

## From the Director



A book challenge policy has now become one of the more important policies that any library can have in place. We've also seen the nature of challenges change in recent years, so

some of the reconsideration policies you have had may no longer be sufficient.

Below are some items to consider you review your policy:

How you refer to this policy – I've seen a few terms for this type of policy over the years: challenge, reconsideration, removal, and so on. A growing trend is to change the terminology to something along the lines of "collection feedback".

Number of items reviewed—I would strongly suggest you use a "one title, one form" method. Do not accept a list of titles; have the challenger fill out a form for each one individually.

Limitations on use of the policy – There have been some reports on a small group of people going to multiple communities to file book complaints. You may want to consider only accepting reconsideration requests from people within your service area, or if you are a school

limiting requests to just from parents with children in that particular school. Also I suggest avoiding allowing "organizational" challenges, instead only allow requests from individuals.

Put a moratorium on further challenges on a book after it has gone under review. I've seen a 5 year term as a suggestion in some areas.

Have a clear description on how the process works in writing. Can they just ask for a form to fill out, or do they need to talk with the head librarian first? Who can accept the form? Do you accept an email answering all the questions on the form, or does it need to be the actual form?

Speaking of forms – consider making most of it to be narrative, so the person can make whatever case they want in the form. In my opinion, if they wish to remove someone else's access to materials, they should be able to make a coherent argument on their own. If they can't – then the request is probably not worth consideration.

If you have more questions, please feel free to ask. I would also encourage you to review your collection development and your weeding policies and procedures, to make sure everything is working together, and it is all in writing.

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# Calendar

June 16, National Fudge Day

June 18, Father's Day

June 19, Juneteenth (SELS Office Closed)

June 23, [CASTL, Zoom only, "Open Meetings Act Refresher"](#)

June 27, National PTSD Awareness Day

June 28, National Paul Bunyan Day

June 30, International Asteroid Day

July, National Ice Cream Month

National Picnic Month

July 1, National Play Outside Day

July 2, National Wildland Firefighter Day

July 4, Independence Day (SELS Office Closed)

August 31 and September 1, [Joint Youth Services Retreat](#)



# Photo of the Month



Valparaiso Library just started a partnership with local daycares through grant monies it received. It has been a big success in the community. The library loves encouraging interest in reading to the cutest book club ever at Ashley's Daycare (above) and other centers. We share a few stories every Monday morning and drop off new books each week. —Debi Woodburn

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

June 23

Zoom only  
“Open Meetings Act Refresher”

July 28

Bruun Memorial Library  
Humboldt  
“Summer Reading Successes”

August 25

Superior Public Library  
“Book Disposal”

September 29

Wahoo Public Library  
“Library Law”

October 27

Wymore Public Library  
“Document Retention Policy”

Our CASTL on May 18 was held for the very first time at the Davenport Public Library. They have renovated their basement meeting room and an adjoining kitchenette.

Scott led a discussion on Friends and Foundations. Most often, a Friends groups exists to help support the library through fundraising by holding such events as bake and book sales, and they may also provide volunteers to help out in the library or at library events. Foundations normally exist to engage in long-term planning and to receive large amounts of money. Both groups are often recognized charities , or 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organizations, because this allows donors to reduce their taxable income and allows those groups to receive grants which a library would not be eligible for on its own.

Although Friends and Foundations are traditionally differentiated in this way, there is no law that says you must do so. Many communities simply do not have enough people to fulfill the minimum five board member requirement of both organizations, especially since library board members should not be a member of either of those organizations. A library could have either a Friends group OR a Foundation associated with it or even route donations through a community or county foundation instead. Also, the Friends of the Library can be a subcommittee of the Foundation rather than a separate entity.

When setting up a Friends or Foundation group, you can ask a lawyer to help you, or a library supporter may feel confident enough to do the research required to complete the paperwork for federal and state recognition. It should be clear from the beginning that the mission of the group is to help further the goals of the library, as well as what will happen to any money left over should the group dissolve. If you have a lawyer, a banker, or a CPA who is willing to be part of your group, their expertise can be extremely helpful.

It is important to maintain good relationships between library related groups. When library board members attend meetings of the Friends and Foundation groups, and vice versa, this helps all groups to maintain good communication with each other and to understand what the other groups are doing. Members of a Friends or Foundation group might also be invited to be part of the accreditation process.

For the complete recording, [click here](#).

# Upcoming Basic Skills Classes

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

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
July 3—July 14	Reference	May 30—June 24
July 24—August 4	Library Policy	June 20—July 15
August 14 - August 25	Collection Management	July 11 - August 5



# News Around the System

## Summer Programs Begin at Fairbury Public Library

*Story and photos by Debbie Aden*

Fairbury Public Library held its first two summer programs on June 1 and 2. Thursday evening we painted flower pots and planted flowers for people to take home. Friday afternoon we planted a "Kindness garden" behind the library. About a dozen people came out to help us plant a combination of flowers and vegetables, some of which will hopefully provide pumpkins, gourds, and sunflowers we can use for fall programming.





# News Around the System

## Open House and William Kent Krueger

*Provided by Becky Baker*

The Seward Memorial Library first opened its doors on September 2, 2003. This year, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary! Over the past few months, we have been busy remodeling our library so that we may begin our next 20 years with increased capacity and better service for our patrons. On May 30, we held an open house celebrating the end of the remodel. The new configuration of the library added 219 square feet for patron spaces by adding fiction shelving, a new room for the Book Nook, one new meeting room, two new study rooms, and an area for our Library of Things. The former computer lab has been converted to an administrative area and two desktops for the public were moved to a seating area in the non-fiction section. Three laptops area also available to patrons who need to access the internet. We were excited to show our patrons the new improvements to our facility during the open house. To top off the evening, we had author William Kent Krueger give a presentation! We were excited to see that the event drew people from all areas including Lincoln, David City, Hastings, York, Papillion, and Omaha. The room was packed! Mr. Krueger's presentation was very enjoyable, and it proved to be a fascinating evening. He is very personable, and it is always interesting to hear how an author thinks and creates his work. The audience had many good questions at the end of the presentation, and the evening ended with an autograph session for those who brought or purchased books. Below is a group photo with William Kent Krueger, and to the right is a photo taken at the open house of the Library of Things.



# News Around the System

## Exeter Library Kicks Off Summer with Strange Animals

Story and photos by Leesa K. Bartu, *The Friend Sentinel*

Things that have scales, are cold-blooded and don't sweat were featured guests at Exeter Public Library's summer reading kickoff May 26.

Jason Buresh of Czechland Pet out of Fairbury certainly delivered.

Buresh brought a variety of snakes, turtles and other reptiles and gave the attendees an educational morning talk about the habits and environment each of his reptiles enjoy. The kids had the opportunity to touch the reptiles and ask lots of questions about their features.

The participants had a great time viewing the animals and learned a great deal about reptiles.

Winslow Pella isn't sure she wants to touch the snake, but encouragement from Kierra Papik (middle) and snake owner Jason Buresch help her overcome her uncertainty.



The attendees were enthralled when Jason Buresh talked to them about the size of snake eggs. Pictured from the left are Kenliegh Sudrla, Harper Sudrla, Jordan Sudrla, Matthew Ogren, Reed Wince and Buresh.





# News Around the System

## Big Truck Program

*Provided by Becky Baker*



Seward Memorial Library is in full swing celebrating “All Together Now Seward.” A good way to observe this event is with a Big Trucks Program featuring many large machines that serve our city and our businesses. On June 8, large equipment arrived at the library parking lot, including vehicles from AKRS, City of Seward, Gerhold Concrete, Midwest Towing, Seward Motor Freight, and Trash Panda. To kick off the program, “A Little Blue Truck” was read to the kids and everyone participated in a sing along. Once primed, they were escorted outside to see the show and check out the big equipment from the companies and agencies around the town. The kids were able to talk to the equipment operators and learn how these machines worked. Nobody can resist getting a close up look at big trucks, particularly when you can get a chance to honk horns and climb in cabs! At the end of the day, fun was had by all - children and adults alike!





# From the NLC

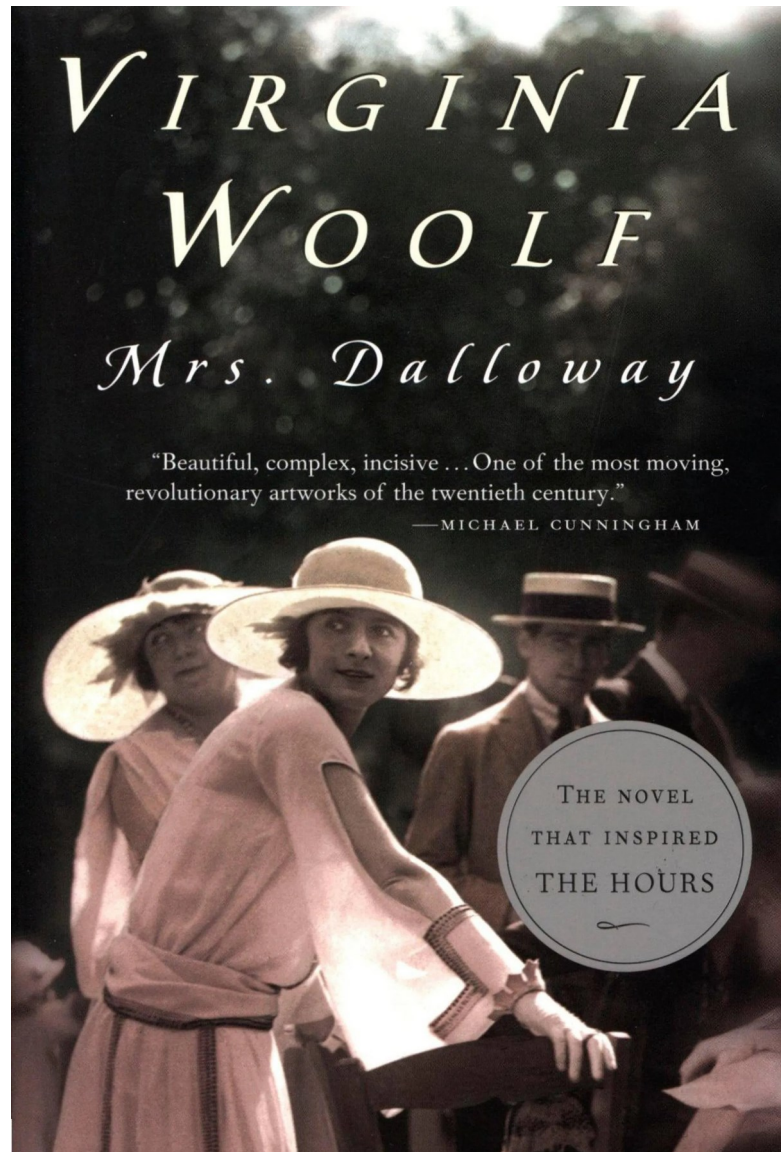
## Book Club Spotlight – *Mrs. Dalloway* by Sara Nisha Adams

By MacKenzie Marrow (edited)

It's the middle of June, the war is over, and Mrs. Cassandra Dalloway is getting ready to host a party. As she moves about London to finish her errands, we pass through the lives of others along the way. One is Septimus Smith. Suffering from "shell-shock" (PTSD) after World War 1, he struggles to get through his everyday life after seeing a man he loves die on the battlefield. As Big Ben chimes along, Mrs. Dalloway, constrained by English society and her own choices, pushes her anxieties aside as she focuses on creating a perfect party. Finally, the day comes to a head when Mrs. Dalloway and Septimus must choose if being constrained by the set social order is worth the pain it causes.

Known for being a subversive writer, Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, published in 1925, pioneered how literature can pull back the layers of everyday people to reveal their deep inner worlds. Woolf produces a respectful depiction of a man going mad from PTSD and criticizes the lack of proper care for veterans. While having no real connection to Mrs. Dalloway, Septimus serves as a counterpoint to her daily exhaustion and disillusionment to an extreme degree. And while the titular Mrs. Dalloway does not struggle in the same way, as a woman, she has had to repress many parts of herself to fit into society and is expected to play the role expected of her to the bitter end. As a result, both characters try to balance wanting to be included in society and life while needing privacy to deal with their turbulent emotions. A novel revolving around the enormity of daily life, *Mrs. Dalloway* is a beautiful classic to include in any Book Club group.

If you're interested in requesting *Mrs. Dalloway* for your book club, you can find the Book Club Kit Request form [here](#). **There are 10 copies available.** (A librarian must request items)





Swanson Center

Camp Carol Joy Holling

# 29TH ANNUAL JOINT YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT



**August 31 and September 1**

## **Some Retreat Highlights:**

- Grants for Youth Services
- The Nebraska Golden Sower Award: Information and Updates
- Fun, Easy, and Inexpensive ways to Organize a Successful Teen Night
- No Zombies Were Harmed in the Making of this Teen Event (includes Zombie make-up demo)
- Taking STEM off the Shelf: Incorporating Informal STEM Learning Experiences into Library Programming
- Creative Problem Solving with Group Brainstorming
- Author Presentation and Discussion with Bidong Tot

**[Register Here!](#)**

# System Spotlight

## Journal Article Request Service

You can request articles through us from a variety of professional magazines and journals. If you are interested in receiving articles from a journal, please see the [journal article request service](#) page on our website for a list of available journals, as well as directions on how to enroll in the service.



### 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

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