

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT March 2009

Activity Summary

- ✓ Please welcome Teresa Lucas as the new Library Assistant II in Moscow. We also welcome three new circulation substitutes.
- ✓ Thanks to the library board and staff for helping make June Falk's recent retirement festive and memorable.
- ✓ A library staff meeting was held on February 24th. In addition to the shared session, branch supervisors met with managers to discuss summer reading and rotation of A/V and print collections.
- ✓ Thanks to one of the Moscow Library's longtime volunteers, the new library brochure has been distributed to several local government and commercial outlets.
- ✓ Library managers and I attended the February 18th open house at the Deary Library featuring the remodeling projects of UI interior design students.
- ✓ A memorial for former Bovill and Deary library branch supervisor Sue Hotinger was held in Bovill on February 22nd. Representatives from the library staff and board attended the service and reception. A plaque honoring Sue now hangs in the Bovill Library.
- ✓ Betsy Bybell submitted a column on reading to young children to the Daily News and the Latah Eagle.
- ✓ The VALNet directors met February 19th in Lewiston. Agenda topics included the upcoming upgrade to the VALNet catalog interface and approval of the 2009-2010 budget. The new interface will be implemented as soon as the new design features have been approved and tested. The Latah County Library District will pay \$22,907 for VALNet membership next year, up slightly from \$22,585 this year.
- ✓ The Moscow Friends of the Library booksale was held March 6th and 7th. They are still collecting expense records, but the sale grossed nearly \$6,500.
- ✓ I attended the March 11th meeting of the Genesee Friends of the Library. Exciting ideas are in the works.
- ✓ Authority control files have been added to the VALNet catalog. Patrons now have "see also" helps in author and subject browses, as well as more consistent subject headings. Training for staff and patrons is the next step.
- ✓ The LCLD annual staff evaluation process is nearly complete.
- ✓ The LCLD Foundation board will meet March 20th at the University Inn.
- ✓ I participated in the Chamber of Commerce downtown cleanup on February 21st and met the Chamber's new Executive Director Steven Hacker.
- ✓ The committee to investigate heat pumps for installation at the Potlatch library continues its work.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- Business as usual in Bovill.
- On Feb 24 we had a memorial service for Sue Hotinger and a social gathering afterwards at our community center. The family then joined my family at the library where we hung a nice plaque in Sue's honor.
- The Friends group ordered new children's furniture and it arrived last week. It looks great in Gracie's corner and the kids are delighted to see something their size to sit on. We will be ordering a carpet soon for the area to match the furniture. The carpet will be purchased with funds from the memorial money that was received for Sue.
- Working on summer reading plans.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- ❖ One of my February projects was to shelve hardcover Adult Fiction books by author, regardless of genre. Many of my patrons browse by author so this makes it easier when they are all shelved together. I plan on doing the same thing with Adult Paperbacks in March.
- ❖ All seven wallboards, completed idea books and models for the redesign of the Deary Library are on display from the U of I Design Class led by Lizette Fife. Sandy Dalton picked them up, delivered them to the library, displayed each one and set up an "Opinion Request" Station for patrons and community members to leave input.
- ❖ The junior class Prom Committee from Deary and Troy met at Deary Library to plan their prom for this year. It was fun to listen to their ideas and suggestions – I was really impressed with their organizational skills! The same day, we had ROTC testing at the library. A busy day.
- ❖ The Friends sponsored an Open House/Friends Meeting on Wednesday, February 18. All the District Managers/Director came out to see the ideas and leave their thoughts. It was nice to see them and hear great ideas about the redesign project. At the Friends meeting, a committee was formed consisting of myself, Sandy Dalton, Thomasine Blevins, Carol Kampenhout and Diane Rathbun (she was absent but will be on the committee). We decided to meet at the Kozy Corner Café in Deary on Tuesday, February 24th for further business. Informal minutes from that meeting will be forthcoming.
- ❖ I had my evaluation with Anne at the Deary Library on February 19. Not my best effort (sinus infection) but hope she won't hold it against me! I look forward to taking an online class each month and discussing it with my co-workers.

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- ✓ Genesee Friends have scheduled a 7 PM, March 11th meeting at the Genesee Library. Anne will be present for discussion of issues relevant to our Library.
- ✓ School teachers have expressed interest in working with the community library's Summer Reading theme and their end of the year, one-week reading extravaganza. An April "brainstorm" meeting will be planned for this.
- ✓ It was "Pink" in the Genesee Library this February. Over 150 resources with pink jackets or "pink" in the title were collected from various VALNet libraries and available for patron checkout. The children enjoyed story time and crafts on topics of flamingos, hearts and Presidents Washington and Lincoln.
- ✓ PC Reservations is a pleasant addition to the library. It has taken the police work out of managing the public computers. The youth do not complain and older patrons are learning to use PC Reservation as well.
- ✓ The 3rd Grade Class visited the library at the end of February as a reward for completing set goals in their "Read Around Genesee" program. The class listened to stories and also learned what reading material some adults like to read. A certificate is proudly displayed at the library in recognition of our ambitious readers.
- ✓ A cleaning service for weekly vacuuming of the Library has been contracted out since mid-February. This has been helpful addition to the librarian's busy work week.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were well attended this month. I have a nice small group of really young kids. The total attendance for Feb. was 30 at the four story times.
- Class visits were similar to last month with just 4 of the 7 classes scheduled making it in to check out books. Two classes had substitutes who chose not to visit the library and the other teacher was using the cancelation of the library visit as discipline for an unruly class. I guess that should make me feel good knowing the kids really missed coming down here. There were 65 students and their teachers that visited the library this month.
- The Book Prowlers met on February 10 with one youth and 6 adults in attendance to discuss "When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep" by Sylvia Sellers-Garcia. Interesting discussion since no one liked the book.
- The Friends met on February 17 with just six people attending. Some unfinished business was taken care of from the previous three months when the group either didn't meet or failed to have a quorum. Plans for Locust Blossom Festival, a speaker from Idaho Humanities Council talking about Abraham Lincoln's connections to Idaho, a table at an Arts Commission Arts and Craft Fair, and several summer reading ideas were discussed.

- The Scrapbook group met on February 21 with 10 people attending. One of the members of the group brought her Cricut for everyone to use.
- Mark Thomas, who is working with the U.S. Census Bureau, used the library twice this month to administer the tests used for recruiting people to help with the 2010 census.
- I missed the staff meeting/farewell party for June that was held on February 24 due to a previous appointment. My husband and I did make it up to the dinner for June at the Thai House. Very nice evening. I will miss June but know she is embarking on a fun time of her life and wish her well.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- **Friends:** Confirmed April 25th as Library Clean-Up day in conjunction with Potlatch City Clean-up day. The Antiques Onaway Road Show will be on May 3rd from 1-4. Flyers will be going to all the libraries. Mary Clearman Blew will be giving an author presentation on April 14th. Friends purchased a Creative Zen mp3 player for a drawing for the Adult and Young Adult Winter Reading Program. 28 people are signed up. Pat Peek has written an article for the Latah Eagle on upcoming events.
- Potlatch City maintenance crew came and installed the diaper changing station and changed light bulbs for me!
- The staff meeting was fun and informative, but we are so sad to see June leaving!
- 71 kids and 38 adults attended 4 storytimes in February.
- Have quite a few people taking the Even Start GED classes in the conference room.
- Still planning on getting the touch up painting in the bathroom done!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ✓ We received computer tower carts from Moscow. It will be easier to move the towers and clean behind them
- ✓ Preparing for The Fraud Prevention Program that Linda Sundstrom is going to present on March 2nd at 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Carol has ordered our new shelves. We are eagerly waiting for them.
- ✓ Attended the Staff Meeting on the 24th. It was very informative and enjoyable. Sorry to see June retiring, she will be missed. Wish her the best.
- ✓ Working on Summer Reading Programs, Upstart items have been delivered.
- ✓ PC Reservation is working out to be a good thing. Still having a few quirks now and then.
- ✓ Story Time is still going strong, 42 children this month.