

Director's Report

October 2024

My Activities

We contracted with J.F. Ahern for fire safety training, which was held on October 14, 2024. The training included classroom discussion, followed by hands-on training with a fire extinguisher. Forty of our staff participated in this training.

SCLS Foundation's Cornerstone Event

The October 3 Cornerstone Event was a smashing success! Over 60 people attended the event and more than \$500 in additional funds were generated from the raffle drawings. The Cornerstone Award is given annually to an individual or individuals who have had a significant and long-term impact on enhancing public libraries in South Central Wisconsin and represent the values and mission of the South Central Library System Foundation. This year, the SCLS Foundation re-instituted awards to local library superheroes as well.

This year's Cornerstone honorees:

- Cornerstone Award - Jaime Healy-Plotkin
- Undercover Superhero - Emily Skelton, Lodi
- Go-To Superhero - Sue Mathwich, Columbus
- Community Superhero - Katy Hanousek, Poynette
- Volunteer Superhero - The Summer Lunch Group, Rio

The Summer Lunch Group consists of the Rio PTO; Rio Area Library Friends; Gaskets, Inc.; Hometown Pharmacy; Redeemer and Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Churches; Living Gospel; and Bedrock Church; all of Rio, who banded together to offer free lunches all summer long at the library.

Our Member Libraries – What They Are Excited About

Governor Evers Announces \$115M in Grants for New Construction and Renovations of Public Libraries and Community Centers

Among the libraries receiving awards are Madison (for the proposed Reindahl Park location) and New Glarus. Each community has been awarded \$4.25M for their projects. For more information, see the announcement at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3ba7e99>.

Lester Public Library of Rome

Due to the success of a previous program that was held in the woods, the library is creating a little secret garden in the woods for patrons to visit and read in. The library is also getting their own bookmobile so that they can deliver materials to patrons and use at community events.

Rock Springs Public Library

The staff at Rock Springs are working hard at raising awareness of the library in the community. The director is focusing on the community's youth in particular. She would like to improve directional signage in the community so that those unfamiliar with the library will know how to find them.

The director also expressed gratitude to SCLS staff. She called out Nick and Anna at the help desk and Craig and Emily in IT, along with consultants Jean Anderson and Tracie Miller, for being very helpful with her questions. She also acknowledged Heidi Moe and Heidi Oliveresen for the work they do.

Brodhead Public Library

The library reports the highest participation of any Summer Library Program to date. They also have some big projects coming up, including the replacement of the library's roof, installation of solar panels, their first self-checkout unit, and the RFID tagging of all their materials.

Albertson Memorial Library - Albany

The library recently started a library of things they call their "Treasure Trove," containing over 40 items. It opened June 1 with outdoor-type items like lawn games, and it's been well used. Sometimes patrons will check out a whole car-load of 9-10 items like tables and canopies. They plan to add winter items such as snowshoes to the Treasure Trove soon.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon M. Schultz