

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Director
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: March 20,2025

Library Statistics and Annual Reports: All 30 libraries completed their Annual Reports. The information provided in the Annual Reports provides me with the information I need to begin the county budgeting process. The April and May LAC meetings will include discussion and drafting the 2026 budget requests from libraries to their home counties.

By the end of the month I will also have provided the rural resident usage and reimbursement figures across adjacent counties lines to all Winnefox libraries. Individual libraries will decide which counties to ask for reimbursement. Final numbers are due to me in May so I can send the billing to those counties in June.

Strategic Plan: The Strategic Planning Committee has begun to meet. The committee includes Melissa McIlmans and Laura Damon-Moore from WILS, and Andrew Prellwitz, Angela Schneider, Marcy Cannon and myself as Winnefox representatives. The committee is in the process of developing a stakeholder survey, which will be live in April. Additionally, WiLS will be meeting in person with staff on April 22 and member library directors on April 29.

WAPL Conference: Registration is now open for the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Conference. The conference will take place from April 30-May 2 and will be held in Oshkosh. This year there is a dedicated day (Thursday May 1) and program track with sessions geared towards trustees. I highly encourage everyone to attend and to aid attendance Winnefox has scholarship funds available for trustees to attend. Look for more emails about registration and scholarships shortly.

Staff News: Marcy Cannon and Stephen Geelan have started the audit process for the 5 library systems using their accounting services, including Winnefox's which is scheduled for April 16-18.

Keetra Baker presented at a meeting of the Wautoma Historical Society. She explained and explored the Winnefox Digital Archive and encouraged members to begin to process of digitizing the local county newspaper: the Waushara Argus.

Karla Smith and Melissa Klein held an All-WALS meeting in Ripon this month. Library staff were reminded of ILS procedures and processes but also had an opportunity to discuss one of the newest library offerings: experience passes. Libraries purchased memberships to local museums and activities, like the Milwaukee Zoo, the Paine Art Center, or the Fond du Lac Children's Museum, and circulate those membership passes to patrons for free.

Staff spent a day this month on a field trip visiting three libraries in the Fox Valley: Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton. It was a great opportunity to see how each library has a personalized approach to meeting the needs of their community. Seeing the remodeled Menasha and Appleton libraries was particularly exciting.

Library News: Stephanie Addison has started as director at the Ethel Everhard Library in Westfield. She was most recently the library aide at Oxford and Coloma Elementary schools. With her hiring, all Winnefox director positions are currently filled.