

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
DECEMBER 4, 2014

Library Board Appointments

January 31, 2014 will mark the completion of the second 3 year terms for both Jon Hochkammer and Gary Ferron. Typically, I inform the county executive's office of your interest in being reappointed, if you desire.

2015 Budget

The County Board adopted the 2015 operating and capital budget on November 17 in just under two hours and with very few amendments - none involving the library. This means that 2015 contracts for service are on the agenda for your approval, and that the first order of business for next year will be the development of a bid specification for a new bookmobile!

Beyond the Page Update

Tracy Herold will resign her office as Chair of the Oversight Committee following the December 5 meeting. The Director of DCLS is the permanent secretary of the Committee. She is recruiting a replacement to be elected at the meeting and plans to postpone the election of a new member until the regular 2015 elections.

We worked together to develop a ranking for members to use in evaluating the proposals; you'll recall that we have requests for twice as much money as we estimate will be available.

Personnel

Fearing that we may be wearing out our on-call LTE library clerk, we are recruiting for a replacement part time LTE clerk to begin the middle of January.

SCLS Update

The All Director's meeting, held November 20 in McFarland, featured a discussion of projects and issues for 2015 and a look at 2016. The afternoon offered a workshop on creative leadership with Amy Climer. The SCLS Foundation held their annual Cornerstone event at the 5100 Club. Honored that evening was long-time SCLS board member Francis Cherney of Wood County. Receiving the Super Awesome Library award was Verona Public Library. Middleton Public Library received the Program Wizard award and Portage Public Library received the What a Great Idea award.

2015 Planning Calendar

According to your 2014 planning calendar, you are scheduled to adopt a 2015 calendar. I kept much the same in terms of deadlines and schedules, but I did not book meetings at other libraries, nor did I specify policies to be reviewed at each meeting. While there is an established cycle for that review, the new director may have other priorities. You may choose to adopt the calendar subject to future review, or you may choose to simply table the calendar until January.

Looking Back – looking forward

The Director's Report of March 1986 (yes, it is still on file) reports on the request that the Library prepare an alternative budget reducing the current year's budget by 5% - \$20,500. Now that hasn't happened in a while! And, 5% of our budget today would be 10 times that amount. Other topics include delivery service enhancement (back then, DCLS ran its own delivery), a possible new library in McFarland (that referendum failed), and Board plans for my mid-probationary review, due a mere three months after I started. That was the first of 25 or more performance evaluations completed and filed by the Library Board over the years. They always provided a chance for reflection and useful guidance for the coming year.

What about the looking forward part? I will continue to be available to the new Director as she has questions. This offer is made without limitation – almost. I have plans to spend a week at a yoga retreat in Costa Rica and to spend two weeks walking on a beach off the Alabama coast with my dog, Phyl, who was born and lived his first year on a beach in Puerto Rico. We will both be tired of the cold by then, I think! I hope to ski more, snowshoe more, and plan to begin the volunteer training at DAIS come spring. There's sourdough starter in my fridge that needs weekly attention and results in many loaves of bread that need to be re-homed. My loom has been neglected and I hope that will change – there's certainly plenty of yarn in the closet just waiting to become something useful. I'm looking forward to it all. I have no doubt that I am leaving DCLS in the good hands of the new, thoughtful, and creative director, a dedicated staff, a supportive County Executive and County Board, and most of all, to a committed Library Board. I look forward to observing much growth and change in the coming months and years.

Julie Anne Chase, Director