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Monday Morning Eye-Opener September 10, 2018

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Good Morning! September 10, 2018

National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Each Year In September

September is the time when the American Library Association joins public libraries nationwide to highlight the value of a library card. Since 1987, **Library Card Sign-up Month** has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. Libraries work to remind parents and youth that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning.



This effort is credited to former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett who said: *"Let's have a national campaign...every child should obtain a library card and use it."* Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join the campaign to ensure every child does just that, helping parents and caregivers save hundreds of dollars on educational resources and services for students. From access to STEAM programs, e-resources, educational apps, in-person and virtual homework help, a library card provides all that. Proving again that a library card is critical to learning, not to mention a very cost-effective back-to-school item!

This year, Disney Pixar's superhero family--the Incredibles--figures prominently in all promotions. Find great promo items, including a printable graphic asking patrons

of all ages to answer **“My Library is Incredible Because...”** Find that, along with this year’s posters, bookmarks, stickers, and toolkit with a button click below!

Library Card Sign-Up Month

Libraries & Voter Registration Day



September 25th

Public libraries are information portals and recognized as partners in building digital, financial, and consumer literacy throughout their communities. Public libraries can also be partners in strengthening voter literacy and there’s no better time to demonstrate that than **National Voter Registration Day** on **September 25**.

First observed in 2012, **National Voter Registration Day** is endorsed by the National Associations of Secretaries of State (NASS) the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) and the American Library Association. ALA believes that public libraries are an important community location for voters to access needed information ahead of the vote. From **American Libraries Magazine** “... *whether your library has a longstanding voter engagement effort underway or you’re just getting started, here are some tips for getting the most out of your voter outreach campaign this year...*”

- Inform people who have recently moved: Many people don’t realize they need to update their voter registration if they move to a new state, a new city, or even an address in the same city. Post signs pointing people who have recently moved to your voter registration information resources.
- Cover the basics: Voters, especially newly registered ones, need basic information in order to successfully cast a vote. Provide succinct details at your library specifying when Election Day will take place, how to locate polling places, who will be on the ballot, and any other details (such as an identification requirement to vote or whether early voting is an option in your state). Again, election officials or local League of Women Voters can be an excellent source of information. Check out the league’s site www.VOTE411.org, for easy-to-find information about voting in all 50 states.

Read the full article about libraries and **Voter Registration Day** below

American Libraries Article

State Library Learning Circuit

Week of October 15

The State Library is pleased to announce our fall workshops under a new name—**The Learning Circuit**.

Formerly known as Town Meetings, this fall we have a reboot—a new name and a new format presented in five locations across the state during the week of October 15. This fall, our topic of conversation surrounds **The Edge**. Open for registration in the C.E. Catalog, look there to find the date / location nearest you.



The Edge Toolkit provides Iowa libraries with an impressive technology assessment tool, along with a “plan of action” that can be readily included into local planning documents. Bonus: **The Edge** is entirely free to Iowa libraries, paid for by the State Library.

Iowa library staff and boards are engaged in long-range planning, keeping pace with changing technology, advocating for sustainable funding. And always looking for new ways to demonstrate the public library’s impact. Using The Edge Toolkit actually helps connect all of these dots!

In this hands-on workshop, Edge trainers will lead attendees through the Edge process, highlighting the assessment and proving the value of the assessment results. Learn to connect The Edge with your local planning efforts, with your local advocacy efforts, and with your budget presentations to funders. You will leave with a good understanding of how to use The EDGE to talk to community leaders, with an action plan going forward.

Register now for the 2018 State Library Learning Circuit. Take the pledge, join the edge!

[C.E. Catalog](#)



Looking Ahead ...

Edge Assessment Work Sessions are taking place in many locations across the state in September. Offered ahead of the State Library Learning Circuits in October, these work sessions are a chance to complete the **Edge Assessment** together as a group, with laptops and assistance on-site. Register for the one nearest you in the C.E. Catalog.

And this news from Alysia Peich: the State Library has developed a **Continuing Education Survey** as part of our FY18-FY22 Strategic Plan. This is a needs assessment, intended to give us a comprehensive look at the training needs of all Iowa librarians. It will also help inform our annual education

planning. Regardless of what job you do at your library, we want to hear which topics you need to learn more about.

Many topic areas are addressed; we ask that you rate your knowledge on each topic as "**Low-Medium-High.**" For topics not related to the work you do, there's the additional answer option "**Not applicable to my position.**"

This survey should take about 15 minutes to complete, note it closes at 4:30PM on September 24. [Click here to open](#)—thanks so much for your time and your feedback!

Education Needs Assessment

Monday Morning Eye-Opener

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