

ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT
April 12, 2019

Over the last four weeks, I have been working hard to both make a transition after the resignation of Linda Lyshol, and to start charting a course forward to make progress in the areas where it is needed. Some of the immediate problems have been trickier than others, one of which I'll report on during the Personnel Committee Discussion Monday night.

I have begun attending community meetings that are relevant to the library. If I am selected for this position long-term, I will make sure that this remains a priority. On your Board Portal online, I have added a log for you to see which meetings of the 30+ entities I'm attending and when.

Also, on your Board Portal, please note that Gina and Martha have combined forces to create a companion to the minutes, so you can just take a glance at the action items and not have to wade through all the formality. Nice work to them!

The evaluation process continues for a new HR/Timekeeping solution. Since last month I have added Kronos Workforce Ready to the list to evaluate. I have been put in touch with a regional reseller, but haven't had a direct demonstration yet.

We are very happy to report that our insurance agent, Vested Risk Strategies, has been able to negotiate much more favorable terms with the underwriter for us to conduct offsite programs. We look forward to being able to do more while spending less!

After our special meeting on stats, some changes have been made already to the statistical report. We will now be tracking internal attendance and reference questions for the Kids' Place and Teen Space areas of the Coldwater Branch, just like we have been doing with the Heritage Room. Data will start appearing on the April report in May. The dropdown index on the web version of the report has also been alphabetized.

The security certificate used for secure access across many of BDL's online services (website, catalog, and more) was renewed this month, and will be good for another two years.

Mango Languages can be retained at no cost to us, thanks to the Woodlands Library Cooperative, who is funding the service for all member libraries. This will save us over \$4,000 this year. Thank you, Woodlands!

I will be out of the office from April 23 through April 29, attending the Evergreen International Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. I received a stipend from the Library of Michigan to

reimburse the library for the costs of this conference. I will be back in the office on Tuesday, April 30.

Finally, we are finishing up National Library Week. We have had a number of events lots of social engagement. You can read all about it in the other reports.

Also, if you haven't already seen it, you really should go see the Facebook reaction to the shocking resemblance our own Steve Watson has to a children's book character:



<https://www.facebook.com/BranchDistrictLibrary/photos/a.165642070173726/2575732285831347>

Submitted by

John Rucker



- National Library Week: Last week BDL joined libraries of all types in celebrating the many ways libraries build strong communities by providing critical resources, programs, and expertise. April 7-13, 2019 was National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and communities. Libraries are at the heart of their cities and towns. They have public spaces where people of all backgrounds can come together and connect. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a nationally observed event, recognized by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. During this week, the ALA announced the top 11 Challenge Books from 2018. A challenged book is a title that has received opposition to its place in a library (public, academic, school) Often times these challenges are not upheld due to the basic belief in librarianship that readers have the right to access all views of information and it is not a library's place to eliminate or censor information that may be uncomfortable to a particular person or group. Also released was the ALA's State of America's Libraries report which is an annual summary of library trends, statistics, and issues affecting all types of libraries. You can find the report online at <http://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2018>



At BDL, we celebrated our library workers on Tuesday, April 9 on National Library Workers Day with a pizza lunch. Jessica Tefft and myself picked up and delivered pizza to all 5 of the 6 Branches. The Quincy Branch celebrated a day later so that both staff could enjoy the lunch. Also, we handed out special scratch-n-sniff bookmarks to the public. This year we mixed it up with some special scents including dill pickle (my favorite!), chocolate chip cookie, lemon, bubblegum, and fresh air. These bookmarks are always popular with library users and the staff enjoy them too!

- Annual Friends Meeting: Just a reminder that Tuesday, April 16 is the 17th annual district wide Friends Meeting at 6:30pm. Join library supporters from all parts of the county to talk anything and everything library.
- Staffing Changes: In the last month, we have had the Coldwater Adult Programmer/Inter-library Loan clerk retire and also a Coldwater Clerk accept a new position.
- Lastly, the public library hits the big screen, in a movie titled "The Public". It tackles some of the nation's most challenging issues: homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and the militarization of law enforcement, all set inside one of the last bastions of democracy-in-action—your public library.

When an unusually bitter Arctic blast makes its way to downtown Cincinnati and lands at the front doors of the public library, the patrons turn the building into an emergency

homeless shelter for the night by staging a sit-in. What begins as an act of civil disobedience becomes a stand-off with police and the news media eager to criminalize the occupiers to boost their ratings. Written, directed and co-starring Emilio Estevez, "the public" stars Alec Baldwin, Jeffrey Wright, Jena Malone, Christian Slater, Gabrielle Union, Taylor Schilling, Michael K. Williams, Che "Rhymefest" Smith and Jacob Vargas.

Unfortunately, this isn't being shown at any local theaters. The closest place to see it on the big screen is Ft. Wayne. However, you can guarantee that it will be added to our DVD collection when it is released!

Community Events:

- Donated a garden themed raffle basket (including books, magazines, and information about the library seed saver exchange) to the Coach Eby Center silent auction for their 10 year anniversary celebration.
- Michigan Works: Presented to their staff a library overview and provided information to be handed out about the library at their service center. They will also provide BDL their employability skills workshop calendar, so that we can refer library users to their classes if they need intensive help with employability skills.
- Library Card Sign Up Drive: Attended the Coldwater Islamic Center weekend school program, held at the State Farm Building, to highlight library services and offer parents the chance to get their children library cards. We did have three children sign up! The teachers, noting that many of the students did not know where the library was or what it could offer, asked for a tour during one of those Saturday sessions. We have offered three dates of when they could bring the 30+ students to tour the library in May or June.

Webinar:

- Wandoo Reader – Staff Side

Submitted,

Kimberly Feltner

The Teen Services Department had a fun and event-filled “March is Reading Month – Harry Potter style” that culminated in a grand display of all eight Harry Potter films on March 30-31st. Teen Services staff and other staff members took 8 hour shifts in the 24-hour time period. Harry Potter themed games, food, and other activities rounded out the hours that Teens were gathered in the 4th floor meeting room. It was a great time and a very important lesson was learned: Supplying enough food to feed a small army is still not sufficient to feed 18 Teens. The Teens enjoyed Hungry



Howie’s, Taco Bell, and Dutch Uncle along with many, many, MANY other snacks. (A huge “Thank you!” to Hungry Howie’s for their thoughtful donation of food!)

This month, Teen Services is implementing two original programs in all 6 of our locations: “Are You Smarter than a Librarian” and “Button-making” programs. “Dungeons and Dragons” will continue in April programming in the Coldwater branch.

Teen Services had a department meeting to plan for Summer Reading and is very excited about the programs that we will be offering. We have also begun scheduling visits to Branch County Schools. Speaking of getting into the schools, we had an exciting opportunity last month to help out some of the Union City Middle School English teachers that are attempting to reorganize their school library after a retirement of the longtime school librarian. We were asked for a comprehensive list of “must-have” Middle Grade books which Keeley Briggs and I compiled together. They were grateful to receive any insight into the book buying process. It was a pleasure to be able to help.

Looking forward to May and the beginning of Summer Reading, we are also excited to partner with the Humane Society of Branch County to host a “De-stress with puppies” night for finals week.

Submitted by Jessica Tefft