



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



I was going to write about something completely different this month, something more practical and “librarianish”. Then the events at the nation’s Capitol building on January 6

happened this month. There is plenty of continuing news coverage on the actual events of that day, and it is a little early to talk about the fallout from that event and how it will affect our libraries in the future.

What I will mention is that right now, after so many major national & worldwide events in such a short amount of time, there are people getting shook out of their various echo chambers. Some are now starting to look for new sources of information to try and relearn about the world around them when their previous world view quit making sense. Yes, there will be those who dive deeper into the more extreme edges of their current ideologies, but there are also those who start questioning if they are really on a path they want to be on.

How we react when they come to us could make a major difference in if they succeed in breaking through all the misinformation they had surrounded themselves in or if they dive deeper into that rabbit hole. This is not us looking to change their minds or convert their beliefs – this is helping someone who

has already decided to look into finding out what they didn’t know that they don’t know, or as I’ve heard it called: unconscious ignorance.

To be very clear – this is also not a call to hold massive “reeducation” campaigns and big group events, nor is it saying you need to sit there and smile when someone comes in and does nothing but spread hate. We are not psychologists, social workers, doctors, or baby sitters nor should we pretend to be.

This is just a reminder that these one-on-one interactions with someone who is genuinely trying to get help finding trusted sources of information can be the most powerful things anybody can do to help a person.

We may not individually be able to change the world, but we can help someone who wants to change themselves and that is an important first step.

In this Issue:

Page 1—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—CASTL Wrap-up

Pages 4-7—News Around the System

Page 8-10—Other News and Flyers

Page 11—System Spotlight

Calendar

January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, SELS Office Closed

January 19, Small and Rural Library Group Inaugural Meeting (Tiny & Mighty), 10 am, p. 8

January 22, 10-12, [CASTL via Zoom, "Social Media for Small Libraries"](#)

January 26, 1-2, [SELS Annual Meeting via Zoom](#)

January 27, Lewis Carroll's Birthday

January 29, National Puzzle Day

February, Black History Month

National Library Lover's Month

February 2, National Groundhog Day

February 4, Rosa Parks' Birthday

February 4, 1-3, or February 5, 10-12, [Fully Engaged Customer Service](#) (see pp. 8 & 9)

February 8, National Kite Flying Day

February 9, Safer Internet Day

February 12, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 13, Global Movie Day

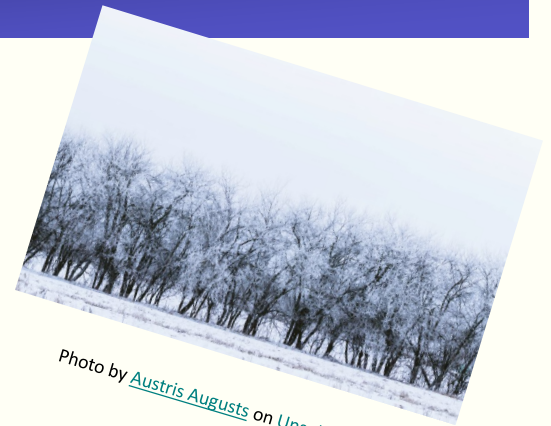


Photo by [Austris Augusts](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Photos of the Month



Pictured in photo on the left are: Angela Blomstedt (green shirt), Kylie Ferris (black shirt), and Jamie Wright (red shirt). Photos by Sara Lee and Jamie Wright, more on p. 4.

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 22

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"Social Media for Small Libraries"

February 18

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"Leadership: Small Acts, Big Results"

March 19

Online—Zoom, 10-12
"Open Meeting Law"

April 23

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

May 21

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

On December 18th we met for CASTL via Zoom. Our presenter was Joy Harvey, speaking about the MOSAIC Multicultural Book Display at Lincoln Public Schools. The 2020 Mosaic collection can be found by searching the [online catalog](#) and entering mosaic2020. Previous years' collections can be found in the same manner.

A committee composed of LPS staff and volunteers reviews diverse literature published within the last year for inclusion in the annual collection. In 2016 interactive components were added to the collection of books: QR codes, virtual reality, and popular music. In 2018, the digital display included eBooks, audiobooks, and trailers. The goal is to increase student access.

The committee reviews books for accuracy, authenticity, content and perspective, characterization, setting, and literary quality. Considerations for the committee include:

- Written by a person of the culture depicted
- The protagonist is not white
- Do we have contemporary and historical representation of a culture?
- Do we have a balance of books "about culture" and "see yourself books"?
- Avoid books with "white savior" trope?

To take a tour of the MOSAIC Digital Display, go to lps.org/go/mosaic

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
February 8—February 19	Customer Service	January 4—January 9
March 8—March 19	Library Governance	February 1—March 1
March 22—April 2	Library Technology	February 15—March 12

News Around the System

200 Ornaments Created in Makerspace for School Staff

Continued from p. 2, provided by Sara Lee, photos by Sara Lee and Jamie Wright

Obviously 2020 has been quite the year for all of us... At Central City Public Library, we know how hard it has been to adapt to virtual and social distancing programs, and we can't imagine how hard it has been for the schools. As a small token, we wanted to share with local teachers, and all staff at the schools, that we see them. We know how hard they're working and what they've had to adapt to. We appreciate them and all their hard work.

On December 21 we finished cutting, tying, sorting and delivering almost 200 ornaments - one for every staff member at Central City Public Schools and Nebraska Christian Schools. We couldn't have done a project on this scale, without both library staff and volunteers being involved.

Many thanks go out to volunteers (Angela Blomstedt, Kylie Ferris) and to library staff (Jamie Wright, Sally Bankson and Sara Lee) for their help in getting the ornaments finished before the schools let out for break.



At Fairbury Public Library Children Pick up Gifts from Santa

Photos by Linda Dux



News Around the System

A Christmas Tree Out of Books

Provided by Monica Tidyman

After receiving several shared posts with book Christmas trees, Monica Tidyman, the librarian at Stromsburg Public Library, decided to try her hand at one. People seemed to like it!



Seward Memorial Library Creates Surprise Packs

Story by Charlotte Baldinger, photo by Niki Wortman

Surprise Packs are created by topic and the content is age specific. After patrons reserve their pack, which is in a brown bag, staff travels around the library collecting materials on the requested topic in a variety of formats. There could be several books (fiction and non-fiction) as well as a DVD, magazine, audio or game in their Surprise Pack. They may also discover a treat and a note with library news along with their materials. Hopefully the bag with library surprises will brighten the day of the recipient. We have a lot of fresh ideas and brown bags to fill!



News Around the System

Restoration Project at Morton-James Public Library Finished

Story and photos by Donna Kruse

Something good came out of 2020 for Morton-James Public Library! The Exterior Restoration and Preservation Project is now done!

New natural stone sills and banding, restored previously patched and damaged, artificial product and earlier repairs. This was made possible through a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Grant and matching funding from the following: Wirth Foundation, Steinhart Foundation, Kimmel Foundation, Kropp Foundation and Nelson Foundation along with a few private donations.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



News Around the System

New Director at Beatrice Public Library

Provided by Joanne Neemann

Joanne Neemann has been appointed as the Director of the Beatrice Public Library. She was the Interim Director after Laureen Riedesel retired in October after 43 years of dedicated service to the library.

Joanne has been at the Beatrice Public Library for seven years most recently as Assistant Director/ Youth Services Librarian. Prior to moving to Beatrice she was a library assistant in Youth Services at the Sioux City Library in Sioux City, IA and was the Youth Services Librarian in Denison, IA. She serves on the Southeast Library System board and also on the Gage County Extension Board.

She and her husband, Doug have two grown daughters, who live in the area. She and Doug both grew up in Fairbury and are enjoying living in Beatrice.



Kilgore Memorial Library Receives Grant

Provided by Deb Robertson

Kilgore Memorial Library in York, started off 2021 with fantastic news. We are one of 200 libraries, six from Nebraska, selected to receive a grant through [Libraries Transforming Communities \(LTC\): Focus on Small & Rural Libraries](#), an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA).

[LTC: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries](#) is a grant for those of us in small and rural communities to get funding to help us address issues of concern in our communities. ALA has 450 more grants to give out in this second round. You can read more about the project in the [project guidelines](#). Applications close on March 4, 2021 and I highly encourage you to apply!

Participating libraries receive training in how to lead conversations through a [free ALA e-course](#) on basic facilitation skills; host at least one conversation (in-person or virtual) with community members on a chosen topic; and receive \$3,000 to support community engagement efforts. Grant funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases.

We plan to use our grant funds to host a community conversation on how our library might develop or improve services to meet an already identified list of needs in our service area. The results of this conversation will give our newly reorganized foundation board a clear vision for their mission to support the library financially.

Feel free to reach out to Deb Robertson at Kilgore Library if you have any questions about the application process. You can also email publicprograms@ala.org with any questions.

Other News

NLA Forms Interest Group for Small & Rural Libraries

At the December 4, 2020 NLA Board Meeting, the board members approved establishing a new interest group to address issues of importance to the small and rural libraries in Nebraska. The meetings of Tiny and Mighty (T&M) will be held the third Tuesdays of each month at 10 am. These meetings are open to any one who is interested. You do not need to be a member of NLA to participate with non-voting status.



Join the Tiny and Mighty Interest Group at their inaugural meeting: January 19, 2021, 10 am. To join the meeting, please email Rebecca McCorkindale at rebecca@hafuboti.com. You will be added to the T&M mailing list and Rebecca will email the Zoom link a few days before the meeting. If you have any questions, contact Rebecca.

SELS to Hold a Zoom Class on Fully Engaged Customer Service

Whether you spend most of your time on the front lines or primarily serve internal customers, your ability to handle your workload will be enhanced when you learn how to complete customer interactions successfully at the first point of contact, while cultivating a positive attitude and keeping stress levels to a minimum.

Improving customer service outcomes requires moving beyond old habits to create a lasting change in behavior. In this safe and friendly environment you will practice simple, powerful techniques for improving

- Eye contact
- Facial expression and body language
- Tone of voice
- Availability to customers
- Your ability to listen when distracted
- Customers' ability to self-serve in the future



In this session with well known and respected library consultant Cheryl Gould (on your choice of either February 4 or February 5), you will practice and experience how to enhance service through being fully engaged to create a win-win experience that saves time for both you and the customer.

Participants are required to turn on video (have a camera) and possess a microphone for this Zoom class in order to participate actively. The two class opportunities are limited to 15 participants each, so register now at [https://bit.ly/engaged 36](https://bit.ly/engaged36). (More on the next page.)

Fully Engaged Customer Service

A Zoom Class by
consultant Cheryl Gould

Participants must have a microphone and camera. Both skills based classes are the same and are limited to 15 persons each. Register at <https://bit.ly/engaged36>

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



FEB 4 • 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
FEB 5 • 10:00 AM TO 12:00 AM



Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility and services. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 4-10, 2021, or at a time of the library's choosing. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: _____

Name of Individual Submitting the Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- In 250 words or less, state why your library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs you have developed for your library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows your library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:

Southeast Library System

5730 R St. Ste. C-1

Lincoln, NE 68505

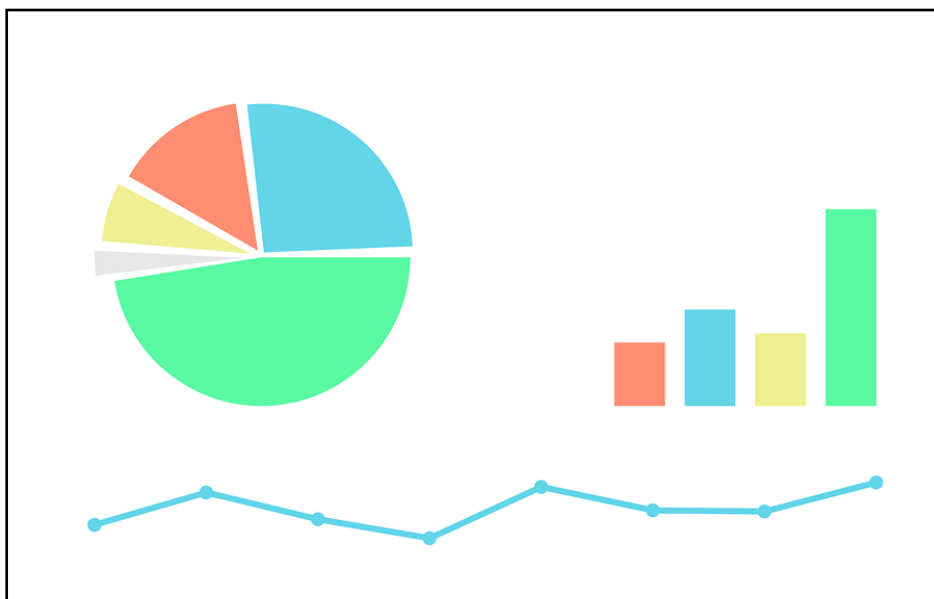
selsne@gmail.com

Application deadline is March 5, 2021

System Spotlight

Annual Meeting

The Southeast Library System's Annual Meeting is held at the beginning of every calendar year and has the purpose of informing library staff and other interested persons of the happenings in the Southeast Library System. If you want to find out



what your system does, now is the time! Note that all reports will cover the previous fiscal year, which is July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

This year, the annual meeting will be held via Zoom on January 26 from 1pm to 2pm. [Register here by January 24](#) to receive a Zoom link the day before the meeting.

Southeast Library System

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

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

Staff:

Executive Director—Scott Childers
scott.childers.sels@gmail.com
Direct phone: 531-530-3011

Assistant Director—Todd Schlechte
todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com
Direct phone: 531-530-3010

Administrative Assistant—Vacant

Contact Us:

Local Phone: 402-467-6188
Toll Free Phone: 800-288-6063
Fax: 844-270-7004

selsne@gmail.com

5730 R St. Suite C-1
Lincoln, NE 68505

