



Director's Report

DATE: January 25, 2021

Administrative

In October, I was select to be part of a panel of librarians for Emporia State University speaking with Library students about the different types of libraries. On November 4, Kieran Hixon from the Colorado State Library, and I participated in a discussion webinar for The Library Corporation entitled "Voices from the Pandemic" representing small and rural libraries. We had over 300 in attendance.

Lonoke County Library Director, Deborah Moore, and a small entourage came to tour the Monticello Branch Library. Her system is renovating a building and they wanted to use the Monticello layout as a guide.

I've had the privilege to asked to serve as a mentor for the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Leadership Institute program. ARSL is very special to me and I am very honored to be asked to serve in this capacity.

Technology

We purchased new computers for the public, office and circ desk at Star City. We were also able to boost their WIFI signal with a stronger router to improve patron access in the parking lot.

School access to the Sora app has not happened as fast as I thought it would. Drew County and McGehee School districts are the only two districts able to employ the free access to our digital book collection. Some of the problem with the lack of access is a backlog with Overdrive but some school districts have not completed the necessary paperwork needed in order to move forward. I will be contacting those districts not utilizing the software and Overdrive to see what I can do to assist with the process.

Branch Updates

Eudora was awarded a \$2000 Bob White Grant for parking lot improvement. I hope we can begin working on it this spring. In November, the Monticello and Hermitage Branch managers submitted their resignations. Elizabeth Newman and her family relocated to Beaumont, Texas and Jamie Thomas took a full-time position. We are pleased to welcome Lynda Greene as the new manager of the Hermitage Library and Shannon Rodriguez as the new Monticello Branch manager.

We are in the preliminary stages of planning our Summer Reading programs for the summer. We will be offering the fun packet again this year but it will be modified for two separate age groups. Monthly zoom meetings with all Branch Managers allows us the opportunity to discuss issues or concerns as a group.

We have begun assembling some of the Early Literacy Storytime kits. My goal is to have 10 kits completed by the summer.

Community Engagement

Jane Pelkki, local grant writer, and I met with Star City Mayor, Paul Carter in late October. Ms Pelkki wrote a grant on our behalf to install a permanent Storywalk in Lincoln County. We were interested in the Veteran's Memorial Park in Star City as a site for the Walk and needed the city's approval to include the information in the grant. Mayor Carter was extremely helpful and enthusiastic about the project. Unfortunately at this time it does not look like we were awarded the grant. We will continue to search for funding for this project and the Storywalk in Monticello.

The Region donated several boxes of books to the Wilmar community library. Reverend Orr, who contacted us concerning the community library, graciously thanked the Region for our contribution. When delivering the donations, I observed they were have difficulties classifying the collections and offered to come at the end of the month and assist with organizing the library for them.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

- Lincoln County Quorum Court Budget Meeting – October 26, Star City, AR
- Branch Manager Meeting, October 31 – Zoom meeting
- The Library Corporation (TLC) Panel Discussion, November 4 - Zoom
- Arkansas Library Association, Bylaws Committee – Zoom meetings
- Arkansas Library Association Committee Orientation, Presenter, January 12 - Zoom