



DISTRICT NEWS

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



Southeast District - May 2022

Around the District

New Directors

The last couple of years have been tough on library directors and library staff! Added to pandemic issues, historically, Iowa library directors in small (and medium!) towns have been terribly underpaid and undervalued. They are also rarely offered full time employment and benefits. This means statewide we sometimes have a revolving door of new directors and this holds true in the Southeast District. Part of my job is to welcome new directors to the state and provide my expertise in walking new staff through State Library programs and services. One way I do that is by meeting with a new director within their first few months on the job. I love being on the road again and meeting everyone, but the number of new directors has been huge lately! In just the Southeast District, which encompasses 92 libraries, I met with 13 new directors in 2020, 20 in 2021 and so far this year, we are at 9 new directors. This means we will likely have turned over on half of the library directors in less than three years!

All this is to say, please welcome new directors in your area! Make sure they know the county organizations they can be part of, provide support for them as they learn their way through a new job and make sure they know I am here for answers!

Welcome to all the recent new directors in Southeast-we are glad you're here!



Friday Open Forum

It is that time again! We have a steady group of about 8-10 librarians who attend our open forums, but we have plenty of room for more people. These are very informal conversations where you can just talk to other library directors. We can problem solve together or just listen!

Upcoming forum dates and times:

Friday, May 20 10:00-11:00

Friday, June 17 10:00-11:00

Friday, July 15 10:00-11:00

Becky's Zoom Room

Director Roundtables

Just a reminder in case you haven't gotten around to signing up. In person Director Roundtables are back! For locations, dates and times see the [State Library Continuing Ed](#) webpage.



This year's Director Roundtables are based on ideas from the book *When to Say Yes* by Don Khouri.

Roundtables are designed in a 3-hour format, with the first portion being a guided discussion about being positioned to say "yes" to new opportunities. Of course, being able to say YES to new things is great, but doing so often demands letting go and saying NO to old practices and old habits. The last portion will be given over to open-ended discussion.

I hope to see you there!

Becky Heil District Consultant | she/her
State Library of Iowa | Southeast District
800-248-4483, press 3 for consulting/support
Direct: 515-725-3368 | Becky.Heil@iowa.gov
[Chat \(during business hours\)](#)
www.StateLibraryofIowa.org