

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Director
Subject: System Activities Report
Date: July 23, 2024

State Budget: The 2026-2027 Wisconsin Biennial Budget passed last month with increases for library system services. There is a total \$1 million increase to the base in 2026 and a \$2 million increase following in 2027. Winnefox will receive \$1,475,959, a 4% increase in 2026.

Director Activities: I have begun a draft of the Winnefox budget, which will be presented to the finance committee in August and the full board in September. The libraries all received their 2026 WALs fees, after a discussion with our ILS and technology oversight committee, WTEC.

I have also been preparing county budget requests for the libraries for 2026. By the time we meet in person, I will have met with the administrative or executive offices of Green Lake, and Winnebago Counties to discuss these budgets. I will be meeting with Waushara, Fond du Lac, and Marquette County in August.

Staff News: Angela Schneider, Clairellyn Sommersmith, Marcy Cannon and Andrew Prellwitz have been working on creating the framework for the Winnefox Strategic Plan. The plan will be shown to staff and the board in September.

Winnefox's current Inclusive Services Consultant, MJ McCarry, and Angela launched as monthly inclusive services newsletter for member library staff. The newsletter highlights resources, websites, and databases with information related to serving patrons along with stories from libraries about the programs designed to be more inclusive. Winnefox's current Youth Services Consultant, Katrina Wulff, attended recent LAC meetings and talked about decodable books and how the libraries could partner with public schools who are now modifying their literacy offerings to be more phonics-based because of Act 20.

The Creative Studios, which is always popular in the summer, is now housed at Oshkosh and Michelle Rosenberg and her sorters are managing the items as they are sent to and from libraries.

Library News: Plainfield Public Library has hired Merrin Albosta, a Plainfield local who was previously involved with the Friends of the Library. She starts on July 28th.

A number of member libraries are going through a strategic planning process. Redgranite, Plainfield and Caestecker Library participated in the WiLS Small Library Strategic Planning Cohort. The Cohort concluded this summer, and those libraries are in the process of finalizing their plans. Oshkosh Public Library is in the middle of the information gathering piece of their strategic plan with Northspan out of Duluth. Elisha D. Smith Library recently hired WiLS to conduct their strategic plan.

Berlin Public Library celebrated the naming of their new meeting room. The Kay Roethel Meeting Room is named after Berlin Library's longest serving trustee, Kay Roethel, who has been on the board for 51 years and counting.

Hancock Public Library and Ripon Public Library have both broken ground on their building projects. These projects are partially funded through the Flexible Facilities Grant these libraries received last year. Hancock is building a community room off the side of their building. Ripon is redoing their parking lot, expanding their outside space, and remodeling their main floor.

Upcoming Trustee Training Opportunities: There are several in-person Trustee Training opportunities coming up:

- Trustee 101 – July 30, 5:30pm, Green Bay
- Trustee 201 – August 26. 5:30, Little Chute
- Trustee 101 – September 13, 9:30am, Brillion
- Trustee 101 – October 8, 5:30pm, Waupaca
- Trustee 201 – October 20, 5:30pm, Fond du Lac – led by Mark Arend and Clairellyn Sommersmith

Details about these workshops can be found on the new NEWI Libraries website launched by Angela Schneider and Jeramiah Harland this month: [Trustee Training Resources – NEWI: Northeastern Wisconsin CE Partnership](#)

If you would like to participate in virtual trustee training, sign up for a webinar here: www.wistrusteetraining.com. Trustee Training Week runs from August 18-21, offering a lunchtime one hour webinar each day about an important topic related to trustee education. You can also view old recorded webinars from past Trustee Training Weeks on the Trustee Training website.