



## Director's Report

**DATE:** January 28, 2019

### Administrative

I contacted three of the County Judges trying to get new board members in place before the board meeting. Assembled two new board member packets. Ordered new voter registration applications and sent to all branches. Prepared for the Regional Fall Workshop held in October. The theme this year's workshop was stem programming.

I attended a meeting of the Arkansas Imagination Library. The goal of the Arkansas Imagination Library is to ensure that every child in Arkansas, birth to age five, has the opportunity to receive a personal set of books delivered monthly to his/her home mailbox prior to entering school through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. We have one library that does participate in this program but we hope to extend to our other branches.

In November, I attended the Arkansas All-in Leadership Institute, this time as a mentor. This is the second Leadership Institute Arkansas has offered and it is a very selective process. Mentors will be working with the new inductees for 3 years.

I have sent out the inventory list out to the branches. The branches are also working on updates to our building books, including more information and photos for disaster planning and emergencies.

### Technology

Installed three new AWE Early Literacy Computers in Eudora, Monticello, and Dumas. Worked with TLC installing the Eintergration software for our Online Public Catalog.

### Branch Updates

We had another retirement in the Region. Marilyn Weih, Regional Cataloger, retired after 11 years. Jennifer Knight, Monticello Branch Manager, has been hired as the new Regional Cataloger. Elizabeth Newman is the new Monticello Branch Manager and has just started her training. Kelly Everett, Hermitage Branch Manager, left us at the end of the year for health reasons. Jamie Thomas has taken over the position. I have been traveling some to work with Jaime.

We received the Bob White Grant for Eudora to remove a dead tree and to landscape the front. We will be waiting still spring before tackling that job. However, I have been informed by Eudora Branch Manager, Mary Bates that they are having issues with raw sewage seeping in the front yard of the library whenever it rains. So we will be looking into that. Also in Chicot County, we still need to meet with the Judge and see what can be done with the Dermott Library. I have been in touch with a contractor about getting an estimate for repair.

Warren will be getting a much needed face-lift. Branch Manager, Sandy Doss and I have been busy selecting carpet & flooring estimates. We met with the Bradley County Library board

to make final selections. We will start the process the second week of February and hope to be closed for only one week.

### **Public Relations**

Pam Page, the retired teacher from Gravette, Arkansas has installed two more of the six Free Little Libraries around our region. The new little free libraries are located at the Broken Spoke Restaurant in Rye and at the Winchester Post Office. The last one will be heading to Lake Village.

Monticello Branch Manager, Jennifer Knight and I spoke at the Monticello Rotary Club. We shared with the group upcoming library programs, services the Region offered and an update on the passport facility process. Jennifer and I also visited the Benton and North Little Rock Libraries and toured their passport facilities and gained a lot of valuable information. A contractor was called to see about converting one of the study rooms into the passport room. We are waiting for the quote.

I will be traveling to Dodge City, Kansas the first week of February to speak at the Southwest Kansas Library Conference as their keynote speaker and present a session on solo librarianship. I am very excited and honored to be asked to come and speak with this group.

I demonstrated how to access Overdrive and download books to your device to the Star City Book Club. Many of the group was already using our Overdrive and were very pleased with the platform.

### **Meetings & Workshops Attended**

- Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Little Rock, AR
- All-In Arkansas Leadership Institute – Lake DeGray
- Arkansas Library Association Board Meeting – N. Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas Library Association Conference Meeting – N. Little Rock, AR
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference Committee Meeting – online
- Bradley County Board Meeting – Warren, AR