

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: March 24, 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: All Winnefox Libraries are now offering browsing in some capacity. Additionally, while the state has not listed librarians as essential workers qualifying for the vaccine, many local clinics and health departments within the Winnefox boundaries have allowed librarians to sign up and get vaccinated. Winnefox will continue its monthly Check In meetings which allow library staff to share their questions and concerns regarding offering services in the time of the pandemic.

Library Legislative Summary: The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) and their subcommittee Library Development and Legislation Committee (LD&L) hosted a virtual Library Legislative Day last month. Over three days, librarians all over the state met with their representatives to highlight the services public libraries have been providing to Wisconsin residents despite the pandemic, and to ask for support of the Governor's proposed budget. The budget includes increases to Library System funding and a stable funding source for Recollection Wisconsin.

To supplement Library Legislative Day, libraries across the state, including Winnefox Libraries, have been encouraging their patrons to write and mail postcards to their legislators. The postcard campaign, "Libraries Step Up," was created by the statewide marketing collaborative to give patrons the tools to advocate for their local libraries.

Library Funding from the American Relief Plan Act: The most recent round of stimulus money includes \$3 million to benefit Wisconsin libraries. This money will be applied through the DPI, similar to LSTA grant funding. State System Directors and the DPI are still meeting weekly, and our discussion of late has been thinking creatively and collaboratively about how to best spend this money to have the biggest impact on libraries and their patrons.

Trustee Training on Zoom: I have scheduled two trustee trainings for the late spring/early summer. Trustee 101 will be offered at 6:30pm on Wednesday May 5. Trustee 201 will be offered a month later on Wednesday June 2 at 6:30pm. Registration is available on the Winnefox Extranet, and I will send out an email with registration as well.

Library News: Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha has hired a new director, Brian Kopetsky. Brian will be leaving McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids where he served as their Assistant Director for 6 years. Ethel Everhard Public Library in Westfield will be posting their open directorship shortly.

Berlin Public Library was selected as one of Beanstack's six national winners for their WinterRead contest. Beanstack is the app platform that many Wisconsin libraries have been using for Summer Reading and other reading challenges; the cost of this partnership was covered through LSTA grants.

Staff News: Ken Bauman, a Winnefox driver, will be retiring next month. With other drivers looking for more hours there is not yet a need to hire a replacement.