



Flickertale

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New Year Intentions

Submitted by Mary Soucie, State Librarian

It is hard to believe it is almost the end of another year. It was a busy one! We started out the year with an eventful legislative session, an in-person conference held at the capitol, booths, new collections, and a round of focus groups. Not to mention the uncertainty of our federal funding. Hopefully we'll know something more concrete about that soon.

For many years, I ended my year by deciding on at least one New Year's Resolution. These varied from the number of books I'd read, to a certain amount of exercise, to mailing birthday cards to everyone I know, to being more on top of cleaning. The list of what I could improve on seemed endless. My ability to succeed at whatever goal I'd set for myself seemed limited.

A few years ago, my friend Beck shared that she chooses a word at the start of each year to focus on and that determines her actions for the year. I love this idea. It seems more manageable and most years, I am much more successful at achieving what I set out to when I select my word for the year.

My 2026 word is community. I'd like to focus on building community in my personal and professional life. For the professional side, this means getting out and visiting more libraries, connecting with the ND library community in person and virtually. I will be reaching out to colleagues across the state and nation via text, phone, and messages. I would love to visit your community and learn firsthand about your library's successes and challenges, what your team is most proud of, and how NDSL can best support you. Reach out to msoucie@nd.gov or via text to schedule a library visit. I am especially happy when I get invited to celebrate milestones at a library so keep me in mind if you are celebrating anything. If I can support you virtually or in person, let me know.



I am honored and joyful to be entering into my 12th year as the North Dakota State Librarian. I am truly grateful for this position and for my colleagues here and across the country. Please help me fulfill my goal of building community this year by reaching out via email, phone, text, or snail mail. I think snail mail is a lost art, and I plan to increase my use of it this year as I seek to extend my community.

Whether you set goals, resolutions, or choose a word, please share with me what your plans are for 2026.



Focus on Libraries: A Discussion with the North Dakota State Library

Monday, December 15

The North Dakota State Library is inviting the North Dakota library community to provide feedback on our services and programs to help us determine which are prioritized by the library community. This information will be important if we don't receive federal funding. The information will also be used even if we receive full federal funding to assure we are best meeting the information and lifelong learning needs of the library community and North Dakota citizens.

[Register](#)



Online Trivia

Tuesday, December 16 (7:00 PM - 7:45 PM)

Join State Library staff on Tuesday, December 16, to celebrate Jane Austen's birthday! Pre-existing knowledge of Jane Austen is not required for this trivia night - come to learn and have some fun!

[Register for Trivia](#)



CSLP Summer Reading Workshops

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Are you ready to dig into good reading habits? Registration for Summer Reading Workshops for Unearth a Story are live! The following libraries are hosting for 2026:

- Mayville Public Library – February 13 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.
- Heart of America Public Library (Rugby) – February 16 (9:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
- Carrington City Library – February 17 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.
- Washburn Public Library – February 27 (10:00 AM - 12:30 PM)
- McKenzie County Public Library (Watford City) – March 2 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.

Registration closes December 31 at 5:00 PM.

Unable to make it to an in-person training? NDSL will be hosting a Summer Reading webinar on February 18 from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM. Registration coming soon!

[Register Today](#)



"It Keeps Off The Cold Blasts"

Created by Frank M. Chaney, this political cartoon depicts a person bundled in a heavy, fur-lined coat labeled "Nonpartisan League." This was originally in The Nonpartisan Leader, vol. 5, no. 25, 1917-12-24, p. 8.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (Political Prairie Fire, ND State Library)



[Learn More About the Image](#)



[Divide County Elementary School](#) was awarded \$12,000 from the John and Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust to help launch a "One School, One Book" program. Each student at the school will receive books to read at home as a family.

[Divide County Library](#) was awarded \$2,000 for a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

[Enderlin Municipal Library](#) received a grant from the Enderlin Area Endowment Fund for new shelving for their Junior Fiction and North Dakota Section.

James River Valley Library System will be hosting the 2nd annual [Holiday Open House](#) on December 12 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Alfred Dickey Library.

[McVillage Community Library](#) participated in the McVillage Holiday Open House event on December 10. The library provided treats, holiday cheer, and a special guessing game.

[Minot Public Library's](#) collection was featured on the news.

Ward County Public Library is hosting [Creative Clique](#), which offers after-school activities for middle schoolers.

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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

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