

## Book Lottery (Spring 2026)

Submitted by Stacey Goldade

We have nonfiction and fiction books from our lending machines that are up for grabs to libraries in North Dakota. We cannot give state property to individual citizens. We have a mix of reading levels. Depending on the response to this survey, we may not be able to send you as many boxes as you request. We currently have the following available for lottery.

The following adult collections are from our lending machines and are usually published within the last 6-7 years.

- Adult fiction = 40 boxes
- Adult nonfiction = 6 boxes

The following collections have publication dates that vary widely.

- YA Fiction = 4 boxes
- J Fic / Chapter books = 20 boxes
- Juvenile nonfiction = 5 boxes
- Easy fiction / picture books = 3 boxes



If your library would like to request any of these, please fill out the survey at <https://forms.office.com/g/x785neKG5x>. This survey will close at 11:45 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026.

[Fill Out The Form](https://forms.office.com/g/x785neKG5x)



## General Grant

Small Grant: \$500 - \$1,999

Large Grant: \$2,000 - \$10,000

Apply by: March 13, 2026

Award Date: April 1, 2026

Grant Period:

• Small Grant: April 2, 2026 - June 30, 2026

• Large Grant: April 2, 2026 - October 31, 2026

Click here for more information or go to

<https://www.library.nd.gov/grants>

## Digital Delight

### Portrait of the Klotten, N.D., Boys Basketball Team, 1928

Studio portrait of the Klotten, North Dakota, boys basketball team. Two of the boys in the front have been identified as Vernon Evenson and Bennie Nelson. The others are unidentified.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota Memories Collection, ND State Library)



[View This Photo](#)

# Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries

## Virtual Conference

April 29-30, 2026

## Library Tidbits

[Divide County Library](#) received a donation of \$85,500 from George Phelps. Although there is no current pressing needs for the library, Director Traci Lund is hoping to use this donation to ensure a positive future for the library.

[Williston Community Library](#) is dedicating its history room to Adrienne Stepanek who served at Williston High School and the community library. Stepanek is a local librarian, author, and historian who mapped Riverview Cemetery and created the Garden of Angels site. There will be a ribbon cutting for "The Adrienne Stepanek Historical Archive Room of Williams County" on Friday, March 13, at 2:00 PM.

## 2025 Great Reads from Great Places Wrap-Up!

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

### A Little Information about Great Reads

Great Reads from Great Places is a program under Library of Congress' Center for the Book. Each year, two authors – one for adults and one for youth -- are picked from each state and U.S. territory. These two authors are invited to attend the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. This festival sees a multitude of visitors; the estimate for 2025 was over 200,000! Each of the states and territories have a booth at this festival where the chosen authors can share information about their areas and talk about their books. There are various speaker events throughout the day. It is a fun, but very hectic, day!

After the National Book Festival, NDSL sponsors the two North Dakota authors to visit four North Dakota libraries.

### About the Authors, Book Picks, and Visits

#### **RubyAnn Stiegelmeier**

North Dakota's youth pick: RubyAnn Stiegelmeier's *Sir Rupert and the Battle of the Squirrels*. This picture book follows a big problem that requires a unique solution! It also addresses the importance of being honest when asking for help. RubyAnn originally created this book to share with her nieces and nephews. However, after some coaxing, she opened it up to the larger world. Since then, she has done over a hundred readings in classrooms and public libraries.

RubyAnn visited the following libraries/schools:

- February 16 at Washburn Public Library during storytime
- February 17 at McClusky-Goodwin Elementary School. She conducted two readings and discussions, one with kindergarten through second graders and one with third through fifth graders
- February 19 at Underwood Public School. RubyAnn saw two groups: third through sixth graders and kindergarten through second graders
- February 27 at Central Valley Public School. This final stop on the tour was split between elementary students and middle and high school students.

#### **Barb Solberg**

North Dakota's adult pick: Barb Solberg's *What We Leave Behind*.

This historical fiction novel is based on the history of Barb's family. It follows two Norwegian immigrants coming to North Dakota in 1913, sending three of their daughters back to Norway during the Great Plains Dust Bowl, and those daughters remaining in Norway during World War II. This book was heavily researched using newspapers, birth and marriage records, and notes from one of the daughters. Barb learned so much about her family – a family of two flags – during the process of writing this book. Originally, she only planned on making enough copies to share with her relatives. However, that plan changed and now the public gets to read *What We Leave Behind*! Barb's visit to Halliday was her 73rd discussion about her book.

Barb visited the following libraries:

- February 21 at Halliday Public Library as part of their Grand Opening
- February 21 at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
- March 10 at Kidder County Library
- March 10 at Valley City Barnes County Public Library



Barb Solberg and MacAllistar Kemmer, Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library's Adult Services Program Coordinator



RubyAnn Stiegelmeier and Roberta Netzloff, McClusky-Goodrich's Elementary Librarian



RubyAnn Stiegelmeier and Angie Nagle, Underwood Public School's Librarian/English Teacher



RubyAnn Stiegelmeier and Kandi Shape, Washburn Public Library's Director



Barb Solberg and Katlyn Baker, Halliday Public Library's Director



Barb Solberg and Annie Craven, Kidder County Library Director



RubyAnn Stiegelmeier and Gary Suchar, Central Valley School's High School English/Librarian



Barb Solberg and Sara Nordland, Valley City Barnes County Public Library's Youth Services Librarian



### These Picks be a Wee Bit Irish

Ireland is a country full of rich culture and history. This month's *Top Picks* focuses on books set in Ireland or about Irish folklore or customs. If you have a topic request for *Tammy's Top Picks*, please email me at [tlkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tlkruger@nd.gov).

*The Legend of the Irish Castle* by Gertrude Chandler Warner

**Publish Date:** 2016

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Company

**Summary:** Readers join the Aldens – Henry, Jessie, Violet, Benny, and Grandpa -- on an adventure to a former Irish castle turned hotel. Ireland is a place of myths and legends... but could any of such stories be real? Join the Aldens to find out! This tale sprinkles information about Irish food, legends, and language throughout.

*The Legend of the Irish Castle* is a part of *The Boxcar Children* series.

**Best For:** Second through Fifth Grade



Continue Reading

# In Other News

Haylee Senger's "[You Betcha, I Voted](#)" design won the North Dakota Secretary of State's "I Voted" sticker contest.

Request a [virtual visit from author Suzanne Woods Fisher](#) for your library's book club, community group, or patrons.

There's still time to apply for a [ND250 Community Initiatives Grant](#). Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to city, county, or tribal governments for projects related to the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The deadline is April 1, 2026.

## Public Library Infographics

Have you completed your Public Libraries Survey (PLS)? The State Library is happy to provide a personalized infographic for your public library.

Based on the numbers provided in the survey, these infographics can include any statistics that are useful for your library, such as number of visits to your library, registered card holders, items in the collection, programs, circulations, etc. If you would like statistics not included in the PLS, please include them in your answer to number 4 in the request form.



[Request An Infographic](#)

The screenshot shows a course advertisement for "Empowerment for Single Parents". It features a photo of a woman and two children reading together. Text includes "Self-Paced, Online Class", "+ Join this Course", and "North Dakota State Library". Statistics are listed in blue boxes: 10 Lessons, 17 Exams & Assignments, 3 Hours average time, and 0.3 CEUs.

## Empowerment for Single Parents

Submitted by **AI Peterson**

Parenthood is a winding path filled with enchanting moments, anxiety, unbridled joy, stress, and unexpected challenges. Embarking on this journey alone, as a single parent, can amplify these emotions and add unique complexities to the mix. With no partner to share the daily ups and downs, single parents often bear the brunt of societal judgment, navigate complicated conversations about the absent parent with their child, and grapple with heightened stress levels. Universal Class has created this course to serve as a beacon of light, illuminating the way forward with actionable strategies, compassionate insights, and practical solutions tailored for those navigating the world of single parenting. Celebrate the distinct joys that a single-parent family can offer, while mastering the skills to overcome the unique challenges you face. If you have patrons facing the realities of single parenthood, then this course is a great resource to recommend to them.

By taking this ten-lesson course, your patrons will equip themselves with sensitive, yet direct methods to handle intricate conversations with their child, fostering a safe and understanding environment. They will learn ways to recognize the underlying behavioral patterns of children raised in single-parent households and build a harmonious bond based on trust and mutual respect. Participants will also discover ways to strike a balance between personal aspirations, professional responsibilities, and parental duties while equipping themselves with strategies to manage financial responsibilities head-on and recognize the importance of self-care amidst the hustle of single parenthood.

Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your patrons' convenience on their time. To sign up, go to <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/>. To find this course, enter *Empowerment for Single Parents* in the search box. It can also be found in the Parenting and Family category.

[Universal Class](#)

# PLS: Common Edit Checks and How to Solve Them

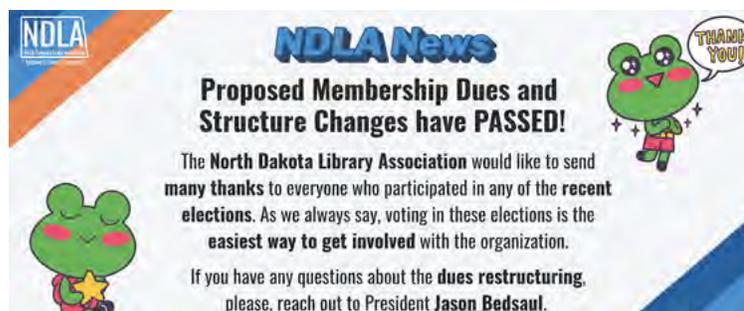
Submitted by Monica Struck

It isn't always clear what an edit check is flagging, and the programming section possibly has the most confusing edit check language. Here are some of the commonly seen edit checks in the programming section, what they mean, and how to address them.

- **CRITICAL EDIT – TOTAL NUMBER OF SYNCHRONOUS PROGRAM SESSIONS** is reported and does not equal the sum of the format category detail items, all of which are reported. Please check the values for errors.
  - This means that your total programs by age does not equal your total programs by location. This is a critical edit check. While you are able to bypass this with a note, I am not. The quickest way to resolve this is to find where the missing/extra programs are and where they should go. Sometimes this is easy to figure out...sometimes it is not. Please reach out to Monica Struck, and we can puzzle it out together.
- **CRITICAL EDIT – TOTAL ATTENDANCE AT SYNCHRONOUS PROGRAMS** is reported and does not equal the sum of the age category detail items, all of which are reported. Please check the values for errors.
  - This means that your total attendance of programs by age does not equal the attendance of programs by location. This is a critical edit check. While you are able to bypass this with a note, I am not. The quickest way to resolve this is to find where the missing/extra attendees are and where they should go. Sometimes this is easy to figure out...sometimes it is not. Please reach out to Monica Struck, and we can puzzle it out together.
- **NONCRITICAL – NUMBER OF SYNCHRONOUS PROGRAM SESSIONS TARGETED AT \_\_\_\_\_** is equal to zero and **ATTENDANCE AT SYNCHRONOUS PROGRAM SESSIONS TARGETED AT \_\_\_\_\_** is not equal to zero. Please check the values for possible errors.
  - This means that you are reporting attendance at programs that do not exist. This can be resolved by a note, but it won't stop me from contacting you later to find out what is going on. This most likely happened because various age groups were counted and reported separately instead of all together for a particular program. It is important to remember that all attendees of a program should be reported together regardless of age.
- **NONCRITICAL – Current year TOTAL NUMBER OF SYNCHRONOUS PROGRAM SESSIONS TARGETED AT \_\_\_\_\_** is the same as the prior year value. Please check the current year value for possible error.
  - This means that Counting Opinions noticed that you have reported the same number of programs as the previous year. This check is in place to make sure that you didn't put in the wrong number by mistake. Don't worry. A simple note that states you run the same number of programs every year will clear this check.

These are by no means the only edit checks you will encounter on this PLS adventure. If the problems they are flagging are as clear as mud, please reach out to Monica at [ndsl-ld@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-ld@nd.gov) or 701.328.4680. We can decode them together.

[More Information About the Public Libraries Survey](#)



## Proposed Membership Dues And Structure Changes Have PASSED!

The North Dakota Library Association would like to send many thanks to everyone who participated in any of the recent elections. As we always say, voting in these elections is the easiest way to get involved with the organization.

If you have any questions about the dues restructuring, please reach out to NDLA President Jason Bedsaul at [president@ndla.info](mailto:president@ndla.info).

[Learn More About NDLA](#)

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Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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

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

Times referenced are Central Time.

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