



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



In late February & early March we started talking about COVID-19. This will be the sixth month I've written something about it.

I was asked to go over masks a bit more – so here we go.

First a couple of sources from health care experts

“Masks minimize how many infectious particles are released into an area. Infectious particles can spread just by breathing and it is the most common way COVID-19 spreads from person to person. Since people infected with COVID-19 can spread this to others before they develop symptoms, everyone should wear a mask anytime they're in close contact with others...”

University of Nebraska Medical Center

<https://www.unmc.edu/news.cfm?match=25900>

“The coronavirus is primarily transmitted person to person via respiratory spray. Staying away from people (social distancing) and decreasing the germs being transmitted between people are both ways to decrease the spread of the virus. While high quality research regarding mask use is limited, all of the data supports mask wearing as a key public health measure to decrease viral spread.”

American Lung Association

<https://www.lung.org/blog/covid-masks>

Now for a fun one – are mask orders unconstitutional?

A reminder – I am not a lawyer and the statements should not be construed as legal advice for your specific situations. If you have questions – talk with actual legal counsel.

From what I've read from people who actually study and practice constitutional law, the answer would be they would probably be constitutional, but it would highly depend on what the mask order actual said and conditions at the time. There was a case in 1905 in the Supreme Court (Jacobson v. Massachusetts) that has been used as precedent in a few other cases where the government passed laws in the interest of the public health that allowed it.

The bigger questions are if they are enforceable, issued by the correct person or group, and if there are no other laws up the hierarchy that block it. (Federal overrules state, state overrules city)

I mentioned the ADA last month and I haven't seen any different guidance on those issues at this time.

Stay safe and stay informed.

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Calendar



August 13, International Left Handers Day

August 15, National Relaxation Day

August 16, National Tell a Joke Day

August 21, National Senior Citizen's Day

August 22, National Tooth Fairy Day

August 26, National Dog Day

August 27, [CASTL, Fairbury Public Library](#)

September, Library Card Sign-up Month

September 1, National No Rhyme (nor Reason) Day

September 3, [Joint Virtual Youth Services Retreat](#) (see p. 7)

September 6, National Read a Book Day

September 7, Labor Day (SELS Office Closed)

September 8, National Ampersand Day

September 9, National Teddy Bear Day

September 10, National Swap Ideas Day

September 28-October 2, [ARSL Virtual Conference](#)

Photo of the Month



The Fairbury Public Library was fully decorated for this year's summer reading program. *More on p. 4.*

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

August 27
Fairbury Public Library

September 25
Bruun Memorial Library
Humboldt

CASTL was hosted by Denise Lawver on July 24 at Wahoo Public Library. It began with a discussion of extending optical fiber to libraries and how the actual connection, but not the ongoing fees, can occur at no cost to the library. There was concern about the sustainability for individual libraries, as some have heard that they would have very high internet fees after they were connected.

Some libraries have changed hours emerging from the pandemic and may not automatically change back to the old hours. It depends on staffing, library needs, and community needs.

There was a discussion of ILS enhancements such as Content Café and whether they provide recommendations limited to a library's holdings.

Librarians talked about trends they noticed during the pandemic, including the increase of streaming. The general feeling was that streaming will eventually lead to the demise of DVD's, except in households with low incomes and without good internet access.

During the summer, one library offered an adult genre reading challenge. The challenge was to read five out of nine genres. A discussion followed on genres, genre organization, nonfiction, and the placement of books in the library so that they are most easily findable. How is an item cataloged and how is it displayed to help ensure that it checks out? One hint is to rely heavily on grab and go displays.

The librarians present had generally not restarted in person programming. There are a few book discussion groups that are meeting and some are considering outdoor storytimes for the fall.

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>
August 31—September 11	Programming and Outreach	July 27—August 21
September 21—October 2	Community & Library	August 17—September 11
October 19—October 30	Management/Supervision	September 14—October 9

News Around the System

“Imagine Your Story” at Fairbury Public Library

Photos by Linda Dux

The following photos are of the summer reading program themed decorations in the library, as well as of prize-winning youth.



News Around the System

Stories and Songs around the Campfire

By Judy Kassenbaum

Hebron Secret Library's June Storytime theme was "Stories and Songs around the Campfire". Camping themed stories were read, crafts were demonstrated, and camping songs were led by a guest musician and his guitar. This was posted on the library Facebook page.



Summer Reading and CARES Act Grant at Plymouth Library

Story and photos by Ellen Vorderstrasse

Plymouth Library's Summer Reading Program was held in June and July, and this year we had a record number of adult participants.

The library was awarded a 2020 CARES Act Grant which will enable us to subscribe to Nebraska Overdrive, as well as purchase new equipment and supplies.

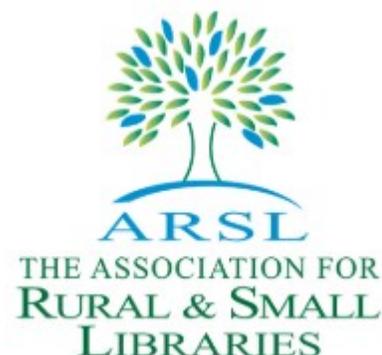
The photos show two of our regular library customers doing library crafts and receiving their completed Summer Reading certificates.



News Around the System

ARSL Virtual Conference Fast Approaching

Instead of holding an in person conference in Wichita, Kansas, the AARSL board decided to hold a virtual conference this year. The theme will be *SOAR with libraries: Sharing Our Amazing Resources*. The conference will last an entire business week, Monday to Friday (September 28 to October 2), with events taking place from 7:00 to 10:15 each day central time. The entire conference costs only \$50 for ARSL members. For more information see <https://www.arsl.org/2020-con>



Nebraska Honors NCTE Awardees with Special Awards Luncheon

Four outstanding educators and a librarian were recognized at the recent Nebraska Language Arts Council (NELAC) Awards Luncheon honoring and recognizing them for their achievements, dedication and career accomplishments. NELAC is the State English/Language Arts Teacher Association for the state of Nebraska and affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The state recognition and awards were presented to Becky Stahr - York High School-who was honored as the “NCTE/NELAC Secondary Teacher of Excellence/Nebraska English Teacher of the Year” award.

Kelcey Schmitz -Omaha Benson High/OPS-- was the recipient of the “NCTE/NELAC Leadership Development Award” presented to a new outstanding Language Arts/English teacher of one to five years’ experience.

Taylor Lenz - Central City High School and new University of Nebraska at Kearney graduate-was the recipient of the “Gerry Cox Memorial” “Nebraska Language Arts Student Teacher of the Year/Future Teacher Award.”

Bryan Moore-Director of Drama at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska-was the recipient of the NCTE/NELAC “Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Award/Academic Freedom Award.”

Todd Schlechte of Gretna, who is with the Southeast Library System, was announced as the national nominee for the “NCTE Intellectual Freedom Award/Academic Freedom Award-National Level.” He presently serves as President Elect of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska and is a past president of the Nebraska Library Association’s round table for Intellectual Freedom.

For more information on NELAC visit the NELAC Facebook page or NCTE at www.NCTE.org.



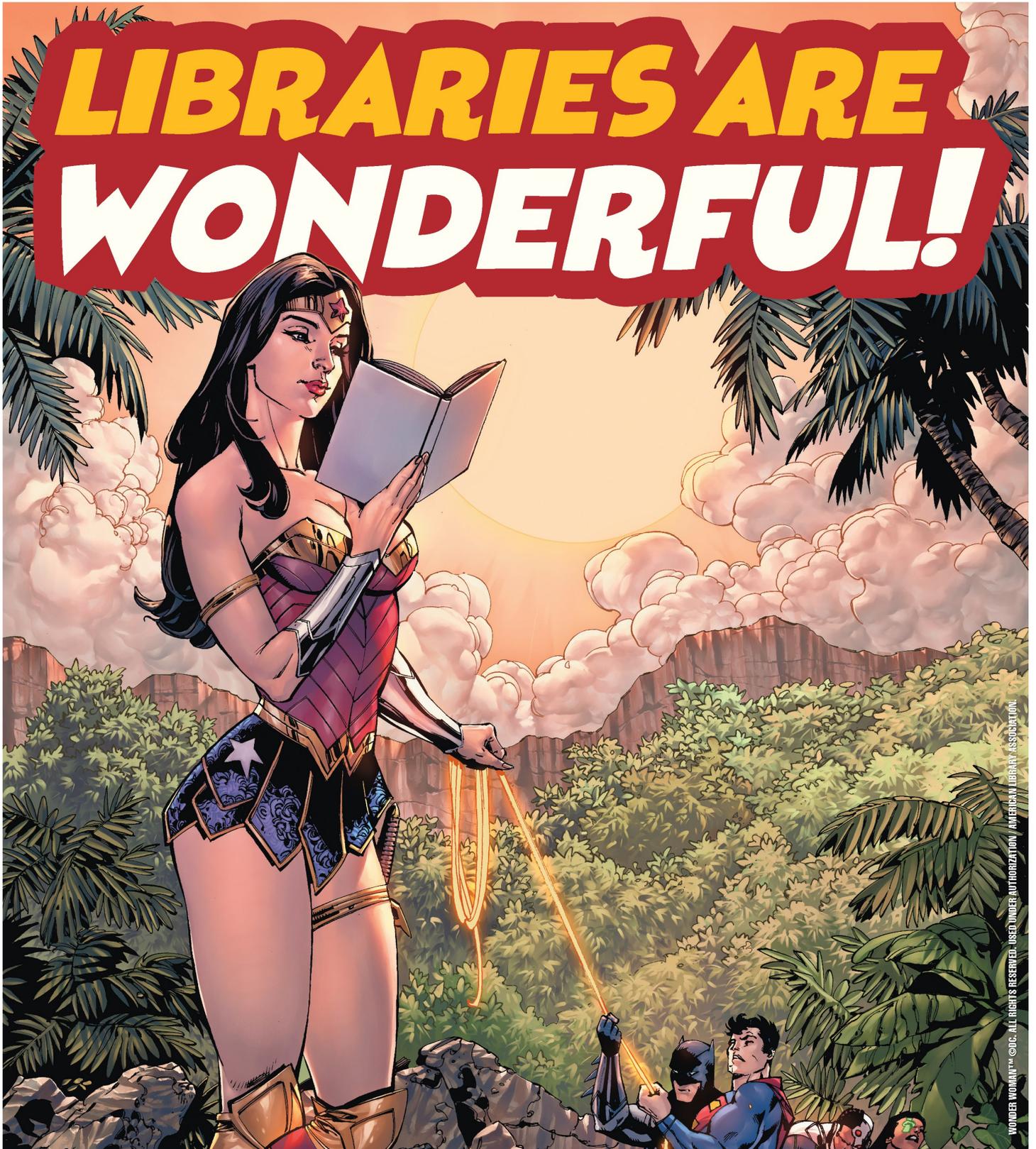
September 3 | 1-4 PM

Via Zoom

Joint *Virtual* Youth Services Retreat

Presentations to include: YA Literature and Leadership, Lightning Rounds on top teen and children's books, Diversifying Children's Books in the Middle Grades, and an Author talk with Candace Fleming. With time afterwards for networking.

Register at <https://bit.ly/yvirtual>



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LIBRARIES ARE WONDERFUL!

**CELEBRATE LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH
WITH WONDER WOMAN THIS SEPTEMBER.**

i-love-libraries.org/library-card

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System Spotlight

Sharing Craft Ideas on Pinterest



As a result of an idea from CASTL, we have created a collaborative SELS Pinterest Board that allows for the sharing of craft ideas between libraries.

In order to contribute to the board, you must be given access to it. Then you can pin or place ideas in it (usually pictures with links). This SELS board appears in your Pinterest account along with your other boards.

If you want to take part, please send Todd (at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com) the name or email address associated with the Pinterest account you use for programming or craft ideas. To see what our board looks like, go to <https://www.pinterest.com/selsne/>. We hope you decide to contribute, because while the number of pins has grown a bit, we still need more pins and a few more people!

Southeast Library System

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

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Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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