

Shout It From the Rooftops

Submitted by Mary Soucie, State Librarian

The North Dakota Legislature is once more in session. The legislators will meet for a maximum of eighty days. One positive impact of the pandemic is that all committee hearings are now live-streamed, which we encourage you to share with your patrons. It is easier for citizens from across the state to be involved in the Legislative Session than it ever has been. Citizens can submit written testimony on bills and can request to give oral testimony, as well. If you select oral testimony, you will receive a Zoom link for the meeting; you will need to have a microphone and, ideally, a camera, although the latter is not required. Directions on how to submit testimony can be found at <https://www.legis.nd.gov/news/how-written-and-oral-testimony-submission>.

The State Library's budget bill, [HB1013](#), is part of the Department of Public Instruction's budget bill. I gave testimony in support of our bill on Thursday, January 14. In addition, [SB2157](#) is related to the makeup of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and will change how some of the seats are filled. I will give testimony on that bill on Friday, January 22.

This session provides an opportunity for libraries to shout from the rooftops about all the great things happening in North Dakota libraries. I encourage you to contact your legislators, invite them to your library, let them know your thoughts on a bill. Utilize the technology available to you to tell your library story to legislators, local officials, and library patrons. As you slowly begin to re-open your doors, increase services, and plan for future programming, take a moment to craft your "elevator story" and think of ways to get the message out about how vital you are to the community that you serve.

I would love for you to share your library story with me via phone, email, or Twitter. My new Twitter handle is NDSLmarysoucie. I look forward to connecting with you soon.

James Murphy Hired as Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist

The Library Services Division of the North Dakota State Library welcomes James Murphy to the position of Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist. This newly created position gives the State Library an opportunity to realize the full potential of our vision and mission by strengthening partnerships with more library types.

James has moved from the Readers' Advisory position in Talking Books to the Library Development Department. Before coming to NDSL, James worked as a Circulation Associate at the Bismarck Veteran's Memorial Public Library.

James enjoys both the technical and personal aspects of library work in addition to computers, camping, and bicycling.

James holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from NDSU and a Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University.

THE READING NOOK

As a fan of *Back to the Future*, I was immediately intrigued by the premise of Helen Fisher's *Faye, Faraway*, set to be released at the end of this month. The novel revolves around a mother of two who lost her own mother when she was a young child and is given a second chance at getting to know her when she's transported back in time. Once she's back in the 70s, Faye becomes close friends with her mother but doesn't know if she should tell her who she really is.

I'll admit, I was initially drawn to *How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House* by Cherie Jones because of how good the title is. However, the promise of crime and economic anxiety in beautiful Barbados, dealing with obscenely wealthy ex-pats and the impoverished locals who work for them, is also too good to pass up.

Jennifer Ryan is releasing one of the first of 2021's WWII novels, this time centering around a wartime cooking show based on a real BBC radio program. *The Kitchen Front* follows four women from different walks of life competing for the prize of being the first female co-host of a program designed to help housewives manage their wartime food rationing. This book feels like a real good fit for a 2021 book club selection.

[Read More](#)

School Librarian Bi-Weekly Meetings

Submitted by Carmen Redding, Library Services Division Director

The School Librarian Bi-weekly Meetings started last week. The link to access that recording is <https://bit.ly/3sTEhN5>.

As I began to listen to the recording, I realized I made a huge mistake when referring to your school library number vs. your remote access number. The school 23105 . . . is the number you would use to make ILL requests. It is also the number that you (as the librarian) could use to access Overdrive. This number should NOT be given to students. This is why students must go through a public library or apply for a State Library card.

The remote access number is a 23125 . . . number. This is the number you share with students so they can gain access to databases when they are at home. One more important piece of information that has nothing to do with the recording but is important to realize is that the password for the remote access number should all be lowercase. I apologize for making this mistake. Please let me know if you have trouble.

Next week, January 27, we will open our Wednesday session with information on Digital Horizons and how you can collaborate with teachers in the classroom. The topic is set to run for about 30 minutes. Then the last 30 minutes will be devoted to topics of your choice.

Register today at <https://bit.ly/3c22FGe>

Mountain Standard folks, please keep in mind that I do stay online in case you want to hop on at 4:00 your time. I usually sign out if nobody has joined after 15 minutes.

Hope to see you next week.

New! Training for Public Library Board Members

The State Library is happy to announce a new 8-part training series for library trustees. These 30-minute, online sessions will cover a broad range of topics to assist board members in learning more about their role as a trustee and about libraries in general. Both new and veteran trustees are welcome to attend any of the sessions. Register [here](#) to receive the link to attend any of the sessions below:

February 9, 12:30 PM CST: General Overview
February 11, 12:30 PM CST: Governance
February 16, 12:30 PM CST: Library Ethics
February 18, 12:30 PM CST: Budget & Finance
February 23, 12:30 PM CST: Planning
February 25, 12:30 PM CST: Policies
March 2, 12:30 PM CST: Human Resources
March 4, 12:30 PM CST: Advocacy

Library Community Meetings

The State Library is hosting biweekly meetings for the library community to come together to discuss concerns, ask questions, and share best practices.

These informal meetings are on the first Tuesday and third Thursday of every month.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 21.

Register online for the Tuesday meetings [here](#).

Register for the Thursday meetings [here](#).

Libraries Transforming Communities Grant: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries

The American Library Association (ALA) invites libraries in small and rural communities to apply for grant funding to help them address issues of concern in their communities.

Libraries in small and rural communities will receive \$3,000 each to tackle issues ranging from media literacy to COVID-19 safety to unemployment.

Applications for Round 2 will be accepted through March 4, 2021.

Find out if your library is eligible and apply online at <https://bit.ly/3jFNpPr>.



**Congratulations to Griggs County Public Library in Cooperstown
on being selected in Round 1 of this grant!**

ARSL Leadership Institute

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) is now accepting applications for their pilot leadership institute, Outstanding In Their Field. They are looking for 30 outstanding people who are currently working in rural and small libraries to join this special professional development opportunity.



This Leadership Institute is for accidental library leaders: people who may not have a Masters in Library and Information Science and maybe not even a college degree. They work in a small and/or rural library who are now ready to grow as leaders. These folks came into the library from various jobs: the cashier at the local Mini-Mart with good customer service skills, the cataloger who worked at the library for 12 years and just became the new library director, or the schoolteacher who ends up running the public library.

All participant travel, materials, and instructional expenses (worth approximately \$8000) are covered by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services ([IMLS](#)). So while there are no monetary costs for participants, they will outlay their time, consistent engagement, and dedication to growing themselves and others as leaders.

The Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) seeks applicants representing a wide variety of communities and has a commitment to the representation of groups that have been historically marginalized or excluded due to ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic background, educational attainment, and age.

Participants will undertake 18 months of online and in-person interactive sessions.

[Applications](#) will be accepted through February 24th.

Free Webinars

[Hemingway Library Launch](#)

PBS Books
January 22 (11:30 AM CST)

[State Aid Application Walk-Through](#)

ND State Library
January 25 (11:00 AM CST)

[Filling Your Cup During COVID: Self-Care Practices in Librarianship](#)

NNLM
January 26 (1:00 PM CST)

[Annual Report Walk-Through](#)

ND State Library
January 27 (3:00 PM CST)

[Financial Literacy During a Pandemic](#)

Niche Academy
February 3 (1:00 PM CST)

[Envisioning Future Library Experiences: Service Design Techniques for Responsive Libraries](#)

WebJunction
February 18 (2:00 PM CST)

[Find Publications and Set Alerts within Gale OneFile: News](#)

Gale Cengage
February 18 (3:00 PM CST)

[Building the Next Normal](#)

Library Journal
February 23
(9:00 AM - 4:00 PM CST)

[Engaging Patrons Virtually](#)

BCCLS Technology Committee
February 24
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST)

[Ballot Success: A Case Study with Riverside Public Library](#)

Novelist
March 9 (1:00 PM CST)



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