



Director's Report

DATE: January 28, 2019

Administrative

We have completed our yearly inventories and the Branches have updated their building books. We are in the process of making copies of all the books before sending them back to the branches. I filed the IRS tax forms for all the Region's Friends groups. This is to ensure they do not lose their 501c3 status.

We had two more positions come open in the region. Mary Wright, Bookkeeper/Secretary has decided to retire at the end of April. Brandy Horne also resigned from the Collection Development position. She and her family are moving to Spokane, WA area when school ends. We are sad to see them leave and they will be missed. Stacey McKeown was hired as the new Secretary/Bookkeeper and Melissa Benefield was hired as the new Collection Developer. We welcome them to our Regional family.

Technology

Technology-wise it was a very quiet quarter. Some small fixes or adjustments, but no major problems in the region.

Branch Updates

We have completed our renovation of the Warren Branch Library. We were able to install new flooring for the entire building except for the children's area, which has an inlaid rug and did not need replacing. We were able to use a new technique to move the shelving without dismantling it.

The Eudora Branch Library was awarded a Giving Tree Grant for tree removal and landscaping. We are in the process of starting the landscaping very soon. We are also looking at landscaping in Dermott as well. The Masters Gardeners spent a day in Warren working on the landscaping there. We are very grateful for these groups that volunteer to help make our libraries beautiful. Dermott has been the beneficiary of two sizable donations for improvements in and around the library. A color laser printer was purchased for public use.

Star City Branch Manager, Simone Kirk, and I met for a brainstorming session on storage issues. We will be closing the library for a couple of days in order to do some spring cleaning and reorganization. We will be purchasing some shelving units to store craft and summer reading supplies more neatly.

Three of our branches (Monticello, Warren & Dumas) have introduced VOX books to their patrons. Other libraries will be added later. VOX Books are the world's first audio books that live in print books. The permanently attached VOX™ Reader transforms an ordinary print book into an all-in-one read-along. There's no need for computers, tablets or CDs. Children simply push a button to listen and read.

We are also working on DVD Binge Boxes. Take home a weeks' worth of binge watching in one box! Themes include filmmaker specific films, movie series, children's holiday shows, "chick flicks," horror, and many more. We will have 33 binge boxes ready to go very shortly.

Public Relations

My presentation in Kansas went very well, in spite of the weather. The day I left, the temperature was zero degrees with a 50 miles per hour wind. There were 85 attendees present from the Southwest Kansas District. It was very informative and I really enjoyed speaking with small and rural librarians from another state. I have been asked to speak at the Central Kansas Library System in May.

On April 9, I participated in the University of Central Arkansas' Human Library first-ever event. It is a library of human beings, individuals, that each represent a group in the community that are somehow exposed to stigma, prejudice and/or discrimination. The event is made up of human "books", Readers and Librarians who help guide readers to the appropriate book.

It was developed to challenge societal prejudices for whatever reasons they occur, and to help people form a better understanding of those with whom they share their communities. The Human Library™ encourages patrons to become readers, by taking a person out on loan for a conversation on the topic/issue, that they represent. i.e. the Police Officer would talk about stereotypes and prejudices that police officers meet in their job and answer any question the reader may have about this topic.

Meetings & Workshops Attended

- Kansas Southwest Library Conference – Dodge City, KS
- Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Workshop – Monticello, AR
- Arkansas Library Association Conference Meeting – N. Little Rock, AR
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference Committee Meeting – online
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Retreat – Denver, CO
- Lincoln County Quorum Court – Star City, AR