know the rules well, so you can break them effectively." – Often attributed to Dalai Lama XIV.

Wait a minute – breaking the rules? Isn't that bad?

Well, let's get some things clear. Often times when someone says "rules", they actually mean something else. A procedure, a best practice, or policy. Sometimes there isn't even anything written down that they are referencing, but something more along the lines of a tradition or "it has always been done that way."

If we are going to nitpick on what words mean, let's get some jargon defined first so we can be on the same page. I've heard all of these referred to as "rules" at least once.

Practices & Traditions – these are usually the day to day way of getting things done. Probably the easiest "rules" to break, as sometimes they aren't even written down. They just "are". At one time there was probably a reason for doing it that way, but what that reason was may no longer be remembered.

Procedures & Guidelines – how the day to day work is supposed to be done. It would be best if practice equaled

procedure, but sometimes that doesn't happen. If written thoughtfully, there should be enough room in the procedures to bend if necessary. If the procedure is getting in the way of the goals of the organization or working against policy, you really need to revise them.

Policy – Policies are what actually should drive procedures. You want these to be tougher to break, but not so specific that there are constantly things that happen that you have no policy for. Trying to write specific policy sections for every possible little twist creates bad policy and leads to situations that aren't covered. Try to write your policies so you can adapt.

Laws – This is the stuff that you don't have control over and could cause rather severe consequences if you do try to bend or break them. Laws can be federal, state, or local in nature – federal overriding state, and state overriding local.

Picture it like this:

Imagine an old tree in the middle of the forest. It has a solid trunk and roots that keep it firmly in place. As you move up the tree, branches veer off with large thicker ones close to the ground and thinner, more pliable ones at the top of tree. When the wind blows, the top sways with the breeze, but base never budes.

(Continued on page 2)

In this Issue:

Page 1—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—CASTL Wrap-up

Page 4-10—News Around the System

Page 11-14—Additional Flyers and News

Page 15—System Spotlight

Calendar



- November 14—A Celebration of Nebraska Books, see p.12
- November 17—National Baklava Day
- November 20—CASTL Meeting at Syracuse Public Library (Vendors)
- November 21—SELS Friends Private Movie Showing: Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2, see p. 13
- November 24—SELS Barnes and Noble Book Fair, see p. 14
- November 26—Thanksgiving
- December 1—National Pie Day
- December 3—International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 4—SELS Summer Reading Workshop, Walt branch library, see p. 11
- December 6—Hanukkah begins
- December 10—CASTL Meeting at Fairmont Public Library
- March 17—SELS Policies for Results workshop, Seward Public Library, 10 am—3 pm

Photos of the Month



Volunteer Kelly Urkoski is the hot dog and Barbee Sweet is the value meal at Clarks Public Library.



Before story time, this Polk Public Library preschool reading group walked to the 8 businesses downtown to show off their costumes and receive treats!

(Continued from page 1)

The trunk is the law, the thick main branches are the policies, the thinner branches are the procedures, and the thinnest parts at the edges are the practices. The day-to-day practices can bend with the demands of the day, never breaking and yet constantly connected to the operational tenants of the library through stronger branches.

Are you holding onto your practices in a way that keeps

you from being flexible and adaptable? Do you treat procedures as if they were laws? Are you writing policies that end up keeping you from reaching goals and objectives for the library?

Know what you rules you can bend, what rules you can break, and what rules you must defer to.

Scott Childers, Executive Director

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

November 20
Syracuse
“Vendor Comparisons”

December 10
Fairmont

January 22
Milford

February 19
Beatrice

March 24
Fairbury

Our October 23 CASTL meeting was hosted by Sara Lee at Central City Public Library. The librarians present focused on a few major themes.

One was Summer Reading Program registration. Several libraries have noted that while people may sign up for many programs, they don't necessarily follow through and come to all of them. This may be worse in July than June. Starting summer reading right after school and getting it done before other activities conflict may help, as do email and/or text reminders. The app available at remind.com was mentioned as a useful tool.

Potentially problematic patrons were discussed, especially those that generate community discussion via Facebook or otherwise. It was noted that a patron must be engaged in an illegal act or violate library policy behaviorally to be removed from the library. Sometimes there may be paranoia about a person, and there is little one can do about that except to provide good information. Al-

so, if an adult is loitering in the children's area with no apparent purpose that may be a reason to call the police to check in with that person.

Librarians reported on their weeding projects, and how much better the collections looked after weeding was completed.

The question was raised whether it is allowed for a certified public library to use a volunteer to fill-in during emergencies and cases like conference attendance by the director. It was ascertained that this is allowed.

Publicity for libraries was discussed, with some libraries having excellent coverage from local newspapers and others not as much. Difficulties forming partnerships for community programming, or simply avoiding scheduling conflicts with other organizations was mentioned. Central City has a community calendar where all the community organizations enter their events. Some other communities have such a calendar as well, but they are not always utilized.

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration Open</u>
Nov. 30—Dec. 11	Library Service to Children & Youth	October 23—November 20
Jan. 11—Jan. 12	Communication	December 4—December 31
Jan. 25—Feb. 5	Library Technology	December 18—January 15
Feb. 8—Feb. 19	Customer Service	December 30—January 29

News Around the System

Denise Lawver Wins Excalibur Award

By Scott Childers, Photo by Megan Boggs



The Public Library and Trustee Section Excalibur Award for Outstanding Public Librarian honors the accomplishments of a public librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to their local library and to the library profession. This year's recipient, Denise Lawver of Wahoo, has truly built an outstanding list of accomplishments.

Denise started as an evening desk clerk at Wahoo Public Library and worked her way up the ranks until eventually becoming Director of that library. Over the years Denise learned and served the library, adapting to new technology and new expectations of what a library should be. Denise also is active in the community of Wahoo – belonging to several business clubs.

The city of Wahoo has noticed the changes that Denise has brought to the library. A city official wrote that Denise has “taken our facility from the image of being ‘that place where you check out books’ to ‘that place where you can do it all.’” And that

“she has helped the Wahoo Public Library be a facility that is viewed as a necessity in Wahoo versus a quality of life facility.”

This is all on top of the challenge that the library faced when in January 2014 a water main pipe busted, flooding the Wahoo library building. Denise had to deal with the aftermath, cleanup and a temporary relocation, and even through all of that, Denise continued to be positive about the library's future and brought everything together so the library could reopen, better than ever.

Denise also is also active in the Nebraska library community, having served on the Eastern Library System Board, including some time as President, and currently serving on the Southeast Library System Board, as vice president. Denise is a former Nebraska Library Leadership Institute attendee and served on the NLA Advocacy Day committee. She serves as a resource for some of the newer librarians in Saunders County, providing advice and information as they learn how to run a library.

To quote one of the letters of support, “Denise is unusually energetic, enthusiastic, creative, competent, personable, and compassionate.”

Including a Husker Athlete in Your Programming

By Todd Schlechte

In our last issue there was an article about Seward's “Tailgate Party.” For that program, the library used local cheerleaders and football players. “Stealing” this idea would fit well with the 2016 Summer Reading Program theme of “On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!”

What about including an athlete from one of the many Husker sports? An easy program could have student athlete(s) reading books relating to their sport and talking about how they became interested in it, what they have to do in practice, what they need to eat to be fit for their sport, etc.

Not every SELS library will be able to do this. According to Keith Zimmer, Senior Associate Athletic Director, “requests for an appearance of Husker student-athletes must be made online at www.huskers.com/outreachrequest This process then works through compliance for approval.” Availability of student athletes is limited in the summer compared to the regular school year. Visits in Lincoln and in the 60 mile radius around Lincoln are possible depending on volunteer athlete availability. Libraries can reimburse round-trip mileage to the athlete, but they may not provide other forms of reimbursement.



News Around the System

Library Consortia Offer Digital Books, Audio books, and Magazines

Besides Nebraska Overdrive Libraries, there are other Library Consortia in Nebraska that you may be interested in. One is the **Central Nebraska Digital Co-op for accredited public libraries**; another is **provided by ESU2 for school libraries using axis360**.



The Central Nebraska Digital Co-op provides access to Zinio, which offers full color, interactive digital magazines. It also offers OneClickDigital downloadable audio books. Both products offer simultaneous access, which means there are no holds or waiting periods.

If you are interested, you would probably like to know about the Co-op's pricing. The pricing structure is based on a formula which takes into



account your library's legal service area, operating budget, and total circulations. Contact Jake Rundle at jrundle@hastings.lib.ne.us for more information.

On the school library side, school districts can partner with ESU2 to bring eBooks into the classroom. Using axis360 students can check out a wide variety of eBooks. The consortium is up to 39 schools, and it provides two different collections: an elementary collection (currently with approximately 2,900 titles), and a combined middle/high collection (about 2,600 titles). Schools districts are able to buy in for \$2,500 plus \$1.00 for each student beyond 1,000, and then simply pay \$500 per year for continued membership. Representatives from all participating schools get together twice a year to purchase new titles.



Axis360 offers an interactive, graphic e-reading experience for emerging young readers, and text-to-speech capability, a plus with regard to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The text-to-speech software syncs the book and the audio and a cursor moves along so students can read as they listen.

For schools moving to a 1:1 approach, axis360 may work really well. For more information, please contact Wahoo Public Schools' Media Director David Privett at dprivett@esu2.org.

Stepping Back into the Time of "Downton Abbey"

By Gerry Powers, photo by Liz Poessnecker

The DeWitt Library and the Nebraska Humanities Council sponsored a program with Sue McClain, "Yesterday's Lady," on Sunday, October 18th at the DeWitt Legion Club. Sue displayed fashions from the TV show "Downton Abbey". Tea and pastries were served and tables decorated with tea pots. Trying to keep

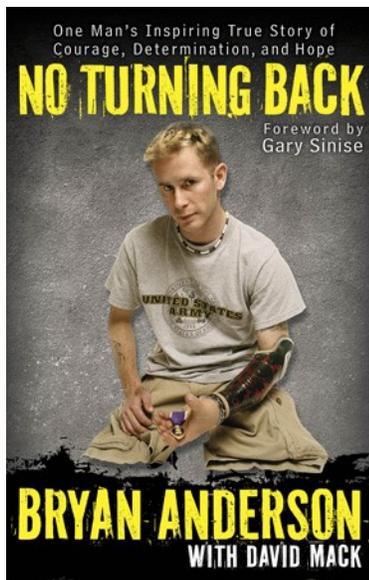


with English tradition, flowers decorated the room and hats were worn by some of the ladies. Baked treats were served with an English theme in mind. It was an enjoyable program with many good comments.

News Around the System

“Live from Wahoo” Reaches across the State

Provided by David Privett and ESU2



For the 2015-2016 school year, the ESU2 Distance Learning Cooperative has initiated *Live from Wahoo*, an annual series of student enrichment and professional development events.

The next Live from Wahoo event will be on Thursday, November 19, featuring nationally-known Veteran Bryan Anderson. An elementary session ("People with Disabilities are Just the Same") is scheduled from 10:30-11:00 a.m., and a middle/high school session ("No Turning Back") is scheduled for 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Audiences may interact with guest presenters either physically live from Wahoo Public Schools or digitally live from Wahoo Public Schools, said program director Diane Wolfe of ESU2. Digitally live video conferencing technology means either via an IP-based satellite video conference unit or via a web-based computer connection.

Morton-James Public Library Receives Grant for “Escape Room”

Provided by Rasmus Thoegersen

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has announced that the Morton-James Public Library is the recipient of a “Curiosity Creates” grant in the amount of \$7,500. The purpose of the grant is to support exciting new creativity programming to promote exploration and discovery for children ages 6 to 14. This grant has been made possible by a generous donation to ALSC by Disney.



According to Rasmus Thoegersen, the grant monies will be used to provide youth the necessary materials to build an “escape room.” The escape room will be designed with a theme (such as pirates), which the youth will be able to swap out by creating new themes. By building an escape room, the youth will be producing a game where participants are first trapped within the room and then must attempt to get out by solving a series of puzzles, riddles, and clues in order to escape within 60 minutes. The grant monies will go towards such items as puzzle books (for ideas), and materials and tools for building props. The mayor of Nebraska City has already agreed to be “trapped!”

79 libraries received the grant. ALSC is eager to further support creativity programming and the informal learning that takes place in libraries across the nation and will disseminate a report of best practices at the end of the grant.

News Around the System

Palmyra “Trunk or Treat”

By Glenda Willnerd; photo by Jackie Beemer

The Palmyra Memorial Library Youth Advisory Team were “Rocking ‘n Reading” at the annual Palmyra Trunk or Treat event. The Youth Advisory Team selected the theme and helped distribute the treats to youngsters. Note the poodle skirt, slicked back hair and leather jacket reminiscent of the 50’s. Director Glenda Willnerd wore her husband’s letter sweater. Treats and library information about the upcoming movie night were distributed to about 175 youngsters.



Little Spooks Parade

Photos provided by Barbee Sweet



How many of you enjoyed hayrack rides in your youth? It looks like they know how to have fun in Clarks with their “Little Spooks Parade.” Maybe next year they will invite some of us!

News Around the System

Game Night Fun in Central City

Story and Photos by Sara Lee

There was an awesome turnout of 24 Teens/ Tweens at Game Night on October 21 at Central City Public Library!

Pokémon battles were fought, board games were played, Pokémon cards were compared and traded, a Wii tournament was played, and not even a crumb from the Halloween snacks was leftover!



Clarks Library Celebrates Annual “Bling Your Pumpkin Bucket”

Description and Photos provided by Barbee Sweet

Clarks Public Library had almost 40 kids come and decorate their pumpkins with glitter & other flashy supplies during their annual “Bling Your Pumpkin Bucket” event.



News Around the System

Hogwarts in Fairbury

Provided by Debbie Aden, Photos by Elaine Sewell

On October 29 the Fairbury Public Library had a Hogwarts themed Halloween party. There were costume contests, wand making, mask making, and a Harry Potter movie always playing in the background. The staff did an amazing job! The party was an overwhelming success with over 200 people attending throughout the night!

Below see photos of the winners of the “Draco” and the “Hermione” look-a-like contest!



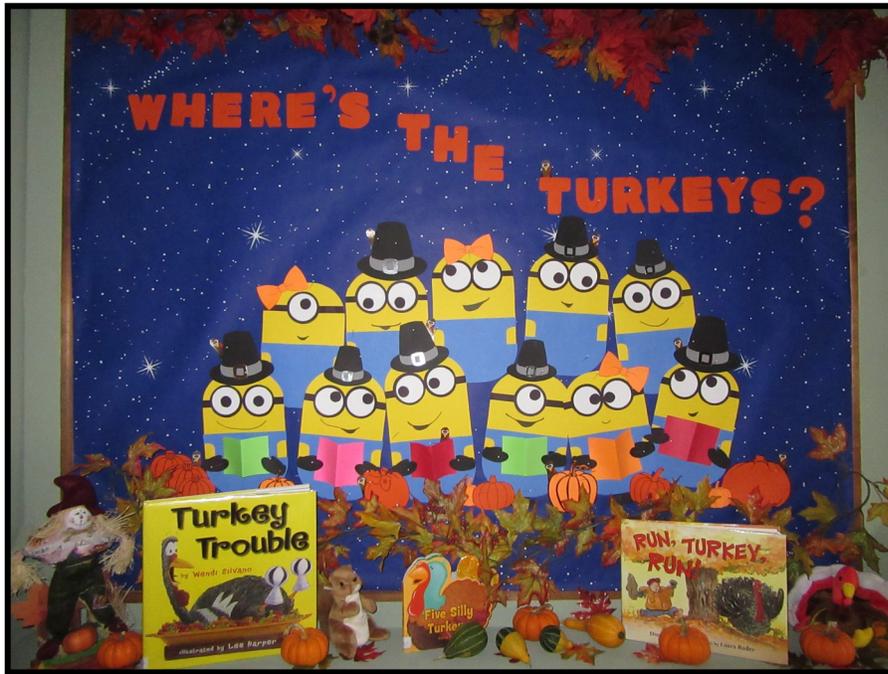
And if you want to do a similar party, here are some more pictures to give you some ideas.



News Around the System

Run Turkey, Run!

Provided by Terry Olson



Hebron Secret Library is preparing for the “Run Turkey! Run!” story time on November 14th. You can see the updated minion bulletin board on the left. On the board, the turkeys are in hiding. The Minions are on a Turkey hunt and the turkeys, of course, don’t want to be caught. Thus the theme, “Run Turkey! Run!” There are eleven hidden turkeys. See if you can locate them.

Auburn Library Offers Telescope for Checkout

Information and picture provided by Heather Koenke



Thanks to Auburn Memorial Library’s Friends of the Library group and the Arbor Astronomy Group, the Auburn Library now has a tabletop telescope available for checkout. According to the President of the Astronomical League, every indication they have is that Auburn Memorial Library is the first library in the State of Nebraska to offer one for checkout!



Walt Branch Library | Lincoln City Libraries

6701 South 14th Street

December 4

9:45 - 3:30



Summer Reading Workshop

- 9:45 Registration
- 10:00 Sally Snyder: Preview of New Summer Reading Titles
- 11:00 UNL Extension: Ready, Set... A Curriculum to Fit the SRP Theme
- 12:00 Lunch On Your Own
- 1:30 Summer Reading Program Craft
- 2:00 Summer Reading Program Activities
- 2:30 Sharing and Open Discussion
- 3:30 Good-Bye!

4 CE

\$15

Register by Dec. 1

[Register at http://goo.gl/forms/Tpa2C28zUA](http://goo.gl/forms/Tpa2C28zUA) !

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

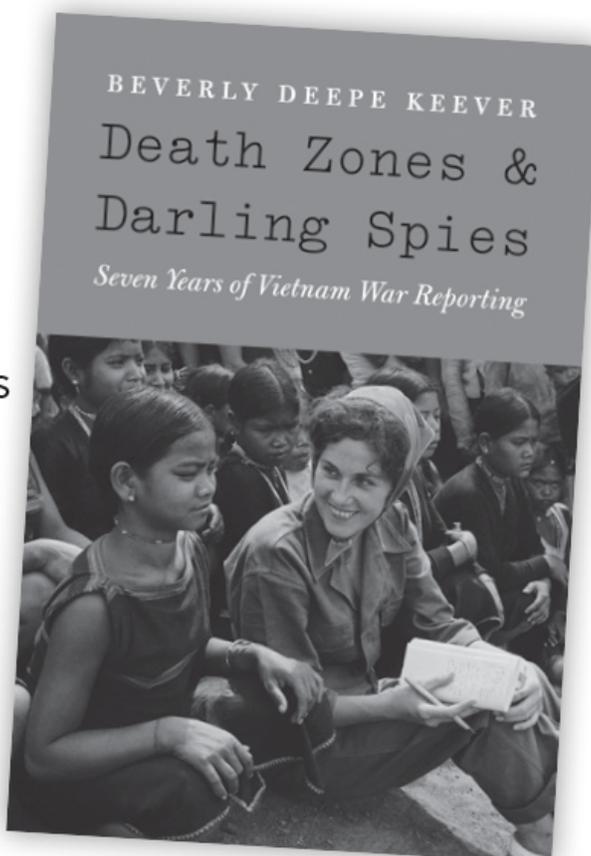
JOIN US FOR THE 2015 CELEBRATION OF NEBRASKA BOOKS

November 14 • 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.
1200 N Street, Lincoln NE

Celebrating 2015 One Book One Nebraska

The Celebration Also Includes:

- Readings by Book Award Winners
- Reception and Book Signings
- 2016 One Book One Nebraska Announcement
- Jane Geske Award:
Lincoln City Libraries
One Book-One Lincoln
Community Reading Program



centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

Sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission,
Humanities Nebraska, and University of Nebraska Press

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY

Part 2

Private Movie Showing

Where: Rivoli Theater, Seward, NE

When: Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 a.m.
(doors open at 9:30)

Who: SELS Friends & guests

Reserve your seat by Nov. 18 and SAVE!

Movie Cost: \$6.00 plus \$1.00 SELS Friends Donation

Price after Nov. 18:

Movie Cost: \$6.00 plus \$5.00 SELS Friends Donation

All admissions will be paid for at the door.

To reserve a seat in advance, email info@selsfriends.org

Visit www.selsfriends.org for information about the SELS Friends.

There will be door prizes!

A Fundraiser for the
Southeast Library System Friends



The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with
Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Chapters Bookstore presents:

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion Program



How did an author's work
change your view of the
world or yourself?

Write a letter and tell the author.

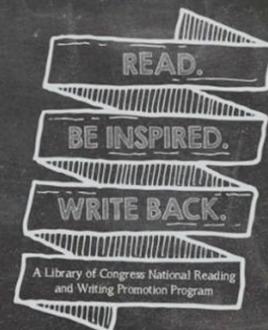
Deadlines for submissions:

Grades 4-6 & Grades 7-8:

January 11, 2016

Grades 9-12:

December 4, 2015



Find out more at CenterForTheBook.nebraska.gov

Questions? Contact Mary Jo Ryan

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Southeast Library System's

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**Saturday, November 28
Barnes & Noble at
SouthPointe Pavilions in Lincoln
Benefiting the SELS Friends!**

- Free gift-wrapping from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Don't forget that purchases at the coffee shop also count,
but you do need to remember to tell all cashiers that your purchase(s)
should benefit the bookfair!*

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit **BN.COM/bookfairs** to support us online
from 11/28/15 to 12/3/15
by entering Bookfair ID 11715687 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases
will benefit the Southeast Library System Friends.

Please contact us at
info@selsfriends.org
if you have questions about this event.

Hope to see you there!



System Spotlight

Book Kits Available

We have numerous book kits available to check out, with many young adult and classic titles to choose from. Some sample titles:



For the full catalog, please see the [SELS book kit page](#) (the url will change soon, but we will make sure you can find the book kits on the new site). Any school media center or public library within the Southeast Library System may borrow

multiple copies of a book. Due dates are negotiable, but are usually six weeks from the checkout date. Contact the SELS office by calling 402-467-6188, or send us an email at selsne@gmail.com.

Southeast Library System

<http://www.selsne.org/>

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

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