

Director's Report

July 2024

My Activities

I continue to assist the Hutchinson Memorial Library in Randolph with their director search. Lack of applicants with the budgetary experience that they seek has been problematic. We have committed staff resources to assisting them with additional training if they must select a candidate with less budgetary experience than desired.

Tracie Miller and I continue to work with the Village of Wyocena to find a solution to their staffing and budgetary difficulties. In June, the library board voted to close the library; however, as the municipal governing body, only the Village has the authority to do so. Because the library participates in our Tech/ILS services, they must inform SCLS in writing that they are withdrawing from those services no later than August 15, if they wish not to be billed for 2025. They are hesitant to remove valuable library services to their residents and are considering alternatives to closure.

I continue to do site visits with member libraries. Because our member library directors know me from outside my role as system director, I feel that this rapport allows them to be candid and upfront with me regarding any concerns or issues they might have. I value this trust and am compiling information shared at these check-ins anonymously for use as an additional dataset during our strategic planning process.

Corey Bauman and I have begun discussions with UW about the Delivery Service Agreement that expires at the end of 2024. UW continues to close or reduce services to 2-year campuses, which may have an effect on the bottom line of the contract.

Facility

We continue working with Fearings to get the A/V equipment in our meeting rooms to perform to our expectations. We are also replacing and adding signage to match the existing ones.

Our Member Libraries – What They Are Excited About

Fitchburg Public Library

Fitchburg absorbed part of the Town of Madison and now serves an area that is underserved by library services. To address this Fitchburg Public Library's Outreach Librarian, Minda, has been giving free books to the children in that area and taught them how to tell time so they'll know when she's going to be returning. Some of the children asked if they could have more than one book and started bargaining with Minda by asking if they bring back the books she gave them if they could have more. They have taught themselves how a library works! Kevin built a larger "Little Free Library" out of some discarded lockers for that area and the library keeps the LFL stocked with books.

La Valle Public Library

Last fall, the library director learned that the library would not get any additional funding. She and her staff started an Amazon Wish list and have had over 110 books purchased from the list for the library. Donations have come from people who consider La Valle their home town and now live in California or other locations. She's been pleasantly surprised at the response to this. Her Friends of the Library volunteers keep adding to the list. They've also received a grant from the Pilcrow Foundation (<https://thepilcrowfoundation.org/>) to supplement their children's collection.

Pittsville Community Library

Pittsville Community Library continues to work hard on community engagement. This past year, the library director applied for and received a grant to pay for transportation costs of bussing second and third graders to the library weekly in the afternoon. The program has been an amazing success and not only significantly boosted circulation statistics, but also benefitted the library's relationship to the school and community. Tammy, the director, has a great working relationship with the school district administrator and would like this to continue. The library is considering adding the bussing cost of approximately \$1,200 per year to the regular budget to ensure sustainability.

Portage County Public Library

POCO library has added a seed library to its collection. This is a cooperative project with the City of Stevens Point, a native plant growing group, and a local gardeners group. All branches of the Portage County Library are participating, and now the Lettie W. Jensen Library in Amherst has joined the project as well. So far this year, 73 packages of seeds have been taken.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon M. Schultz