

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener March 17, 2025

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

March 17, 2025  
Happy St. Patrick's Day

### Next New Director Meet-Up

**April 15th Via ZOOM**

The first **New Director Meet-Up** in January went so well that we're doing it again because 21 people joined us for that very first gathering! The next opportunity is coming up on **April 15th online at 1:00PM.**



At the State Library, the District Consultants and the Library Resource Techs (LRTs) for each District are often the first point of contact for newly hired library directors. District Consultants make initial visits to all libraries that welcome new directors, providing a State Library orientation; LRTs are in touch to assist with questions surrounding SILO, websites, Bridges, and much more.

So our rationale behind **New Director Meet-Ups** is this: District Consultants team up to build on our initial orientation visits by inviting all new directors to join us in ZOOM. This is a great chance to extend our early conversations with new people by meeting online with time to talk about library management issues in more detail.

This is very informal; we'll have some questions teed up, but this is really your chance for Q&A with us and with each other. Plus, we also see this as a great way to introduce you new directors to each other, inside and outside of your own District. It's called networking, ya'all 😊

We're planning for 3 times a year--winter, spring, and fall. And what do we consider "new?" We're thinking people who have been on the job for about 1 year, although that question is really best answered by you. If you've been working abit longer than that, but would like to feel more connection with colleagues, then come on in, the more the merrier!

So we urge you to **Save the Date** and join us on **April 15<sup>th</sup>** for **New Director Meet-Ups!** No registration necessary, ZOOM link at the button below.

[Maryann's ZOOM Room](#)

## National Library Week Just Ahead



**April 6-12, 2025**

Last week marked daylight savings time, can **National Library Week** be far behind? True, it's nearly here, with this year's celebration scheduled for **April 6-12**.

Recognized nationwide, **NLW** is a wonderful time to showcase the valuable services that libraries contribute in communities across the country.

The first **National Library Week** was observed in 1958 with the theme **"Wake Up and Read!"** The 2025

celebration marks the 67th **NLW** anniversary using the theme **"Drawn to the Library."**

From the project website *"Millions of people across the country visit their libraries every week. **What's the draw? Everything!!** From young families stopping in for play and storytimes, to students sketching out their next creative project in a makerspace, to seniors seeking tech help and everyone in between, libraries of all kinds help us connect the dots from one part of our journey to the next.*

*Chart your next literary adventure by browsing the stacks or joining a book club. Let an author color your imagination at an author talk, outline your big business idea at an entrepreneur workshop, or trace your history with your library's genealogy resources. Make your mark and get involved with your library by volunteering or spreading the word!"*

### Honorary Chairs

Author and illustrator Raina Telgemeier and cartoonist and comic theorist Scott McCloud are this year's NLW Honorary Chairs. They have partnered to create a one-of-a-kind graphic novel titled [The Cartoonists Club](#), coming from Scholastic's Graphix imprint on April 1, 2025. Their book tells the story of new school friends who come together to form *The Cartoonists Club*. Their beloved school librarian helps them discover the magic of comics, imagination, and their own storytelling powers. The result is a book where friendship is a work of art.

Why not ask your patrons what draws them into the library? In fact, there are notecards available at the button below asking that very question! You can customize them in a variety of ways, then share your patrons' answers on your social media, on bulletin boards, in creative displays.

Whatever draws people in, the library has something for everyone!

**Celebrate National Library Week April 6-12** 😊

[National Library Week Promo Ideas](#)

## ILOC 2025 Recordings Available



## What Did You Miss? What To Watch Again?

In January, the State Library sponsored our annual **Innovative Libraries Online Conference—ILOC** for short. We now have all the recordings from the conference available to re-watch or to watch for the first

time. With all thanks to Samantha Bowers and State Library Resource Technicians, who processed all the recordings and posted them for viewing. Let's just say ... it was a lot!

The full complement of ILOC sessions is now available to view via **WorkDay Learning** or find the entire playlist on the **State Library's Continuing Education YouTube Channel**. Sides and handouts are also available in Workday Learning.

With statewide attendance of 850, **ILOC** is a big-deal education event for our staff to plan and produce. So it's fitting to allow some space here to share some testimonials from attendees who enjoyed the day 😊

- *It was very well planned, the speakers were great, and it was really a great day! Thank you to everyone involved. I also appreciated the breaks in between sessions*
- *We were able to close our library and attend several sessions as a group! It was a very valuable experience for all of us.*
- *These are always great sessions, and being able to go back and watch ones we missed via recording is much appreciated*
- *Great conference all around! Thank you to all of you at the State Library for your hard work and effort. It really does make a difference for us librarians and the service we provide to our patrons.*

We hope you enjoyed **ILOC**, too! Thanks to the **ILOC** Team, all State Library staff, all conference speakers—and all of you—for contributing to another successful **Innovative Libraries Online Conference!**

[ILOC Recordings on YouTube Channel](#)

## Looking Ahead To Next Week



### STEM Fairs & Summer Reading Summits

Our **2025 STEM Fairs** and **Summer Reading Summits** are on hiatus this week, but they continue next week and the week after. Here are the dates and locations remaining in case you haven't yet registered for these events nearest you 😊

### REMAINING Dates & Locations

District	Location	STEM Fair Date	SR Summit Date
Northeast	Oelwein Public Library	Monday, Mar. 24	Tuesday, Mar. 25
North Central	Algona Public Library	Thursday, Mar. 27	Friday, Mar. 28
Northwest	Rockwell City Public Library	Monday, Mar. 31	Tuesday, Apr. 1

You'll need to register for each workshop separately; the link below takes you to our webpage for more details on each event and direct registration links to each one.

**Info: STEM Fairs & Summer Reading Summits**



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