

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT April 2008

Activity Summary

As always, questions are welcome.

- ✓ We've had another eventful month. Library trustee Chris Kowrach resigned on April 8th citing family concerns. On behalf of the library patrons and staff, I would like to thank Trustee Kowrach for her outstanding service to the Library District. We will miss her input and support, and all wish her the very best in her future endeavors.
- ✓ The library also saw the resignation of Moscow Circulation Department staff member Karon Chiavaras. Karon resigned as of April 15th and will follow her spouse to his new job in Montana. Karon has been a versatile and highly valued employee and will be missed by both patrons and staff. The department will fill her hours using substitutes while the search process takes place.
- ✓ The Voyager software upgrade that took place in late March went smoothly. Circulation staff in all libraries managed the backlog of materials efficiently and services returned to normal within a very short time.
- ✓ Regarding the May 27th trustee election, two petitions for candidacy were submitted by the March 21st deadline. Moscow residents John S. Pool and William (Bill) A. Warren will be on the May ballot to fill the vacant five-year term.
- ✓ I encountered an unexpected problem with the library's Employer Identification Number. Apparently since 2000 this number has been shared with the Library District Foundation. I am currently working with several people and agencies to resolve this problem.
- ✓ Seven library staff members will attend the regional Idaho Library Association conference in Clarkston on April 18th. Trustee Sylva Staab will present one of the sessions.
- ✓ Four staff members will attend "Vendor Demo Days" sponsored by the Washington Idaho Network in Spokane April 22nd – 24th. This event is designed to allow consortium members to learn about alternative library software systems.
- ✓ Access Services Manager George Williams wrote a column promoting the library's Food for Fines campaign for publication in the Daily News and the Latah Eagle. The Food for Fines campaign will run from April 14th through the 25th.
- ✓ The first round of rotations for audiobooks and kits went smoothly. The Deary Library reported that all 14 kits rotated to their library checked out before they were even shelved.
- ✓ A grant requesting funds to develop a Xeriscape garden at the Moscow Library passed the first round of screening by The Circle: Moscow Women Giving Together. Library managers Chris Sokol and Carol Kampenhout presented the grant request to members of The Circle during the final round April 6th.
- ✓ We have received bids from two different contractors on the Potlatch Library heat pump project.
- ✓ We continue to work with Washington Idaho Network staff on doing the first batch update of our library's holdings in the OCLC WorldCat catalog. This will give patrons another way to access our collection online.
- ✓ On Saturday, April 12th, several volunteers will participate in the University of Idaho's Saturday of Service and contribute their time to cleanup projects at the Moscow Library.
- ✓ On March 20th, Carol Kampenhout and I met again with the Deary Library supervisor and officers of the Deary Friends group to discuss improvements to the library. See note in the Deary Branch report.
- ✓ The Library District Foundation met on March 28th in Moscow. The Foundation has two new board members, Nancy Deringer and Ron Force.

Department and Branch Reports

Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- ✚ "Project Access" materials are now available to VALNet patrons and searchable as a group. Forty titles (56 items in all) dealing with issues facing older people and caregivers were donated to the LCLD by Project Access. A press release was sent to local news media.

- ✚ Our Xeriscape garden grant proposal to The Circle was one of ten finalists, so we were asked to submit additional information. We will give a short presentation to the group on April 6; notification of awards is April 21.
- ✚ Programs: The Readers and Writers Roundtable on March 21 (at the 1912 Center, in collaboration with BookPeople) was attended by about 35 people.
- ✚ Next month:
 - Selling on eBay, April 7th
- ✚ March display: Sally Perrine and I compiled a display about the Borah Symposium and Three Cups of Tea project
- ✚ Moscow Library Book Club titles for April:
 - ✚ Daytime group: *The Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall Smith
 - ✚ Evening group: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- ❖ The staff meeting on March 11th was a great get together and chance to get in touch with everyone and discuss summer reading plans.
- ❖ Circulation is good and the new rotations of DVD's keep my patrons happy.
- ❖ Summer reading is coming along. I have a display of the incentive prizes and some of the projects we will have for the summer in one of the cases in the back room and the kids are starting to take notice and get excited.
- ❖ My friends group recently met and helped me with some fund raising ideas. We are hoping to have another raffle for Bovill Days this year.
- ❖ Everything else is business as usual.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Exciting things are happening in Deary. We had a very productive meeting with Shauna Corry, Asst. Professor on the U of I Faculty, the Deary Friends Officers and Anne and I. At the meeting, Shauna indicated that a Deary Library renovation would be a great project for her Sophomore Studio class to plan beginning this fall. This is a win-win situation, giving them valuable experience in their field for their portfolios, while we receive a professional quality site plan for our library!
- Extensive interviews and many many measurements and site visits will be the first steps. More next month!

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- ✓ There isn't very much to report on this month as it's been business as usual.
- ✓ However, I did get another substitute trained in preparation for my April vacation. Her name is Julia Akin and it is my hope she'll be more available than the other two women I can call on.
- ✓ As I said not much news this time.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were once again up and down in attendance. It seems as if one family would just get over the "bug" and another family would bring a new one in to share. We had 27 in attendance for the 4 programs this month.
- Class visits were also at the mercy of the flu and the weather. Only two classes managed to make it down this month with a total of 40 students and their teachers coming in to check out books.
- Book Prowlers had a smaller than usual attendance at their meeting this month as well. Only 6 gathered to discuss "The Painted Drum"
- The Friends' sponsored scrapbook-making class was very well attended with 26 meeting at the two classes held in March.
- The Friends met on March 25 to hold the annual elections and to continue to plan programs for this year. Summer reading planning is almost all finished and they are also working on some "brag book" scrapbooks to be sold at the Locust Blossom Festival. The officers stayed the same this year since everyone was willing

to stay for a second term. The annual Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10 and the Friends are collecting used household items for resale.

- A local community service group has been formed that will provide help to anyone needing it in the two communities of Juliaetta and Kendrick. The group known as "Pug Marks CSI" hopes to give a better image of local youth who are doing community service to be helpful rather than because they are in trouble. The group started their service by sweeping the sidewalks in Juliaetta and picking up litter. They are now encouraging the members and anyone interested in joining to design a tee shirt. The shirts will be given to everyone who takes part in two community service projects each year. The Friends of the Library will team up with Pug Marks to do Spring Cleaning of the library inside and out in May.
- The staff meeting held on March 11 was, as usual, very informative and fun. I would like to thank the Board for the implementation of the VEBA program and for putting the money into this account for staff. It is a great benefit for everyone.
- Anna Bruce has been coming in on Wednesdays to help me check in and shelve the mountains of books that seem to keep coming and going to and from Moscow. Having her here has been a life-saver for me. I now feel as though I have my head above water and can provide better service to my patrons. Just having someone else to pull books so we can fit the incoming ones on the shelf and answer the phone is a big help. Anna is very efficient!

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- ♣ Nice to have a staff meeting and get some Summer Reading issues resolved.
- ♣ Upgrade was really smooth although some things I wanted fixed didn't get fixed.
- ♣ Gave a Boy Scout troop some instruction on using the card catalog and how to find things in the library.
- ♣ Friends fine tuned the details for the Pat Peek author presentation in April.
- ♣ Storytimes going strong and well attended.
- ♣ Ready for some nicer weather!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ☺ We had a good turn out for the presentation of the Adventure Learning Camps. 14 children and 5 adults listened to the program about a spring break trip to the Grand Canyon. Several children from the area are going this spring break.
- ☺ The Troy Library has been donated a very nice small oak desk, it is just perfect for the card catalog.
- ☺ Puzzle update: the first half is finished and they have started on the second half.
- ☺ We had a staff meeting in Moscow this month. We talked about the upcoming upgrade, the VERB Funding was explained to us, the branch supervisors met with each manager and Summer Reading was discussed.
- ☺ Update on Voyager upgrade: going smoothly so far.
- ☺ The power was out on Thursday the 27. Made it very interesting for Story Time. We are lucky enough to have big windows to let in light but it was starting to get a bit chilly. The power came back on about 12:00 but the computers didn't make it back until close to 1:00. Our job is never dull.
- ☺ Filled out the request form for the free Fred Meyer books for Summer Reading Program. Most of the programs slots for Summer Reading Programs have been filled. Just waiting for confirmation on a couple.
- ☺ A high school student, that has community service for a class, has offered to wash the library's windows but the weather is not cooperating. He was washing them today and the sun was shining and it was snowing.