

## **Director's Report**

### **January 2022**

#### **Meetings and Visits**

I attended the Monroe Public Library Board meeting on 1/27 to discuss adding to their foundation account.

Jean Anderson, Tracie Miller and I met with members of the McMillan Library Board to help with their director search.

I continue to participate in the weekly system directors meetings hosted by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff. Recent topics have included the WISEgrants portal, annual reports and cybersecurity. The system annual reports portal was opened 2/16. The portal for the member libraries has been open for weeks. The SCLS Board will sign the SCLS Annual Report at their March meeting due to the DPI delay.

I met with the ILS, Technology and Delivery committees to do cluster representative training. In addition, I attended Delivery and Technology Services Cost Formula Work Group meetings.

The coordinators and I continue to meet weekly as a group. We have been tackling new building decisions as we get nearer to bidding the project. We all serve on many building related task forces along with other staff. e.g. technology, electrical, landscaping, kits, process flow and security.

The week of 2/7 was when the auditors visited. Kerrie Goeden and I were kept busy with their requests and they are still working with us offsite. This is the first year with new auditors so they are asking for lots of background material.

The 2022 WLA Legislative Day had good weather. Thank you to the SCLS trustees who attended. Participants were grouped by libraries and systems and then were given a photo opportunity with Governor Evers. A copy of the photo and a certificate from the Governor is included in the board packet. SCLS prepared a packet of information about its services which was given to each legislator in our seven counties.

#### **Foundation (SCLSF)**

The 2022 Foundation officers are President Theresa Walske, Vice President Radha Sijapati, Martha Van Pelt Secretary and Mike Furgal as Treasurer. There was an additional meeting on February 11 to have more discussion on fund raising for the new SCLS building and the Cornerstone. The board is recommending that the Cornerstone be dedicated to raising money for the professional collection space in the new building. This is space dedicated to the members and contains a library of professional materials for their use. The board also recommended dedicating the 2022 and 2023 disbursements to the project. The recommendations will be voted upon at their April meeting.

The Friends of the Johnson Creek Public Library joined the SCLS Foundation.

#### **Building Needs Assessment Work Group (BNAW)**

A copy of the Purchase Sale Agreement is included in this month's board packet for the board to approve. It was reviewed at the January meeting. Devin Flanigan of Keller, Inc. will attend the board this month to answer any follow up questions on the building project. The Temporary Limited Easement (TLE) document will also be ready for board approval this month. SCLS is designing a new web page to share building renderings and information with its members and possible donors. Kerrie Goeden, Devin Flanigan and I have attended several meetings with various departments of the City of Madison dealing with the site and building.

Kerrie Goeden and I met with Justin Fischer and Kevin Mullen of Robert W. Baird & Company Inc. (Baird) on 2/17 to discuss the possibilities for SCLS to finance the new building through the issuance of bonds. Technically the issuance of bonds would be to refinance the \$5.5 million BCPL loan at a lower rate with a projected savings of 10% over the life of the loan. The most cost effective option would be to have one of the seven SCLS member counties issue the bond on behalf of SCLS. The county would take out the loan on behalf of SCLS by issuing the bonds and would then loan SCLS the funds. Baird is projecting interest rates in the realm of 2.7-3.25% which they estimate could save SCLS at least \$550,000 over the life of the loan (10%).

They would then issue a separate \$1 million loan bid for banks at closer to 3% interest. The 2 loans together would have an annual cost of \$450,000, which means SCLS would be saving money over renting by year 6. If the board would like to pursue this option, Mr. Fischer and Mr. Mullen are willing to do a presentation to the board in March.

### **Personnel**

The Wyocena Public Library has hired Leann Schwandt Lehner as their interim director. Leann recently retired from the Jefferson Public Library.

### **Good News**

Staff and the Building Needs Assessment Work Group have picked out the new building's floor coverings, wall coverings, doors, and casework. The Administrative Council was pleased with the new enlarged Professional Collection design.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Martha Van Pelt*

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