

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Director
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: 27 September 2023

System News: With LSTA funding, Winnefox hosted the first Clerk-apalooza, a morning ILS training geared toward member library clerks. The funding covered the wages of those staff that attended, many of whom came from libraries that do not have funding to pay for staff to attend training opportunities. Along with other opportunities like All-WALS and LAC training, which are more geared toward library directors and staff managers, this program reflects a goal to revisit basic training with all library staff in response to the significant staff turnover at member libraries.

In August, Winnefox hired three new delivery drivers: Jay Bushman, Benjamin Gmeiner, and Tony Mann. After a summer with significant staffing shortages, it is good to have a full crew again.

Library News: Mary Fowler has been hired as the new director of the Neshkoro Public Library. She comes to the library world after being an elementary school teacher for most of her career.

Hancock Public Library has kickstarted their capital campaign to build a community meeting room in the library.

There have been numerous outdoor and landscaping projects at the libraries this summer. Berlin Public Library painted books on their steps leading to their front patio. Wautoma will soon be installing a new mural. Campbellsport and Redgranite Public Libraries have new landscaping around their exteriors. Leon-Saxeville Library put a new pavilion in their adjacent park and Westfield Public Library installed a StoryWalk around the outside of their building.

State News: The WLA Conference will be held on October 25-27 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. This year's theme is *Don't Stop Believing*. With LSTA funding, Winnefox is offering scholarships for member library staff. You can find more information on the WLA site [WLA Annual Conference \(wisconsinlibraries.org\)](https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org)

After a four-year hiatus, New Director Boot Camp returns to its in-person format. New directors from 2022 or 2023 from around the state are invited to participate in the DPI-led conference on October 3 and 4 in Marshfield or November 7 and 8 in Wisconsin Dells.