



## Director's Report

**DATE:** July 15, 2019

### **Administrative**

Much of this quarter has been spent in Desha County, particularly Dumas. The Branch Manager went on Family Medical Leave in April and we did not have a Library Assistant at this branch at this time. I made weekly trips to spend at Dumas in order to write checks, complete monthly reports, pay bills and help with Summer Reading. More about Dumas under Branch Updates.

I attended the Lincoln County Quorum Court meeting in April to address the problem of the County paying utilities out of the Library Millage Fund. We were told by the County Treasurer, the County Judge, the County attorney and members of the Quorum Court, that the utilities were not being paid from our millage monies but rather money that was added to our the Library account by property relief fund tax and these funds were not consider millage. The Justices voted to table the issue until the parties could meet.

On April 24th, the Regional Director & Lincoln County Library Board met with the County Judge, Treasurer, and County Attorney and one Quorum Court member to review the matter. At the meeting, the County did not wish to discuss repayment of the misappropriated funds of 2017 & 2018, but did proposed paying utilities this year. County Attorney, Clint Todd, wrote a letter proposing to amend the 2019 County budget to include a line item under County General of \$11,000 for the library electric bill, with any unused funds to be donated to library programs. (see letter included) We are on the agenda for the July meeting.

### **Technology**

Knock on wood – we have experienced very little technology problems in the branches.

### **Branch Updates**

The good news is Dumas Branch Manager Sheri Fisher gave birth to a healthy baby boy in May. The bad news (for us) is she decided to stay home with the baby. While there is never a good time to lose a manager, losing one a few weeks before summer reading is worse. Thank goodness Ms. Patty Posey and part-time worker, Brittnay Young stepped up and took on the library duties and has everything running smoothly, including the Summer Reading program. We will be interviewing for a new manager very soon and I hope by the board meeting to announce a new manager. We recently promoted Brittnay to the Library Assistant position.

We completed a mini makeover in the storage room at the Star City Branch Library. Headquarters & Star City staff cleaned out the storage room and installed shelving and organized crafts and supplies to order to help staff find things quicker.

We are in full Summer Reading Program mode in every branch. I have presented a program for the Hermitage Branch Library and two programs for the Dumas Branch Library. I encourage you to like their Facebook pages and the Region's, of course, to keep up with all the

wonderful activities that are going on across the region. It has been an out-of-this world summer!

After the last major flooding event in Eudora, Judge Ball had the carpet removed from the library. At this time, we are not looking at replacing the carpet until we are certain there will be no more flooding and sewage problems. The city has strived to correct the problem, so let us hope it works. The floor under the carpet was old tile, which now has a layer of old glue. The condition of the floor was of major concern because of summer reading. We purchased locking rubber mats to cover the entire floor in the children's area until we can decide what will be done with the floor.



### **Public Relations**

I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Southwest Kansas Library system annual meeting in Russell, Kansas in May. I was able to work this in on the way home from my vacation to Yellowstone. It was a wonderful and informative day spent with over 100 librarians in the great state of Kansas. They are a large system and were anxious to hear about how Southeast shares its resources among its branches. Even though they are not a regional library system they are interested in ways they could work together and share goods and material.

### **Meetings & Workshops Attended**

- Arkansas State Library Board meeting – Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas Digital Library Consortium meeting – Little Rock, AR
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference Committee Meeting – online
- Association for Rural & Small Libraries Board meeting – online
- Southwest Kansas Library System Annual Meeting – Russell, KS
- Lincoln County Library Board Meeting - Star City, AR