



Today in EYE-OPENER September 26, 2016

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1) Going Solar at Mason City PL: When the sun is shining on Mason City Public Library, it will pay warm dividends! This summer, Moxie Solar Company out of West Liberty installed a new solar energy plant on some of the flat roofs of Mason City's library building. The solar plant produces about 33% of the total power used by the library each month.

This project represents a partnership with Sun Powered Solutions, Inc; the company funded the solar panels and entered into a power purchase agreement with Mason City Library Board.

The power purchase agreement works like this: Sun Powered Solutions paid to build the solar plant. The library will purchase all of the power generated by the plant from Sun Powered Solutions. After fifteen years, the library will pay a small lump sum payment to Sun Powered Solutions and will then own the power plant. From that point on, any power generated by the solar plant is free to the library. The solar plant is guaranteed for 25 years and is expected to last for 45 years. When the library takes ownership of the solar energy plant, the savings will be \$10,000.00 or more annually for the library.

Thanks to Mason City PL Director Mary Markwalter and North Central District's Trisha Hicks for sending news about this impressive public-private partnership!



2) Register for “The Digital Shift Conference” October 19: The **Digital Shift Conference**, sponsored by **Library Journal**, is coming up on **October 19**. This year marks the 8th annual event whose purpose is *“to focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital revolution’s impact on libraries and their communities...”* If you’ve already attended your District’s Town Meeting, you heard mention of this conference as a leading resource for libraries to learn more about technology trends.

Here’s more from the conference website <http://www.thedigitalshift.com> *“...As technology evolves, so do the needs of communities. The “digital shift” continues to press libraries forward as it compels them to create and improve library service through the smart and coherent application of technology to its mission...”*

Four main topic tracks are planned for this year:

- **Libraries in the Life Cycle**
- **Hyper-local to Global**
- **Fast Learning Presentations**
- **Poster Sessions: Best Practices From the Field**

This event is free, but you must register in order to receive information about logging in. Also because: everyone who pre-registers will be able to access the conference recordings for 3 months after the event, which is a nice option in case you can’t attend the entire day.

So consider **The Digital Shift Conference** <http://www.thedigitalshift.com> for a thought-provoking look at technology in libraries. Also a great option in case you can’t get away to either ILA or ARSL conferences in the flesh. More incentives, anyone?

- ✓ **All Day**
- ✓ **Online**
- ✓ **Totally Free**
- ✓ **C.E. Credit Worthy**



3) Scholarships to ILA Conference: If you've not yet decided about attending the **ILA conference** next month, this news might tip your decision. The ILA Foundation is offering six scholarships—in the amount of \$250.00 each—toward conference attendance. Four are thanks to the Susan Lerdal Scholarship Fund and two are courtesy of the Biblionix Corporation.

Applicants must be paid members of the Iowa Library Association and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- 1) Be a first-time attendee
- 2) Have worked in an Iowa library for fewer than three years
- 3) Be a library science student

In addition, those applying for a Biblionix Scholarship must work at a small public library. Previous grant recipients are not eligible. Note the deadline has been extended to October 1. Application forms are available here

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/index.php/foundation>

To apply, complete the form and send it by mail, email or fax to:

Ken Jones, ILAF Scholarship Chair

Jones Library Sales

P.O. Box 536

Carlisle, Iowa 50047

Fax: 515-989-4230 / Email joneslib@msn.com

The **2016 ILA conference** is **October 12-14** at the **Grand Harbor Resort** in **Dubuque**; this year's theme is "**Lighting Up the Future.**" Try your luck with a scholarship to offset travel costs and join hundreds of other Iowa conference-goers headed to Dubuque!

4) National Friend of Libraries Week in October: All libraries with Friends Groups have a wonderful promotional opportunity by celebrating **National Friends of Libraries Week October 16-22, 2016**. This year marks the 11th annual **Friends of Libraries Week** recognition with a two-part purpose: (a) thanking local Friends groups throughout the community and (b) raising awareness of the many Friends Group contributions and recruiting memberships.



National Friends of Libraries Week is sponsored by **United For Libraries**, a division of the American Library Association supporting all those who govern, advocate, and fundraise for our nation's libraries. **United for Libraries** brings together public library trustees, Friends members, and Foundation members into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. For more information or to join **United for Libraries**, visit this website <http://www.ala.org/united/>

You can find a variety of online resources to help with your local promotion, including publicity materials, camera-ready bookmarks, and public service promos starring comedian Paula Poundstone, who is the national spokesperson for United For Libraries. And in conjunction with **National Friends of Libraries Week**, two awards of \$250 each will be given to outstanding Friends Groups activities held during the recognition week. Find application materials here www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/friends/friendsweek, entries are **due by December 2, 2016**.



5) Meetings / Events This Week: Another busy travel week: I'll join the Town Meeting crew in Atlantic on Tuesday, the Dickinson County Staff Day on Wednesday, and meet with Schaller Library's new director Kris Hansen on Friday.

Kudos to Dickinson County libraries for continuing an impressive education streak in holding an annual staff development day. Arnold's Park PL hosts this year's event on Wednesday Sept28. Would love to see more Northwest counties follow their lead and plan countywide staff training—or countywide board training!

In this last week of September, there are more national webinars to choose from. Find details and registration information at this link <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/c-/continuing-ed/other-conted>

September 28. 1:00-2:00PM. *Successful Volunteer Interview Strategies* sponsored by VolunteerMatch <http://learn.volunteermatch.org/training-topics>

September 28. 1:00-2:00PM. *Coding Clubs: Youth Programming for Public Libraries* sponsored by TechSoup <https://cc.readytalk.com/registration/#/?meeting=talr0jorrgs3&campaign=3hqxk278ef4>

September 29. 11:00AM-12:00PM. *Coaching Employees for Success* sponsored by Utah State Library <https://heritage.utah.gov/library/workshops>

September 29. 4:30-5:30PM. *Using Comics to Teach STEM* sponsored by AASL <http://www.ala.org/aasl/ecollab/upcoming>



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