

**MEMORANDUM:**

**To:** Winnefox Library System Trustees  
**From:** Clairellyn Sommersmith, Assistant Director  
**Subject:** Report of System Activities  
**Date:** May 18, 2021

The following is an update of activities since our last meeting. I would be happy to provide further details at our meeting, or feel free to give me a call, 920-569-2179, or send an email in advance.

**Library Services Status:** Due to numerous factors, from CDC guidelines to vaccination availability, Winnefox libraries have been modifying their service models with many returning to “fully restored services.” The other library buildings have some modifications but are still allowing browsing and some lingering. Many smaller libraries have been moving forward with in person programming.

**Winnefox Fine Free Libraries:** In effort to be more inclusive to all patrons, libraries nationwide have been removing fines for late items. Winnefox member libraries have been following this trend and 15 of the 30 libraries are fine free, with 2 more not charging fines on children’s materials. 13 of the fine free libraries made this policy change in the last year. Karla Smith, Winnefox ILS manager, has taken lead on providing the support and statistical information directors need to make the fine free case to their boards.

**Library Funding from the American Relief Plan Act:** While applications have not yet been made available regarding the ARPA funding, there continues to be discussions with various stakeholders in preparation to spend the funding as widely, and impactfully as possible. From the Institute of Museum of Library Services, priorities for this funding are the following: support digital inclusion efforts to enable libraries to reach residents, provide rapid emergency relief, and support library services that meet the needs of communities. The DPI has then matched those priorities to their LSTA State goals to support technology, resource sharing, leadership capacity, community engagement, and inclusive services.

In preparation for when the funding and applications are available, Winnefox Library System and the member libraries have been focusing on the community engagement portion, thinking of libraries as centers for community recovery, resiliency, and revitalization and how libraries might be able to provide health, financial, and other social services in their buildings and communities.

**Trustee Training on Zoom:** Two Trustee Workshops will be offered in the coming months. Trustee 201 will be held on Wednesday June 2 at 6:30pm and will focus on the library as employer. Trustee 301, about library legalities like open meeting law, will be on Wednesday July 7 at 6:30. Registration is available on the Winnefox Extranet, and I will send out an email with registration as well.

**Library News:** Fond du Lac Public Library was a recipient of a \$98,000 grant from Wisconsin Public Services office for Energy Innovation; the funding will help replace the building's lights with LED fixtures.

Leon Saxeville Library in Pine River was awarded a \$2,000 Grant from Science Kits for Public Libraries. Their science kits will be available soon to check out to patrons.

To increase their children's collection, Endeavor Public Library will be receiving a matching \$400 grant from the Pilcrow Foundation.