

Director's Report



DATE: February 12, 2024

Administrative

In December, I arranged a meeting with Star City Branch Manager, Simone Kirk, the local police, city mayor and school superintendent concerning problems with after school youth at the library. Star City Library has always seen a large number of after-school attendance at the library. In the past few months, there have been numerous disturbances occurring on school home games days. Many students do not have cards and are not using library services. After discussion, it was agreed that it was best to show students a united front between the library, school and city. Unruly behavior will not be tolerated. I informed the city that security cameras would also be installed to help with documenting disturbances.

We have started performing our annual inventory of branch and headquarters equipment. Once the list is updated, a copy will be sent to each branch to include in their building book. This year I have scheduled bi-monthly meetings with all regional staff via zoom. These meetings will last no longer than 15 – 20 minutes and will cover a variety of subjects and issues that need to be address.

Technology & Branch Updates

We are still working on the Monticello Branch Library's high electric bill problem. We had new wiring run to several thermostats. The control company ran a test on our setup and reported that everything is working normal.

The renovation of Eudora is almost complete. In December, headquarters staff and I performed a collection weeding. I also redesigned the layout of the library to allow for more open space. This will give them more program room. The building has been repainted and new flooring installed. We purchased new (to us) office and circulation desks as well as new computer tables. We had some great volunteer help from Eudora. The library was closed for most of January. We are still waiting for the company in Hamburg to install the handicap and front parking.

I am proud to say that Arkansas Public Libraries hit a record number with 7,126 winter coats and jackets collected during the Mr. Rogers Sweater Drive. I am prouder still of our libraries that are able to participate in this event.

Community Engagement & Outreach

I was invited by the Arkansas Library Association Conference Chair, Lynn Valetutti, to be the Conference Awards Chair for 2024 and I gladly accepted. In December I was contacted by the Windgate Arts and Education Initiative in partnership with Crystal Bridges to participated in an opportunity for librarians to provide input into a national arts integration initiative designed to strengthen teaching and learning. This input will help shape the launch of this initiative in Spring 2024 and determine the ways in which Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (CBMAA) might partner with schools and libraries in Arkansas and beyond to improve the quality of the middle grade educational experience. The two-day event was scheduled for January 16th but was rescheduled on February 22 – 23 because of the weather.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Little Rock, AR November 3, 2023

Lonoke Library New Director Meeting – Cabot, AR December 14, 2023

Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Little Rock, AR February 9, 2024