

Library Director's Report (February 2023)

Meeting Date: March 14, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

February Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of February 2023 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

*Donations: \$2,500
 \$1,424 - State Education Department
 \$100
 \$500 - Stewart's Holiday Match Grant

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 76 community members take a food item from our pantry (Most likely more as people come and go that we don't see). Every month I have people tell me how much they appreciate the Farm-2-Library program.
- The Tri-County Literacy organization continues to have tutors meet with students at the library. We currently have two groups meeting weekly and as time goes on, we hope to have more.
- Last month our patron artist was Rue Hunter. Tom McMorris has contacted me about hanging some Normal Rockwell pictures to coincide with an author visit at the Court House in May.

- SALS is now requiring all staff to take Cyber Security Training. The training is to help us prevent/recognize "phishing" and other cyber risks. SALS advises it should also help reduce the amount we have to pay for cyber insurance. The training has been completed by our staff.
- Our staff attended a Narcan training offered at the Court House. At the training we were given Narcan kits which are currently stored on the bottom shelf behind the desk with the First Aid kit.
- Our birding backpack arrived yesterday! It will have been put into our circulation so patrons can borrow the backpack. Stop by and take a look!
- The last senior citizen pop-up luncheon (Office of the Aging) was Wednesday March 8th with 15 in attendance. Thank you to the Friends for paying for participant's lunches.
- The 2022 Annual Report has been reviewed by SALS and they have indicated all looks good!
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, newspaper articles, and our newsletter. A spring newsletter will be coming out in April.

Looking Ahead:

- Our next senior citizen Potluck Luncheon will be held Wednesday, March 22nd. Gail Bearup has volunteered to help with the lunches. I'm in the process of setting up a musical group for the April luncheon. Kyle, at Fort Salem Theater, connected us with Caffe Lena in Saratoga. They are arranging for a group from Montreal called E.T.E. to come to the library to be at the luncheon in April. It's through a program called "On the Road." The group is a lively Quebecois trio which also features a step dancer. There is no cost for the program.

- I recently met with Tanya Carney who will be the Director of Programming for Lunch, Learn and Play at the Court House this summer. We have put together a tentative plan/schedule for kids from the program to visit the library.

Programs:

- On Wednesday, February 15, 2023 we had our second senior citizen Potluck Luncheon. The program was well attended with delicious food and some trivia after the meal.
- Later this month we will be offering a Beginner Crocheting in class. The class will be taught by Alexis Keenan with some assistance from Karen Hickland and Lucy Fronhofer.
- Our new weekly story time, Bancroft Book Buddies, continued in the month of February. Our volunteer, Nan Valler, has been leading it every Wednesday. During February break Alyce Harrington, the Washington County Dairy Princess, was our Guest Reader and read a story about cows to the kids.
- Kids programs were planned for the week of February Break. Tuesday - Movie Afternoon, Wednesday - Perler Bead Crafts, Thursday - Board Game Café and Hot Cocoa Bar, and Friday - Lego Build Tournament. We had a great turn out, especially for the Lego Tournament and the Board Game Cafe.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of February-- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Mahjong, Book Club, and Tech Help with Noah.
- We have made available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. All the grab and go craft bags are usually gone by Friday. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We have received a lot of positive feedback. A big thank you to Gayle Shaw who has volunteered to make these crafts for the library.