



## Director's Report (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)

**DATE: November 10, 2025**

### **Administrative**

We hired Ronda Best as the new branch manager for Hermitage. Lynda Greene has retired (for the second time!) due to health reasons. Ronda is already active at the branch and thinking of new ideas to support the community.

I have spent time this past quarter attending trainings online through Zoom and webinars, as well as a few in-person trainings. Candid, the non-profit foundation directory discussed at the last board meeting, and the Arkansas State Librarian Jennifer Chilcoat hosted a few trainings to help us familiarize ourselves with the portal. I also attended Zoom meetings with Dr. Jennifer Conner and Brady Lacy with the American Heart Association to discuss the implementation of the blood pressure kiosks and schedule branch trainings for staff.

### **Technology & Branch Updates**

Several technology issues have cropped up in the last quarter. The circulation computer in Hermitage died, and IT is attempting to repair it. Dumas circulation computer was struck by lightning during a storm in September, and it will be replaced soon as it won't be long until it dies. Lake Village received a new manager's computer as the older computer was a Windows 7, and the computer or applications on it would not update any longer. Dermott received a new color printer as the other printer broke.

Star City received a new internet and telephone service. Star City is now on the C&L Broadband Connect through the electric cooperative in town. She has seen massive improvements in the internet quality. Before this occurred, the switch that operates the public computers died, and a new one was installed by our IT service EDP Solutions.

The telephone lines at Headquarters and the Monticello Branch will need to be updated soon. AT&T is phasing out the current system; we hope to swap over to the new system soon.

### **Community Engagement & Outreach**

The StoryWalk around the Monticello Branch had a grand re-opening on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Several community members and daycares joined us for a fun-filled morning to celebrate the re-opening as well as the start of Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Several other branches also held small contests during the month of September to encourage community members to either sign-up for a new library card or get their library accounts back in good standing by renewing or paying fines.

All eight of the new blood pressure kiosks from the American Heart Association Libraries with Heart grant have been installed, and the blood pressure cuff kits are slowly beginning to be checked out by patrons. The Region received a \$24,000.00 stipend to help with the upkeep and supply purchases for the equipment.

The Monticello Branch installed a Courthouse Kiosk in their genealogy room. The Courthouse Kiosk is an all-in-one computer with free legal forms, videos, and the ability to apply for legal aid. This is in partnership with the Arkansas Access to Justice. The kiosk is being used frequently. For her part in agreeing to the partnership, Shannon Rodriguez, Monticello Branch Manager, was nominated and won the Outstanding Pro Bono Community Member Service award.

**Meetings & Workshops Attended**

Lincoln County Quorum Court July Meeting – Star City, AR (07.21.2025)

Financial Management for Public Library Administrators Workshop – Little Rock, AR (08.15.2025)

Mockingbird ILL Training – Monticello, AR (09.26.2025)

Granite Telephone – Zoom Meetings (08.20.2025 & 09.29.2025)

Candid Trainings – Webinars & Zoom Meetings (07.29.2025 & 09.29.2025)