

County of Wood / LIBRARY BOARD

The Wood County Library Board meet on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the McMillan Memorial Library, 490 E. Grand Ave., Wi. Rapids

County Library Board Members:

Susan Feith (absent)
Brad Hamilton
Andrea Halbersma
Betsy Mancl
Linda Schmidt
Bill Voight
Joe Zurfluh

County Libraries and Library System:

Lester Public Library of Arpin
Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library
McMillan Memorial Library, Wis. Rapids
Charles & JoAnn Lester Library, Nekoosa
Pittsville Community Library
Lester Public Library of Vesper
Jean Anderson, SCLS

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Brad called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. Approve minutes of the previous meeting

Joe Z. made a motion, Betsy M. seconded the motion

3. Old Business

SCLS Board Report – (Susan Feith) - not present

4. New Business

Library and SCLS reports:

Tammy - Pittsville Community Library:

4k –3rd grade groups are being hosted at the library; Hahn Transportation provides buses to bring the school groups. They have been so popular that the 4 and 5th graders are planning on visiting too. Participants will be going to Brazil for their arm chair travel program this month. Looking ahead, there will be an acoustic guitar tribute to Elvis, a porch pot workshop, and the annual Hot Chocolate Hustle Dec. 7th. The Yarnies group, the yarn crafting group that meets at the library, had 20 people today and plan to do more community projects.

Stacy – Lester Public Library of Arpin:

Fall programs included Sept. Book club, story time and card making among others. A 1000 books before Kindergarten program started, and there was interest from older kids so they are having a 1000 Book challenge for their age too. A Skunk Hills Stories program is being held at the municipal building with the Friends of Powers Bluff donating a large number of historical things. Trick or treating, and a First-Grade field trip to the library from Auburndale elementary school are also planned. They are also doing a barn board rustic porch sign craft in December.

Wendy – Lester Public Library of Vesper (as submitted):

Vesper finished up the summer reading program with 29 kids completing the program with 36,630 minutes read which equals 610 hours of reading time. 10 adults finished the program with 23,010 minutes read which equals 384 hours read. Fall activities are in full swing with an adult book club meeting once a month. We have partnered with the early education teacher at Think Academy in Rudolph for preschool story hour and have had 3 new families attend the program. We will also be hosting the kindergarten class for a fall tour and stories at the library. We received a donation to the library in memory of a family that used to live here. With the donation we will be purchasing solar lights to light the American flag in front of the library. Some disappointing news, we did not receive any funding through the Flexible Facility program grant.

Katherine – McMillan Memorial Library WI Rapids (as submitted):

Staff development day: our second staff development day of the year was on Friday, October 11th. Traveling together on a school bus, library staff were able to visit two different libraries in our area. We first went to the Lester Library of Rome where SCLS Shawn gave a thought-provoking presentation on Organization Health, Culture, and Identity. After which staff spent some time checking out all that the Rome Library has to offer. The team had lunch together at Avocados, then went to the Charles and Jo Ann Lester Library, located in Nekoosa, WI.

Social work intern: McMillan will be part of the SCLS program of connecting social work students with practicum spaces in public libraries. Camryn, our social work intern, comes from UWSP and started in September. In one afternoon appointment, she helped one of our more intense patrons set up multiple job interviews and got them on waitlists for affordable housing opportunities. Along with Eric, Camryn has met with staff at Wood County Human Services; she's also connecting with the local area school social workers.

Program highlights:

SRP: All three summer reading programs wrapped up in mid-August with record-breaking numbers! For grown-ups, we had 113 patrons participate that ended up reading over 202,000 minutes (in just two months!). The Teen's SRP saw its highest number since 2019, with the number of children participating in SRP increasing by 86% in the past two years:

2024: Number of participants at the programs - 840

Total number of registered participants in the reading program - 577

Participants aged 0-5 - 155

Participants aged 6-11 - 422

2022: Number of participants at the programs - 482

Total number of registered participants in the reading program - 306

Participants aged 0-5 - 108

Participants aged 6-11 - 198

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program is officially live and being promoted in-house/online. There are initial packets to hand out to families, along with extra bookmarks and magnets to help families keep track of their books. There will be a decoration that kiddos can add to when they complete each level; prizes are available for each milestone as well!

LENA Start is a program for capturing and recording data related to the number of words

a child is exposed to during a typical day. The participating families are given a special vest that records the number of words spoken to and by the child one day per week. This data is collected each week for ten weeks by the program facilitator. This data is then shared with the parent/guardian of the child. The LENA Start program facilitator then meets with all of the parents together in a group to discuss things they can implement at home to boost the number of verbal interactions their child has in a typical day. There is a strong link between early interactive talk and optimal early childhood development in infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. This is so important for the youngest people in our community. It gives them a head start in learning and makes sure they are equipped for school. The library is a trusted community partner who has a great interest in early learning. Childcaring, Inc. connected Nicole at Children's Wisconsin with me to get the ball rolling on this partnership. Children's Wisconsin is the organization responsible for acquiring a grant from the Legacy Foundation to fund the expansion of this program in Wisconsin Rapids.

Facility updates:

Check out the beautifully painted Lincoln and Birch Street crosswalk completed by our friends at Wood County Human Services (the same humans that painted our children's room butterfly mural). We've already received lots of compliments from our patrons. To help offset the recent spurt of bike thefts, we've swapped the location of our patron bike racks with the Wood County River Riders bike share program racks, put up signage reminding patrons to lock their bikes, and increased the number of bike locks available for check out at the service desk.

The solar panels have been donated to the library and started generating power for the library again!

Community information: The United Way has released its 2024 ALICE Report. Why is this important to us? The ALICE report is the most comprehensive depiction that we have of the financial need in Wisconsin and gives us a specific breakdown of the poverty/ALICE levels in our Wood County communities.

Jill – Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library:

SRC was average but saw much more reading than other years. Autumn has been busy, with WI Science Fest week this week with activities and a STEM program on Cranberries. Fall Fest week is next week and Clifford the Big Red Dog will be coming to the library. For our annual pumpkin decorating contest this year we have all the city departments participating and submitting their entries for our patrons to vote for their favorite. Holiday activities are already planned, including the Madrigals group from the high school, who will be coming the weekend before Thanksgiving and the local dance company will be doing a Nutcracker Story Time the weekend of Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, budget cuts are extensive this year; Sunday hours will be potentially cut along with possibly 1 full-time staff member.

Darla - Charles & JoAnn Lester Library Nekoosa:

We finalized our Teen Summer Reading program and had approximately 120 book reviews come back. Teens could win a variety of prizes: a Dinosaur Chicken Nugget pillow with McDonalds Gift Card, Plush succulent plants, and a variety of prizes that were "teen approved" by many of the teens that use the library. We have reorganized the

library a bit: our DVDs are now in cases on shelving, Patrons are enjoying the change as much as the staff. We updated our ILL pickup shelving and local history shelving. I have been reorganizing our Local history resources to make them more accessible to the public. The best part was we were only closed for 1 day, and we were able to repurpose existing shelving to meet our needs. We have added shelf markers that incorporate QR codes and smart phones to help our patrons figure our series books, and also receive additional book recommendations. Our WIFI usage is at 44,882 vs last year during the same time frame 8,164. We expanded our reach to cover the whole parking lot, and it is VERY well used in our community. Most recently, a large are of Town of Port Edwards and Town of Armenia and New Miner were without power for several hours, and we saw them at the library. We started a weekly “lunch bunch’ for special needs community members from ODC. They have been very active at our library this summer, and this was a logical progression. We resumed preschool storytimes in October, and have a consistent group attending. We have had numerous school tours; all of the 4k classes from Humke who came to the library for storytime, a library tour, and time to play. Our kid’s play area continues to be a well-loved asset in the community. I also gave tours to the entire 2nd grade, along with 4 separate presentations about the changing environment in Nekoosa, using local history resources. We welcomed the 6th graders with library tours, explanation of services, local history, and every student got a library card. They all had time to check out books, and many were surprised to discover we have snacks, drinks, video games and games/[puzzles to use in the library. Our online calendar is now working, allowing the community to book meeting rooms and see what events are happening. Kira is finalizing the details for a weekly or biweekly “tech help” hour. The library is the proud new home of the Ed “Strangler” Lewis historical marker. I am currently working on a Rural Libraries grant from ALA and looking forward to WLA. Megan and I are cleaning out our storage room, and planning for Christmas craft evenings. We will again be hosting Storytime and Cookie Decorating on December 7th as part of HomeTown Christmas. Additionally, we will also be sponsoring books and I will be handing those out one evening at Riverside Park.

Jean Anderson - SCLS report:

Grants: The 2024-25 LSTA Grant Cycle has started for the Continuing Education grants. Contact Jean Anderson with questions.

Projects: Social Work Internship Cohort- The Cohort works to match member libraries with social work interns and to help facilitate conversations about the need for social assistance in libraries. Contact Shawn Brommer or Mark Jochem with questions.

IDEA Team: Wisconsin Libraries Talk about Race - Planning is underway with help from an Advisory Committee to organize a convening centering BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) library staff in Spring 2025

New dashboard on the SCLS Tableau Public page: Library Statistics Summary - Dashboards available for all LinkCat members.

Kit Team (Program kits and kits for staff use) - Reviewing current kit inventory and making collection management decisions. Creating documentation forms and processes to help standardize kit circulation and availability.

Multifactor authentication (MFA) for SCLS 365 email accounts - In 2024, SCLS will implement multifactor authentication (MFA) to significantly improve security for SCLS-hosted 365 email accounts. More details are available on the SCLS website (login required).

InfoSec Training - Cybersecurity training through InfoSec was expanded to all SCLS managed

email accounts. Library directors received monthly reports about staff participation starting August 1. InfoSec training may count towards CE credit as well. Contact Jean Anderson for more information.

Youth Services - Shawn Brommer is planning Fall Check-in Meetings for YS library staff
Events and Meetings - October 23 9:00 - 9:45 AM: CCBC Shorts: A (Brief) Look at Books for Children and Teens. November 5-8: Wisconsin Library Association Conference at KI Convention Center in Green Bay. November 21: All Directors Meeting at DeForest Area Public Library. Watch for Top 5 emails (weekly) and Online Update (monthly) for information on services, events, CE opportunities, and upcoming meetings.

News: Madison and New Glarus Public Libraries received the Flexible Facilities Grants for their libraries

Wood County Library Funding Request: 100% funding approved, final approval Nov. 12th

5. Public comments on agenda items and requests for future agenda items

2025 Plan of Service

6. Date, time and place of next meeting

Jan. 16th, 2025 Meeting will be held at the Charles and JoAnn Lester Library in Nekoosa. Joe Z. motion made to change time to 6:30pm, motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjourn

Brad H. adjourned meeting at 6:45pm