

County of Wood / LIBRARY BOARD

The Wood County Library Board meet on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Pittsville Public Library, 5291 3rd Ave., Pittsville, WI. 54466.

County Library Board Members:

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

County Libraries & 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, South Central Library
System

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order:** Brad H. called the meeting to order at 7pm
2. **Approve minutes of the previous meeting:** minutes from Oct. 27th, 2022 and Nov. 21, 2022 meetings were approved by Bill V., seconded by Susan F.
3. **Old Business**

Review 2023-2025 Wood County Library Board plan.:

Susan F. proposed that we add to the section titled Wood County Public Libraries when referring to library board members verbiage that includes: “except in Wisconsin Rapids where there are two McMillan Library trustees who are appointed by the Wood County Board of Supervisors, according to WI State Statute based upon county support to that municipal library.” This is going to be explored to make sure it is correct information and aligns with WI State Statute 43 and isn’t just specific to Wisconsin Rapids.

SCLS Board Report – (Feith & Clendenning)

Susan F. shared that there are 7 vacancies on the board from Dane County. Members are resigning over concerns and hopefully the openings will be filled soon. With that many vacancies the committee is working as a staff committee; the chair from SCLS board is the only non-staff member left. The building committee is meeting two times a month. In March 2023 they will decide if they can realistically fund and meet the 7 million dollars needed.

Katherine, director from McMillan Library, is the new cluster rep and is on the ILS committee.

Wisconsin Library Association (WLA): SCLS pays up to \$100 towards membership to the association. Conferences are then discounted for attendees and SCLS has scholarships available for continuing education.

4. New Business

Library and SCLS reports:

Pittsville Public Library – Tammy, director: The year ended well, wacky weather with closing has made it interesting. The Hot Chocolate Hustle went well, had 65 people hustling. They honored long time board member and had an open house at the end of December with live music, readings and lots of fun. They had good community support. They had a “Book Tasting” with a menu featuring different genres. People had 5 minutes to spend with each book to get a “taste” of it. Both chair yoga and yoga on a mat is taking place. The library is getting new tables for their meeting area. Working on the annual report will be starting soon.

Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library – Jill, director, submitted a written report:

Marshfield had an exceptional and fun last quarter of 2022. For the first time any staff member can recall, the library participated in Marshfield's Holiday Parade with a Polar Express train float. Staff members and their families distributed golden tickets to the kids along the parade route, encouraging them to come in for our Polar Express week which had activities for both children and adults. It was also a very musical December in the library as we hosted Tuesday night acoustic music in the Fireplace Room, the high school Madrigal Singers, and the high school Jazz Band. Attendance was good, even for the jazz band which wanted to perform at 9am. Video of some of these events is available on our YouTube channel. The Main Street Conservatory of Dance performed an abbreviated performance of the Nutcracker in the Adler Room, much to the delight of over 100 attendees, including a number of little girls who arrived in their own tutus.

To end the year, we once again hosted a Noon Day's Eve for local families. Over 250 people took part in our 12pm confetti throw (pre-approved by our janitorial staff) and over 100 spent the early afternoon listening to an acoustic guitar concert and drinking mocktails in our Fireplace Room. We also participated in our first "Hour of Code" week which encourages kids to get involved in coding. The timing with the holidays wasn't great, but 39 kids took part. Youth Services staff have started offering story time in Marshfield's elementary schools and the Y, with 9 currently scheduled each month. Meeting Room bookings and Homebound delivery have seen dramatic increases. Last month, our meeting rooms were booked nearly 300 times, and homebound delivery, which typically serves the elderly, is now delivering to patients at Norwood Health Center increasing our outreach to those in our community. We have also had success bringing back our computer workshops. Working with the Discovery Education Station, we are offering drop-in tech help and computer basics classes, both of which have proven popular with our older patrons. On a final note, I will be working on a limited or at-home basis over the next few months as I undergo treatment for cancer at the Mayo Clinic starting next week. In my absence, Marshfield's assistant director, Kathy Baker, will take the lead when I am unable to, but should you have any questions, I am sure that Andrea can assist you. I can also be reached by email.

Charles & JoAnn Lester Library Nekoosa, Darla, director submitted a written report and also shared verbally: Hometown Christmas was quieter than normal. A large factor was multiple events occurring the same day. I did take leftover cookie decorating kits to Nekoosa Court, which is an assisted living facility for Seniors. I also put together 30 bags to hand out to kids who came to visit Santa. Each kid received a

book, hot chocolate, candy canes, a sticker activity and small coloring books and crayons. My student employee left for greener pastures after she successfully completed the Aspirus CNA class. She passed the test, and was offered a job with Aspirus, along with financial assistance for her continuing nursing degree. I have no one to blame but myself, as I made her aware of the opportunity. I did receive some very positive and thankful feedback from her parents, as she is back on track and pursuing opportunities. We have been working in Summer Reading program events, and I have also been in contact with Cynthia Ruchti. We plan to have her come to Nekoosa, so I would like to talk to Tammy some point next week and get some insight or hear about what worked for her. We have been observing patrons and library use. We are pretty much dead after 6pm. As we are currently short staffed, we have made the decision to update hours to Monday -Thursday, 9am-6pm, Friday 9am to 5pm, and Saturday 9am to 12noon. Our library board also voted to go fine free as of Jan 2, so that has been very exciting. We also some excitement in the form of police calls. We even made the wood county scanner page! The first incident involved three teens- one was a lookout, 2 were canoodling in the women's bathroom stall. We have an individual who had been targeting and harassing a library employee when she was alone. I contacted the police to ask that they let him know he was no longer welcome in the library. The officer came back and said that this patron had a warrant out for his arrest. And he has a history of pulling guns on officers. He is military trained, so none of this is comforting. We were advised to call 911 if he showed up. Which he did. He is currently in custody, and we were advised that he carries weapons, AND as there is no restraining order, he can come back into the library.

Lester Public Library of Arpin, Stacy, director: The year ended strong. Crafting programs are popular. The library held a toy drive that was successful; 2 boxes of toys were donated. Make & Take activities were offered in December. The final room in the library has been painted. A road trip reading challenge will be offered in 2023. A homeschool group is meeting again in the library. There is a plan for an Art Show in February.

Lester Public Library of Vesper, Wendy, director: The year ended well. The stamping group split into to 2 separate groups now because of how popular it was, and to be able to offer a day time and evening class. There is a sewing group that meets and a knit & crochet group. Book Club has been going well. The library worked with the Richfield 4H and had an Angel Tree over the holidays. Summer Library Program planning is well under way. The library had a patron that was kicked out of where she was staying. The library staff helped her to find somewhere to go because she wasn't cognitively able to on her own. The library asked the Wood County Sheriff department to intervene. Wendy asked if the other libraries had policies about helping the homeless or if they had resources they knew of that were available to help. Board member Andrea H. offered that she knew of a binder of information that the library in Marshfield had and offered to share it with the directors as a resource option.

McMillan Memorial Library – Katherine, director: The city ended up giving the library what funding they had asked for. Katherine is working on library policies and making displays; with a WWII display in December. She is going over circulation and collection development with staff. They are working on increasing programming. 4 staff development days have been approved for this year. One possibility of a staff development day is taking a bus to see other libraries. McMillan is also holding 3 winter

reading challenges that are for all ages.

SCLS report - Jean Anderson, Consulting Services Coordinator & Continuing Education Consultant:

Jean offered to share with Darla some examples of behavior policies to use with unruly patrons. Niche Academy also has class offerings from Ryan Dowd that help library staff deal with difficult patrons and situations. Jean also offered to share sample policies with Katherine. The Local Holds pilot project ends in February. WLA and the Wild Wisconsin Winter Conference is available for continuing education requirements opportunities. A webinar for the Annual Report was recorded for viewing that was hosted by Tracy at SCLS. January 24th the report should open and February 15th they are due to SCLS with February 24th being the final date they can be submitted. SCLS closed on the new-to-them building and minutes from the meeting are posted to the building webpage. Library Legislative Day is February 7th and it is a big day for DPI who are asking for more funding for library system support. Jean will be sending out a link to a webinar that she felt was well done about when materials are challenged which is being discussed because Representatives are bringing a bill relating to pupil or minor access to harmful material in public libraries and to harmful material or offensive material in public schools. Jean said that when she looked to locate any bylaws for the Wood County library board, she did not find any. She has received 1 example of bylaws from another county and is expecting more to share with us.

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

Board member Betsy M. shared that she appreciates all that libraries do for individuals experiencing homelessness and/or mental illness.

Bill C. attending as a member of the public, shared the county library board members could request ARPA grant money to assist the Wood County libraries. He also shared about the group Central Wisconsin Stamp Club, that has the central location of Stevens Point, that he participates in. He suggested hosting stamp collecting programs to try to get youth interested in it.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the Library Legislative Day; it is \$28 to register.

6. Date and time of next meeting

Brad H. suggested April 20th at 6pm for our next meeting date, to be hosted at the McMillan Memorial Library in WI Rapids. Everyone was in agreement.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Brad. H