



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

November 2014

SOWINGS

I'll start out by admitting a pet peeve I have to all of you . I get my hackles up when someone is discussing a new policy, procedure, or invention and the first, second, and third questions they ask are "How efficient is it?" While efficiency is a very important criterion when deciding to start any new effort, either in thought, word or deed, it should not always be the main focus. A more important focus is "Is this method effective?" or "Does this have the effect we want it to?" I know in the tight times we have all gone through in recent years with funding being cut or at best, flat, that the cost of everything is scrutinized and at the front of people's minds, but I've seen so many efforts backfire because the implementers were more focused on making an inexpensive solution instead of one that would actually solve the problem at hand. Sometimes it is worth putting the extra time, money, or resources toward something if that is what gets you the best results. Low-bid, short term thinking toward your efforts only let you mark it off the to-do list with a good chance it will come back again.

I've heard the difference explained this way: effectiveness is doing the right thing; efficiency is doing the thing right. Both are important and they are not mutually exclusive concepts. You can have something that is very efficient and very effective at the same time. These are the best choices, but sometimes those aren't available and you have to pick something that leans toward one or the other

Let me share an example from my personal experiences. One year there was a big push to take the lowest bid on computer equipment with no exceptions. The group bought a bunch of new computers as part of their usual rotation, as they do every year. What was new in this particular year was that over half of those computers ended up having serious problems. As in, "There's literally smoke coming out of the computer" problems. The time it took to replace and repair that low-bid equipment probably cost more than getting a more reputable vendor's product in the first place. After that potentially hazardous situation, cost was just one of the criteria in selecting a computer vendor.

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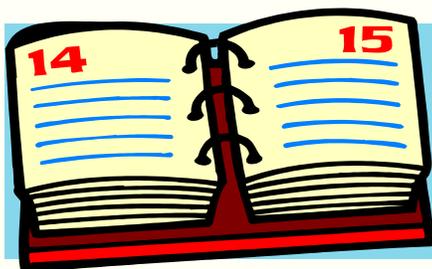
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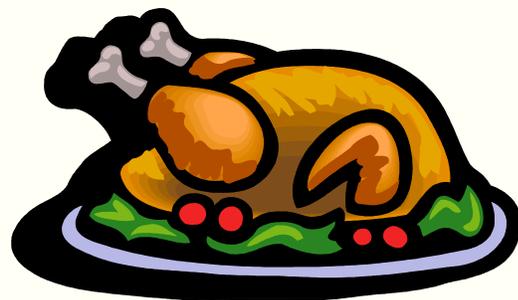
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CALENDAR

November 2014

November 11th—Veterans Day, SELS Office Closed
November 13th—CASTL Meeting at Gilbert Public Library, Friend
November 15th—Guinness World Record Day
November 17th—Homemade Bread Day
November 20th—Use Less Stuff Day
November 27th-28th—SELS Office Closed for Thanksgiving
December 5th—International Ninja Day
December 12th—Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
December 19th—CASTL Meeting at Kilgore Memorial Library, York
December 21st—Crossword Puzzle Day
December 23rd—Festivus
December 24th-25th—SELS Office Closed for Christmas



Sowings, cont.

Here's another example: I could do almost all of my business via postal mail. It would be very efficient for me. I go to one place every day, spend all day doing one task (writing letters) and take them all to the post box at the end of the day to be picked up the next morning. That would be very efficient of my time and energy, but would not be very effective at all. It also wouldn't be very useful to those who need immediate assistance.

On the other hand, I could drive to the libraries in the service area for every question they have. I could drive to Palmyra to answer a simple question and then head down to Byron that afternoon to answer another question and just bounce around the SELS area answering questions in person. Would I be effective in gaining understanding of the situation and providing a good response? It certainly would be effective, but what a waste of gas that would be when the question is "When is the next CASTL meeting?"

When deciding what to do, please keep in mind the cost in time, money and other resources, but remember that if it doesn't work you may end up spending more of whatever it was you were trying to save in the long run. Another thing to remember is as you review your policies, procedures, and technology after implementation, new places to save may show up. New technologies or understandings may appear that can keep the same effectiveness, yet become more efficient.

So, when making decisions, please keep in mind this question, "Do I want to get to someplace specific eventually, or get nowhere fast?"

Scott Childers, Executive Director
 Southeast Library System



Eastern Library System Summer Reading Workshop and Presenter Fair



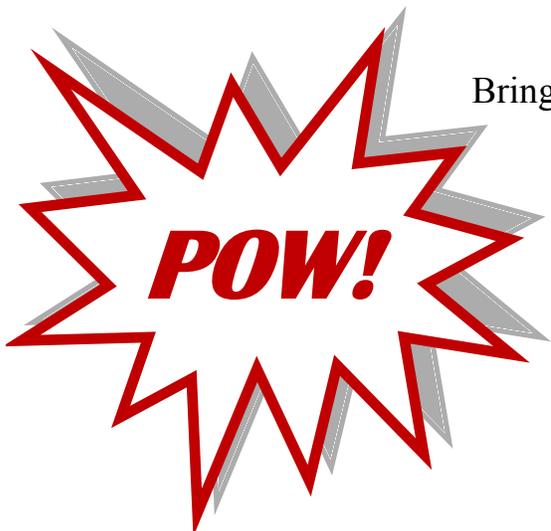
When: November 21, 2014

Where: LaVista Public Library - 9110 Giles Road, LaVista
(Exit I-80 at Giles/Harrison & travel East. Follow signs to Metro Comm College/La Vista Public Library)

Bring a program/activity/craft idea to share

Presenters Fair immediately following

Continuing education credit available



Cost: \$17 (checks to ELS) which includes lunch

You must register by November 14th. Make sure you let us know you are coming, even if you are waiting for the city to send payment.

Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: BMaass@windstream.net or
Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Southeast Library System Friends

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**Saturday, November 29
Lincoln SouthPointe
Barnes & Noble**

- Free gift wrapping all day!
- Join us at 6:30 for a very special story time featuring Santa himself!
Santa will host a story time before he settles in at his station at SouthPointe Mall.
Stop by to hear a story & have a treat!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 11/29/14 to 12/4/14 by entering Bookfair ID 11479755 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit SELS!



THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART I Private Movie Showing

Where: Edgewood Theater, Lincoln, NE

When: Saturday, Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m.
(doors open at 9:00)

Who: SELS Friends & guests

As a thank you for your past support of SELS Friends, place your reservation by Nov. 19 and get a great price!

On or before Nov. 19: \$5.00
Price after Nov. 19: \$10.00

Donations are appreciated!

To reserve a seat in advance,
email info@selsfriends.org
All admissions will be paid
for at the door.

Effie Trinket
Collectible Doll
Silent Auction
Bid online at
www.selsfriends.org




A Fundraiser for the
Southeast Library System Friends

SELS friends

Wonderful door prize drawings!!

Photo of the Month



Children compete in the Halloween costume contest at Plattsmouth. See more on [page 7](#);
photo courtesy of Karen Mier.

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

November 13
Friend

December 19
York

October's CASTL meeting was held on October 17th at Webermeier Memorial Library in Milford, hosted by George Matzen. The meeting began with a round robin discussion so everyone could catch up with what's going on around the system. For the most part, everyone's in a quieter time, now that summer reading and accreditation concerns have mostly passed. There were a lot of funding questions and administrative changes that were brought up during this time.

Nebraska City is having several personnel changes, with Barbara Hegr retiring as director, and another staff member leaving in December. They will have some quiet time until the director role is filled. Milford has been cleaning house—clearing out old storage areas and weeding a lot of older materials. They have had a recent gift come with stipulations that is making accessing the funds difficult. The foundation at Syracuse has been given a large gift, specifically “not for the budget.” They are doing their research & going through the proper channels, and they will likely use the money for infrastructure or a new building.

Seward is staying quiet until after election day; they intend to make a fresh start in 2015, since they need to begin accreditation then anyway. Crete has a couple new people, one full time / one part time. They are beginning their strategic plan in November. They have used some funds to gain access to Freegal, to get a new water heater, and to get new fixtures for their upstairs bathroom.

Weeping Water has had their funding reduced by the city, so they are looking into foundations. They also began having an ongoing book sale, with a dedicated book cart full of materials. York had a fun time using the PrizeWheel app to have people “spin the wheel” for a chance to win a small prize. They are considering working with their local parks & recreation people to offer children's programming, since both organizations offer children's programs and there's been some overlap. Palmyra has had great attendance with their programming—17 people attended Lego day, and there are currently 15 members of the book club. The book club also had a surprise visit from author Stephanie Grace Winston. They are considering beginning a youth book club, with a book-to-movie theme.

From there, we discussed library card fees, and differing rates for in-town vs. out-of-town users. The consensus was that out-of-town users should pay more for a card than in-town users in most cases, since in-town users already pay city and property taxes that help to support the library. It's not so much a matter of revenue (since the amounts are small); it's more about principles and accountability.

Some stories about strange occurrences in the library were shared, such as a disorderly conduct arrest in Nebraska City. Someone messed up the place and just knocked everything over. We also discussed policies on banning certain things in the library, like smoking (regular & vaping) and concealed weapons (guns, knives, etc.).

News Around the System

Author Chat with Falls City Fourth Graders

By Gail Froeschl



Falls City South School Fourth Grade students participated in a half hour Skype visit with the author of *Three Times Lucky*, Shelia Turnage, on October 29th. This book is a 2014-2015 Golden Sower nominee. All fourth grade teachers read the book aloud to their classes. Then one student from each class received an autographed copy of the book in a drawing. Gail Froeschl, Elementary Librarian, in Falls City had these books autographed at the Norfolk Literacy Festival this past summer by the author. Students wrote questions in advance to ask the author during the online chat. She told us about what inspired her to write, how she developed the characters, and her plans for new books.

Wahoo Library to be Re-Dedicated Soon

By Denise Lawver

The Wahoo Public Library is have a re-dedication event at the library on Sunday, November 16 from 1:00-4:00. Refreshments will be served & we will be playing Book Bingo!!

Everyone is invited to come share in our joy as we show off the repaired/renewed library!



Halloween Fun at the Plattsmouth Library

By Karen Mier

Mother Goose (Youth Services Librarian Kirsten Wood) and Esmeralda the Friendly Witch (Friends of the Library member Velora Riese) handed out pretzel bags to the trick or treaters during Halloween on Main on October 31. Each child also picked out a brand new book; approximately 600 books were given away! The pretzel treats and books were provided by the Friends of the Library and were a huge hit!

The brand new books were selected by library staff and the Friends of the Library at a book pull in a north Omaha warehouse in September. The warehouse provides free books to non-profit groups who will get the books into the hands of children.

The costume contest drew 96 people, with children from infants to pre-teens. The costumed children were divided into two age groups, with 3 winners in each category. All their costumes were made by hand.

The Main Street Association organizes Halloween on Main and the costume contest annually. The library participates in the event every year.



Read Aloud Day Celebrated in Beatrice

By Joanne
Neemann

The Beatrice Public Library participated in Read Aloud Day, Saturday, November 1, 2014. This year’s theme was “Home Sweet Home.” Thanks to many volunteers who read aloud from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Beatrice Humane Society has partnered with this event for the last several years bringing special four legged guests who enjoy listening to the stories. The three little kittens were a big hit as were the dogs that some of the volunteer readers brought with them.



Diane deGroat visits Thayer Central Community School

By Betty Meyer

Thayer Central Community School hosted Diane deGroat on October 17, 2014. During her two sessions, she spoke to the K-3 students and then the 4-6 students about writing drawing and how she gets ideas for her stories. She has written books about Gilbert, *Trick or Treat Smell My Feet*, and is the illustrator of the *Charlie the Ranch Dog* books.



Feedsack History in Palmyra

By Glenda Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted a program titled “Feedsacks: Facts and Fallacies” by local Palmyra resident, Gloria Hall. Hall is well known throughout the region for her collection of feedsacks and quilts that date back to the 1830s. Approximately 25 women attended the program.



2014 Nebraska Charities Conference in Lincoln

The Nebraska Attorney General’s office is hosting several one-day conferences for Nebraska charities and the laws that influence them. This may be useful information for friends and foundation groups. There will be a session in Lincoln on Nov. 18th, at Southeast Community College. Registration is \$29 for attorneys & \$24 for others. Please visit the following links for more information:

[Click here to see the Overview](#)

[Click here to see the Agenda](#)



Fun with Mustaches at Aurora School Libraries

By Emmy Fiala

I chose to go with a "mustache" theme this school year in the Aurora Middle/High School Media Center. Our theme (I "mustache" you a question) is focused on four main questions: 1. What book are you currently reading?, 2. What books are on your "To Read" List?, 3. What is your favorite book?, and 4. Have you read this Golden Sower? I have created bulletin boards that go along with each question which include various book covers with QR codes that link to the book's summary or the book's trailer. For the "favorite book" and "currently reading" bulletin boards, I have pictures of staff and students holding their books while also holding a mustache cut-out under their nose.

I have, also, implemented a couple of other fun things to go along with our "mustache" theme:

1. If a student is the first person to read a NEW book in our collection, when they return it, the student signs a bookplate. The bookplate is then taped in the front of the book, and the student will forever be the "first" reader.

2. I placed 66 Golden Tickets in various books throughout the Media Center. When students find a Golden Ticket, they bring it to the Media Center where they collect a prize, and sign a bookplate that says they found the Golden Ticket "stached" in the book. The bookplate is then taped in the front of the book in which they found it.



SELS Librarians Win Awards at NLA/NSLA

Several SELS area librarians were recognized at this year's NLA/NSLA Conference in South Sioux City. Here are the honorees and the citation they received:

College & University Section Distinguished Service Award: Ruth Carlock, York College



Megan Boggs

Paraprofessional Section Paraprofessional of the Year: Megan Boggs, Seward Public Library

Public Library & Trustee Section Excalibur Award for Outstanding Public Librarian: Brenda Ealey, Lincoln City Libraries

New Members Round Table Mentor of the Year Award: Michael Straatmann, UNL Libraries

TSRT Technical Service Advocacy – Sandra Herzinger, formerly of UNL Libraries (The Award is now named after her; the Sandra Herzinger Award for Technical Services Advocacy)

Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •
Richardson • Saline •
Seward • Thayer • York

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November 2014

*"May your walls know joy, may
every room hold laughter, and
every window open to great
possibility."*

-Mary Anne Radmacher

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.