



Plain Speaking

Central Plains Library System

Educate Connect Inspire

Volume 4, Issue 3

June-July 2019



The Value of a Public Library



Article by Tina Walker
Director, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont

As many of you know, it is very difficult to explain to folks outside the library, the value of having a public library. Sure, some patrons and community members understand, but this battle is one that has been long fought and will continue for eons to come. In order for Keene Memorial Library to help our City Council, patrons, and board understand the value we provide to our community, we do two things 1) collect lots of statistics and 2) use a Library Value Calculator.

I know taking statistics is very time consuming and often times difficult, but honestly, if you want people to listen, show them the numbers. We track everything we do in the library including door counts, checkouts, meeting room usage, electronic resource usage, computer usage, wifi usage, etc... We breakdown stats into children vs adult vs YA materials. We have multiple people keeping stats and we all combine the stats onto 1 spreadsheet that I can use during annual reporting. This way, I shouldn't have to go hunting for numbers. I also have the spreadsheet setup to auto-calculate the yearly totals. Each tab is a single month and the final tab is "totals" that

all auto-calculate from the previous tabs. It takes time to setup, but it can be copied year after year. And I can quickly pull from this spreadsheet anytime I need to for presentations or justifying expenses.

The other item is the Library Value Calculator that our IT guy, Kelly Olson, borrowed from the ALA website <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/library-value-calculator>. This calculator allows you to enter in the value of services at your library and translate that into value for your users. For instance, our last page of the 2017-18 annual report shows Keene Memorial Library's Total Value of Service to be \$2,411,451.40. Since our budget is only \$1 million, we show double the value for the buck! Some of the services we include in this calculation are adult books borrowed, audiobooks borrowed, meeting room usage, database searches, and children's programs. Anyone can use this value calculator to come up with a services value for your community. I strongly recommend keeping stats and using the calculator to show all of your stakeholders the value you bring to the community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me with questions at tina.walker@fremontne.gov.

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Journal Article Request Service

Once a new issue of a periodical arrives at the CPLS office, we will scan and distribute the table of contents via email. From there, you can request the articles you'd like to read. We'll scan and send them to you as soon as we can. That way, you can enjoy them right away, or save them for later; read them whenever! Scanned copies of articles can be shared among staff, volunteers, and board members; they are not for general distribution and circulation. We can send one scanned copy of an article per institution. We'll complete article requests as soon as possible, but please allow some leeway, in case the CPLS staff is away from the office.

Journals currently available:

- ✦ American Libraries
- ✦ Knowledge Quest
- ✦ Library Journal
- ✦ Public Libraries
- ✦ School Library Journal
- ✦ Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)



Simply email the CPLS office at cplsasst@gmail.com with the journals you'd like to receive notifications for, and we'll put you on a email list for those publications. This service is only for libraries within the current CPLS service area in central Nebraska. Policies and journal offerings are subject to change. If there is a journal you'd like to see added to the service, feel free to submit it for consideration. We appreciate your ideas and feedback; please email us with any questions and concerns.

2019 Book Awards Competition

The 20th Annual Nebraska Book Awards program recognizes and honors books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relating to Nebraska. To be eligible, the book must be:

- Published in 2018 as indicated by the copyright date.
- Published professionally and assigned an ISBN number
- Bound (no loose-leaf).
- Written by a Nebraskan or Nebraska-related author, or
- Published by a Nebraska publisher, or
- Have a Nebraska theme or setting.

An entry fee of \$40 per book per category is required.

Deadline for entries is June 30, 2019.

Online entry forms available at:

<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html>



Central Plains Library System invites you to join us for our Annual Meeting!

Friday, July 12th, 2019

Valentine Public Library
324 North Main Street
Valentine, NE 69201



A G E N D A

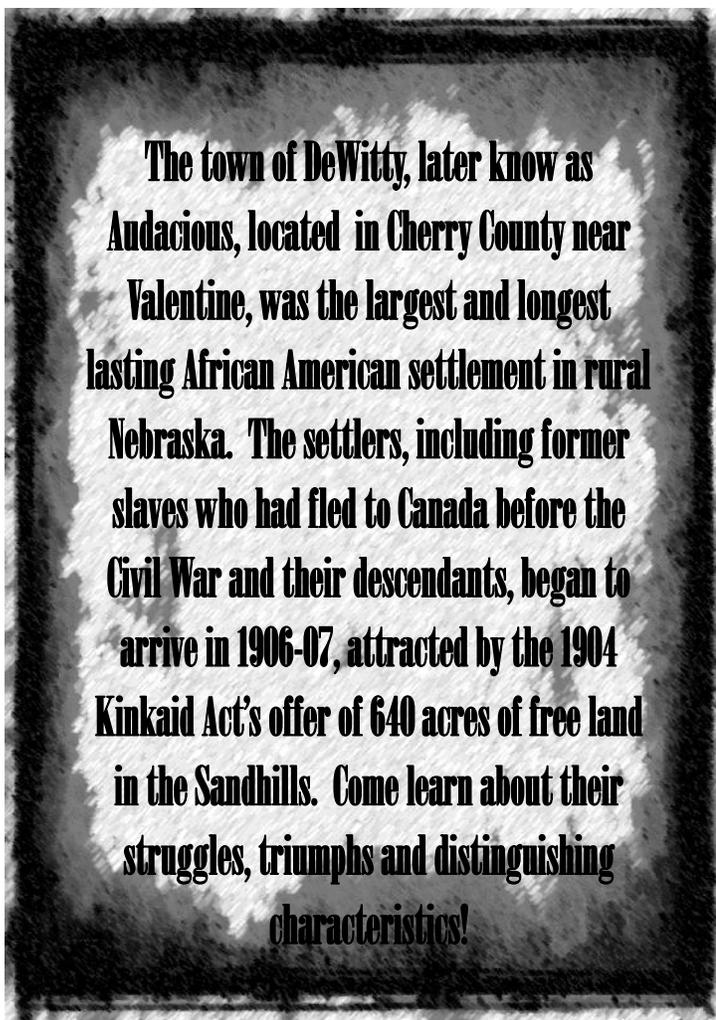
- 11am — Noon CPLS Board Meeting
- Noon — 1pm LUNCH (catered meal provided)
- 1pm — 1:15pm Comments from Rod Wagner
(Director of NLC)
- 1:15pm — 1:45pm Annual Meeting
- 1:45pm — 3:15pm Humanities Nebraska Presents:
“The Audacious, NE Saga — Descendants of DeWitty”
- 3:15pm — 3:30pm Concluding Comments

\$15 Registration fee may be sent to (or payable at the door):

Central Plains Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street, Suite #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Click [here](#) to register.

Attendees will earn 2.5 CEU's



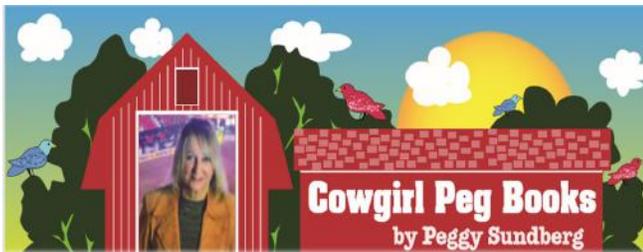
The town of DeWitty, later know as Audacious, located in Cherry County near Valentine, was the largest and longest lasting African American settlement in rural Nebraska. The settlers, including former slaves who had fled to Canada before the Civil War and their descendants, began to arrive in 1906-07, attracted by the 1904 Kinkaid Act's offer of 640 acres of free land in the Sandhills. Come learn about their struggles, triumphs and distinguishing characteristics!

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 administrated by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Free-to-Use Images



It is easy to find, copy, and paste images using Google. However, doing this is not exactly legal. The copyright of images is complicated. But there are some creators that allow you to use their work for free. Amanda Sweet, Technology Innovation Librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission recently wrote a blog post about this topic. She provided us a link to [41 Places to Find Free Images Online](#). Thank You, Amanda!!



Author Visiting Nebraska the Week of September 30, 2019

Would you like to schedule an author visit for your school?

Author Peg Sundberg will be in Nebraska the week of **September 30, 2019**. No fee is charged to the school. See all the details in the [School Information Packet](#)

Contact Peg at cowgirlpeg2@gmail.com or (830)343-9701. Visit Peg's website at <http://www.cowgirlpeg.com>.



Nebraska Library Commission

Nebraska Library Commission Awards Grants for Continuing Education and Training

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded \$12,164 in grants for Continuing Education and Training. The purpose of the Continuing Education and Training Grants is to help Nebraska librarians as they pursue learning opportunities to advance their skills and knowledge. Successful applications addressed how the continuing education and/or training proposed will support the library's mission and improve the library services provided to their communities.

This year we are offering grants in three different areas: attending an out-of-state professional conference, taking an online Continuing Education course, and other larger collaborative Continuing Education projects.

The **CPLS recipients** are:

- **Atkinson Public Library**
2019 ARSL Conference
- **Hoesch Memorial Library**, Alma,
2019 ARSL Conference

Continuing Education & Training Grants are made available by the Nebraska Library Commission with funding from the State of Nebraska. As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, "bringing together people and information."



Summer Reading

Dive in! Here are 75 of the latest and greatest books to keep you company as temperatures climb and days grow long.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/books/best-thrillers.html>

CPLS Board Nominations

Do you know someone who would be interested in serving on your Library System Board? For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, the Central Plains Library System is accepting nominations for **two new members** on the Board. CPLS board members are elected at the Annual Meeting and serve for a 3-year term.

What is the Role of the System Board?

The System Board is the governing body of the Central Plains Library System; its function is similar to that of a public library board of trustees or any non-profit corporation. Board member tasks include:

- Being an advocate for the System and System services
- Budget preparation
- Evaluation of System services and programs
- Design of specification for provision of System services

How Often Does the System Board Meet?

The System Board meets four times per year, at designated places around the System or by telephone conference call. Meetings usually last about two hours.

Are Members of the Board Reimbursed for Expenses?

Members are not permitted to receive a salary, wage or fee for their services. However, they are reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. The cost of travel to and from Board and committee meetings is reimbursed at the current Federal allowable rate; examples of other reimbursed expenses are telephone charges and postage.

Nominees for the positions may be library employees or library customers. Nominees representing any of the System counties are welcome. **Deadline for nominations is July 1, 2019.**

If you have any questions concerning participation on the Central Plains Library System Board, please contact Denise.

Nominee information:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

LIBRARY CONNECTION _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please submit nominations by **July 1, 2019** to:

Central Plains Library System
2727 West 2nd Street, Suite #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Aliens Take Over CPLS



Librarians Pick the Best Books.....

Be A Part of Golden Sower Reading Day!

The Golden Sower Award Nominee list is developed by readers like you! Selection committees are made up of volunteer readers representing classroom teachers, media specialists, and librarians in Nebraska. Each list is created from nominated lists sent in by participating libraries and schools from across the state. Now is your chance to shape the books selected as Nominees that will be read by young minds in the coming years! This is your opportunity to shape the minds and lives of future generations!

The Golden Sower Award's sponsors, the Nebraska Library Association, hope the program will sow seeds which:

- stimulate children's thinking
- introduce different types of literature
- encourage independent reading
- increase library skills
- foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.



Join CPLS on June 7th and vote for your favorite Golden Sower Nominees. This is the perfect time for public and school librarians to see the enormous amount of titles on the Golden Sower Big List for Kindergarten through 2nd grades. Vote for your favorite top-ten books, and consider purchasing these titles for your collection.

DATE: Friday, JUNE 7th, 2019

TIME: 10am—2pm

READ-A-THON LOCATION: Kearney Public Library & Information Center
2020 First Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://goo.gl/forms/hQyYzkY9INCh0Xsr2>

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED & ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE 3 CEU's FOR PARTICIPATION

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.

On this Day....

June

Richard Scarry—Born on June 5, 1919

Cynthia Rylant—Born on June 6, 1954

Charles Dickens—Died on June 9th, 1870

Eric Carle —Born on June 25, 1929

July

E.B. White—Born on July 11, 1899

Natalie Babbitt—Born on July 28, 1932

Beatrix Potter—Born on July 28, 1866

J. K. Rowling — Born on July 31, 1965

August

Tasha Tudor—Born on August 28, 1915

Virginia Lee Burton—Born on August 30, 1909

Helen Craig—Born on August 30, 1934

Coffee and Books with Sally



Bring your own coffee and watch Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission review Children's Books.

Here is the YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgP00oUd-WqOcigy4s3JSUZw>



Enjoy Your Summer!



Online Training Opportunities

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| June 12th | Pretty Sweet Tech | Register Here |
| June 19th | Growing Partnerships Where Least Expected | Register Here |
| July 24th | The Golden Sower Award: Nebraska's Children's Choice Literary Award | Register Here |
| July 31st | How Does Your Library Garden Grow | Register Here |
| Aug 7th | Life in Fort Schuyler: The Challenges Faced at the SUNY Maritime College Library | Register Here |
| Aug 21st | Research—The Key to Library Design | Register Here |
| August 28th | Eliminating Late Fines is a Win-Win for Your Library and Community | Register Here |

Week of Weeding

All of the libraries in the Central Plains Library System really stepped up to the plate and did a lot of digging and weeding through their collections! GREAT JOB!! You should be proud of what was accomplished during this time. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Total items weeded: 16,551 (AMAZING!!)

171 VHS Tapes
23 Cassette Tapes
844 magazines
1 old equipment



It's a process and it is different for each and every one of the libraries in our system. Here are some comments we received from participants in this project:

- ◆ *One of our para professionals went to school here when she was younger and found quite a few books that she had checked out. The sign out card still had her name on it from years ago. Her kids go here now, so I think it was funny how both could have checked out the same books.*
- ◆ *I weeded some old picture books with graphics from the '70s. The cartoon pictures in these books give me the creeps! I'm not sure how kids thought they were entertaining....*
- ◆ *The most interesting find was a really, really disgusting molded book. It hadn't been checked out in 5 years but apparently was returned wet. I ended up deleting the 2 books on either side of it as well. So gross!*
- ◆ *The worst was a book we had since 2012 and it was never checked out. I was amazed at how many prize winning books we had that were never checked out here.*
- ◆ *We found horrible books on puberty talks that we've updated because people were still using them despite the fact that they depicted puberty as scary, monstrous or inaccurately cartoonish.*

We held a random drawing for the two Kindle Fires. And the winners are.....

Butler Memorial Library (Cambridge) -- Maria Downer
Litchfield Public Schools -- Jeralynn Moser



Registration is now OPEN for the joint conference of the Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska School Librarians Association, and the Iowa Library Association!

The conference theme is *Bridging Borders: Succeeding Together*, and the conference will be held **October 2-4, 2019, at the La Vista Hotel and Conference Center**. Come learn, share, network, and have fun with familiar faces from Nebraska and new friends from Iowa!

<https://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/attendee-registration>

This lower registration rate will be available until September 13, 2019, after which the price will increase. So be sure to get your registration in by the end of summer!

We've got an absolutely fabulous lineup of conference programs, pre-conference workshops, and events. With program proposals coming from both Nebraska and Iowa, competition was fierce, and we just didn't have enough breakout rooms to accept even six-tenths of the proposals. The nine-person selection committee worked hard to choose the best of the best from an amazing pool of submissions, and I think you'll be pleased with the content!

<https://2019jointconferenceilanlans.sched.com/>

We've also got three amazing speakers lined up, with Lisa Scottoline, author of 32 novels and winner of the Mystery Writers of America's prestigious Edgar Award, on Wednesday evening; Jaime Casap, the Education Evangelist at Google, on Thursday morning; and Ted Genoways, author of the One Book One Nebraska/All Iowa Reads joint selection *This Blessed Earth*, at the Friday luncheon.

The Golden Sower Gala is a separately-ticketed event on Thursday evening, so you can register to attend this even if you're not able to attend the full conference. The Gala will be amazing this year, as it has been confirmed that all three of the Golden Sower Award winners will be in attendance! So come to the Gala to meet Lisa Papp, author of the picture book *Madeline Finn and the Library Dog*; Lynn Plourde, author of the chapter book *Maxi's Secrets (Or, What You Can Learn From a Dog)*; and Neal Shusterman, author of the novel *Scythe*.

We've also got "Books Bridge Borders" t-shirts available in red or charcoal, short or long sleeve! Please keep an eye on the conference website, where additional information will be added as it becomes available: <https://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/conference>

Making Your Case to Attend a Conference

Expand your network. Build your knowledge. Improve your profession.

Making the case for time off and support for travel and expenses to attend a conference requires a solid understanding of the potential benefits to your institution, patrons, students, and other library users. And you need to be able to communicate those benefits clearly—especially in times of tight budgets. Use the information that follows to help make your case.

Why you'll be more valuable to your library after the conference—or why they can't afford for you to stay home!

You'll help **make your library more effective, save money, and serve your users better** when you implement the innovative ideas, strategies, and techniques you bring back. Conference programs are always designed to maximize your time away from your job. You'll get ideas and tips from dozens of programs, discussion groups, updates, networking events, and speakers.

- You'll **save your library time and money** by reviewing products and services among the vendors in the exhibit hall, developing relationships with your library's current and potential vendors, seeking cost-effective alternatives, comparison shopping, and finding ways to maximize what you're getting.
- You'll **become a more effective library advocate** at any level—in your community or your state—when you fill your advocacy toolbox with ideas and strategies shared by your colleagues. Attending sessions and discussions related to library advocacy will allow you to meet other concerned and creative librarians for future collaboration.
- You'll **make your library's network stronger** as you connect with, and learn from, the attendees from all types of libraries. Conferences offer numerous opportunities to meet people and network—in sessions, programs, and discussions, at special events, in the hallways, and in informal social settings.
- You'll **inject fresh energy, excitement, and professionalism** into your work, influencing those around you and helping improve the experience of those who use your library. That excitement comes from all the personal interactions, the fresh ideas, the creativity, the enthusiasm, the commitment, and the expertise you'll encounter. You'll be more ready to tackle the next project.
- **Your library's reputation gets stronger** when you participate actively in your profession and show that your institution is committed to professional development, innovation, and improving its services and outreach. So when they need to hire, the best candidates will already know why they want to work there.
- **You'll be one excited, well-informed professional!**

Meeting of the Minds

Join us for the next meeting at the Broken Bow Public Library on **Wednesday, July 30th from 10am~1pm**. The topic will be:

Hiring, Firing, and Everything in Between



During this meeting we will discuss the policies you use for hiring new employees, firing bad employees, conducting performance reviews, motivating employees to perform better, mentoring programs, etc. along with sharing struggles you may be having with these areas. Please bring copies for the group of any hiring questions you have found useful or evaluation forms you like using.

As always, bring a question and a success story to share with the group.



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. 2nd Street # 233
Hastings, NE 68901

Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund

Seven Nebraska public libraries recently received project funding, thanks to the generosity of a lifelong educator, the late Shirley Kreutz Bennett of Lincoln. Each year, the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), accepts proposals for matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations under 3,000. For all the details, visit the NLC NCompass Blog at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/2019/03/28/kreutz-bennett-grants-awarded-small-town-public-libraries/>

Following Ms. Kreutz Bennett's wishes, a Fund Advisory Committee composed of her nieces and nephews recommends grants in three areas: planning for accreditation grants to support steps taken toward gaining accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services; and facilities grants for new construction or the renovation, restoration, or rehabilitation of current libraries.

All grants require a one-to-one match in local funding and evidence that the project has broad community support. Approximately \$80,000 in grant funding is available each year. Grant applications are currently being accepted for the 2020 grant cycle. The applications are simple to complete. A short-form proposal is due October 1, 2019, and a full proposal is due in January 2020. Grant seekers are encouraged to review the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund guidelines and application procedures at <https://www.nebcommfound.org/give/kreutz-bennett-donor-advised-fund/> For more information, contact Kristine Gale, affiliated fund development coordinator, 402.822.0466 or kgale@nebcommfound.org.

The following Central Plains Library System library received a grant in 2019:

- ◆ **Axtell Public Library**

This library is raising local funds to update its library which is located in the heart of downtown. Planned improvements include installation of more effective lighting and renovating the restrooms to be accessible to all library patrons. The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund awarded a \$20,000 grant, contingent on the library's success in raising matching funds within one year.

Future Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarian Classes

Class	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
6/10 - 6/21	Library Finance	Scott Childers	5/13 - 5/31
7/8 - 7/19	Reference	Christa Porter	6/10 - 6/28
7/29 - 8/9	Library Policy	Sharon Osenga	7/1 - 7/19
8/19 - 8/30	Collection Management*	Denise Harders	7/22 - 8/9
9/9 - 9/20	Programming & Outreach	Christa Porter	8/12 - 8/30

CPLS News



Touch a Truck

The *Touch a Truck* event at the **Wilson Public Library** in Cozad on Monday, April 1, was a huge success. There was an assortment of awesome trucks and vehicles on hand in front of the library to explore. Plus, patrons could visit with the pros who operate them. This event was free and open to all ages. They had **100+ attendees in 30 minutes**. They would have had even more, but it started to rain.

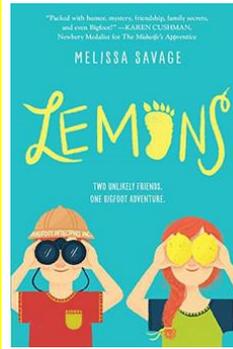


CPLS Board Meeting Schedule



July 12, 2019
 Valentine Public Library
 11:00 am Board Meeting
 12:00 pm Lunch
 1:00 pm Annual Meeting

New Book Club Set



By Melissa Savage
 10 copies
 Ages 8-12
 320 pages

Lemonade Liberty Witt's mama always told her: When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. But Lem can't possibly make lemonade out of her new life in Willow Creek, California—the Bigfoot Capital of the World—where she's forced to live with a grandfather she's never met after her mother passes away.

Then she meets eleven-year-old Tobin Sky, the CEO of Bigfoot Detectives Inc., who is the sole Bigfoot investigator for their small town. After he invites Lem to be his assistant for the summer, they set out on an epic adventure to capture a shot of the elusive beast on film. But along the way, Lem and Tobin end up discovering more than they ever could have imagined. And Lem realizes that maybe she can make lemonade out of her new life after all.

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!



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
Consumer Information
Pass it ON

Chances are good that someone you know has been scammed. They may not talk about it, but the statistics do. The truth is that sharing **what** you know can help protect someone **who** you know from a scam. Yes. You. People listen to you because they trust you.

And that's why the Federal Trade Commission created these articles, presentations, video and activities — to help you start that conversation, and pass on some information that could help someone you know.

- [Identity Theft](#)
- [Imposter Scams](#)
- [Charity Fraud](#)
- [Health Care Scams](#)

- [Home Improvement Scams](#)

- [Paying Too Much](#)

- ["You've Won" Scams](#)

- [Campaign Materials](#)



<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0030-pass-it-on>

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.

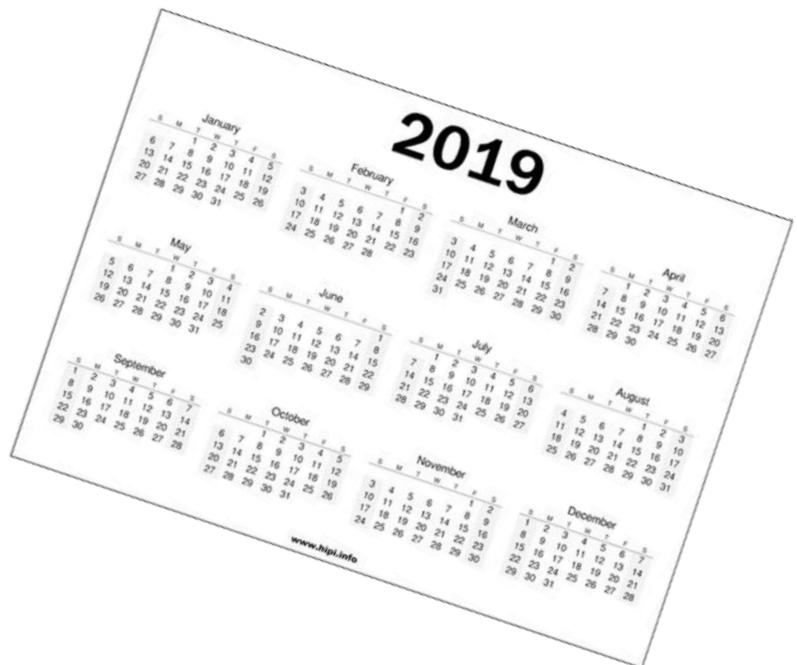
Central Plains Library System

Mark Your Calendar

- June 7.....Golden Sower Reading Day, 10 am – 2 pm, Kearney Public Library
- June 10-21.....Basic Skills—Library Finance
- June 21-25.....American Library Association Conference, Washington, D.C.
- June 30.....Nebraska Book Awards nominations deadline
- July 8-19.....Basic Skills—Reference
- July 12.....CPLS Annual Meeting, Valentine
- July 29-Aug. 9.....Basic Skills—Library Policy
- July 30.....Meeting of the Minds, Broken Bow, 10 am – 1 pm
- August 19-30.....Basic Skills—Collection Management
- August 29-30.....Youth Services Retreat, Ashland
- September 4-7.....Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference, Burlington, VT.
- October 1.....Kreutz Bennett Grant Short Form deadline
- October 2-4.....NLA/NSLA/ILA Joint Conference, La Vista

“What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education.”

—Harold Howe



We're On the Web

libraries.ne.gov/cpls