



# Flickertale

Volume 116 · Issue 1 · February 5, 2026

## Libraries Invited to Receive Donated Copies of “Call Me Jerry”

“Call Me Jerry,” a new biography of Gerald W. VandeWalle, North Dakota’s longest-serving Supreme Court Chief Justice, has been commissioned by the Trustees of the John & Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust. The book was released on February 2, 2026, during an event at the North Dakota Heritage Center with VandeWalle and author Cecile Wehrman.

The Trustees of the John & Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust have graciously offered to donate free copies of *Call Me Jerry* to North Dakota libraries, including shipping. If your library would like to add this biography to the collection, please complete the quick form at <https://forms.office.com/g/wVwFQiuJL> by Friday, February 27.

### About the Book

VandeWalle’s remarkable 65-year career in state government began in 1958 as the “baby attorney” at the State Attorney General’s office and concluded in 2023 after 45 years of service on the Supreme Court bench, more than half of that time as Chief Justice.

During his tenure, the court oversaw a complete restructuring of the state’s judicial system; impacted the direction of school funding toward a more equitable distribution of funds; established a family law mediation process for better outcomes in custody cases; and issued groundbreaking opinions on topics still reverberating today – among them rulings on same sex custody arrangements and the taxation of out-of-state companies.

The boy from Noonan, ND, never forgot the lessons he learned growing up on a dairy farm, nor the people who helped shape his values. The book details the remarkable family into which he was born, including a World War I hero for a father and a mom who was a debate champion. It follows him through his discovery of the law as a vocation while attending the University of North Dakota, formative professional experiences through 20 years in the attorney general’s office, and to his initially bumpy rise to the Supreme Court in 1978.

[Request A Copy](#)

NDLA News

It's time to share your #NDLibraryJoy!

CELEBRATING NORTH DAKOTA LIBRARY JOY WEEK FEBRUARY 1-7, 2026

Click here to submit your Library Joy!

Don't forget to submit your photos and testimonials [here](#) to be included in a forthcoming Library Joy Week special feature.

GET READY TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
NORTH DAKOTA LIBRARY JOY WEEK  
FEBRUARY 1-7, 2026

WHAT IS YOUR STORY OF LIBRARY JOY?  
CELEBRATE YOUR LIBRARY JOY!

We also want to thank the North Dakota State Library for being wonderful partners on this project and the **NDLA Advocacy Committee** for all of their help with conception and planning!

Thank you all SO MUCH for participating in our very first North Dakota Library Joy Week! Share your #NDLibraryJoy by submitting your photos and testimonials for inclusion in the forthcoming Library Joy Week special feature.

[Submit Photos and Testimonials](#)

# Navigating Counting Opinions

Submitted by Monica Struck

Counting Opinions is the company the State Library contracts with to administer the Public Libraries Survey. Whether you are a PLS veteran or newbie, it is beneficial to familiarize yourself with the platform. Don't worry. Your account permissions only allow you to fill out the survey. You can't break anything.

## Step 1: Log in.

Your username and password were assigned when your account was set up. If you have lost your log in information, please contact [ndsl-id@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-id@nd.gov) to obtain your credentials.

## Step 2: Enter the survey.

The landing page for Counting Opinions is easy. Just click Enter to join the party.

Enter

## Step 3: Input your data.

Some fields are greyed out. These are prefilled by the State Library. If that information is not correct, please notify Monica Struck at [ndsl-id@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-id@nd.gov) so that the data can be corrected.

1.3 Physical street address	103 N 6TH STREET
1.4 Mailing address (PO Box)	103 6TH ST N

The questions largely fall into two categories: Y/N/M and Short Answer. The short answer fields are usually numbers (How many hours are you open on a normal Tuesday? What is the annual salary of the director?) but sometimes ask you to make a list (List social media platforms you use). There are a few questions that ask you to choose an option from a dropdown menu. Please fill in an answer for every question. Sometimes the answer is 0. Please answer 0. Sometimes the answer is "I don't know." Believe it or not, the appropriate response to that is -1. I'm not sure why. I don't make the rules. I just follow them. Be sure to save your work!

## Step 4: Verify your data.

Click Verify at the top right of the survey screen. This will trigger Counting Opinions to look for errors in your data.



## Step 5: Address your edit checks.

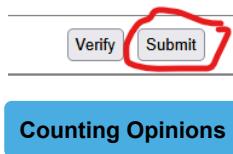
Counting Opinions will flag answers that don't seem quite right. Things will be flagged if they are extremely different or exactly the same as the previous year. It will also flag if proportions are wrong (You report higher expenditures than income. You report attendees for a type of program but no programs in that category). Sometimes it can be confusing as to why something is being flagged. If you have questions about your edit checks, please contact Monica at [ndsl-id@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-id@nd.gov). Edit checks are addressed by adding notes. To add a note, click on the notepad to the immediate left of the answer field.



Enter your note and click Add. This saves your note and unflags the edit check.

## Step 6: Submit your data.

You've finally arrived at the end. Do not skip this vitally important step. If your data is not submitted, you haven't actually completed the survey. When you submit your survey, you get an email from Counting Opinions. If you aren't sure if you've submitted your survey, please contact [ndsl-id@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-id@nd.gov).



## Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

As the cold weather barrels down on us, let us take advantage of being stuck indoors to engage our minds and skills with some professional development courses. Staff from the North Dakota State Library are hosting several webinars and get together sessions this month:

### [WordPress Q&A](#)

**February 10 (1:00 PM -2:00 PM)**

### [Unearth a Story Virtual Summer Reading Training](#)

**February 18 (10:00 AM – 10:45 AM)**

### [Media Literacy in the Age of Misinformation](#)

**February 24 (3:15 PM – 4:15 PM)**

### [Public Library Director Hangout/Public Libraries Survey Drop In Q&A](#)

**February 25 (2:00 PM – 2:45 PM)**

[\*\*Other Webinar Opportunities\*\*](#)

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## Copyright Basics for Academics

**Submitted by Bethany Rants**

If you're writing papers, creating presentations, posting online, or using images and videos for class, you're dealing with copyright whether you realize it or not. Here's what you need to know.

### **What Is Copyright?**

Copyright is a law that gives creators control over how their work is used. This includes books, articles, music, images, videos, and even memes. Just because something is online or easy to copy doesn't mean it's free to use.

[\*\*Continue Reading\*\*](#)



## NEW Future Ready Librarians Framework!

The future of learning is already here—and librarians are at the heart of it. The newly updated Future Ready Librarians Framework 3.0 reflects this by redefining the essential role librarians play in preparing students for a complex, rapidly changing world.

Since 2016, Future Ready Librarians has advanced equitable learning by empowering librarians as innovative educators. They promote diverse literacies, use digital tools, and collaborate with school leaders to build inclusive environments. Guided by the Future Ready Librarians Framework, library programs align with school goals and prepare learners for the future.



[\*\*Continue Reading\*\*](#)

## Blind Date With A Book Program

Are you willing to take a chance on a new book? Be adventurous and read a book that you may not have checked out otherwise. Who knows, maybe you'll find your new favorite book or author!

The books are all wrapped and include the first line of the book, whether it is fiction or nonfiction, and the format (large print or regular print)

Are you willing to take a chance?  
Blind Date with a Book

[Request A Blind Date](#)

## New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

### North Dakota Memories

- Floyd Lofthus, Wounded in France, Tells of Battle [newspaper article, 1918]
- Military portrait of Floyd Lofthus, WWI



### North Dakota School for the Blind

- N.D. School for the Blind newspaper clippings, 1889-1909

### North Dakota School for the Deaf

- NDSD Homecoming flyer, October 1957

### Political Prairie Fire

- Drill Hole in Office Vault [newspaper article, 1922]
- Labor Bureau Names Brown as Its Secretary [newspaper article, 1919]
- Let Sleeping Dogs Lie [political cartoon, 1917]
- Name Kositzky Commissioner [newspaper article, 1922]
- Prater is Land Commissioner [newspaper article, 1917]
- Prater Ousted; Refuses to Give Up His Office [newspaper article, 1922]
- Robinson Sees Carl Kositzky in a New Light [newspaper article, 1919]
- State Council of Defense is Costly Luxury [newspaper article, 1918]
- Townley is Arrested for Conspiracy [newspaper article, 1918]
- Townley Takes Typewriter to His Jail Cell [newspaper article, 1921]

[Digital Horizons](#)

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian  
ISSN: 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndslpa@nd.gov](mailto:ndslpa@nd.gov).

Times referenced are Central Time.



Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

