

## Director's Report

**DATE:** August 12, 2024

### **Administrative**

Most of my office time has been spent on creating a Headquarters procedure manual and cleaning up files. We had two branches with air conditioning problems during the hot weather but everything is back to normal now. In May, our van driver decided to retire and we offered the position to Kenneth Stanley. Mr. Stanley trained for a couple of weeks with Jay and is working out great.

### **Technology & Branch Updates**

I have been working to upgrade public computers in several branches before the end of the year. Many of the branches public computers are 10 – 12 years old and are no longer supported by Microsoft. Dumas has been upgraded, Warren has received 4 new computers, and Monticello has 8 new computers. McGehee has received a donation from Clearwater that will cover the cost of two computers and I will be applying for a grant to cover two more. We are reducing the number of computers in all branches as we see more patrons using their own equipment but still needing our Internet service. We are also replacing the computer in our server room that monitors our HVAC units and the security cameras at HQ and Monticello.

Monticello Branch Manager, Shannon Rodriguez and I have diligently researched permanent Storywalk applications. We traveled to Saline County to get a first-hand look at how the “Barking Dog” equipment looked in the field. We were a bit disappointed in that some of the displays held moisture. We are waiting on a quote from another company but should be able to make a decision very soon and make it a reality before the end of the year.

All branches have completed their summer reading programs and what a great year. It was a great theme and wonderful participation in all branches. Please be sure to follow the branches as well as the Region on Facebook and Instagram for pictures and information about programs.

### **Community Engagement & Outreach**

Monticello Branch Manager, Shannon Rodriguez and I traveled to Harding College in Searcy to attend the Arkansas Literacy Association Luncheon. The Southeast Arkansas Regional Library was recognized as the Arkansas Literacy Agency of the year! We feel very honored to receive this award and are very proud of the work our branches are doing to promote literacy in their communities.

I was contacted by Hamburg Library Director, Holly Gillum, about building a new library. We arranged a day for her to come and tour several of our libraries to see different layouts. In July I attended the “If All Arkansas Read the Same Book” Author Luncheon in Arkadelphia to hear and meet author, Patti Callahan Henry. Ms. Henry is the author of the book “The Secret Book of Flora Lea”.

### **Meetings & Workshops Attended**

Arkansas State Library Board Meeting – Little Rock, AR, May 10, 2024

Arkansas Library Association Conferenc Committee – via Zoom, May 15, 2024

If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Author Luncheon– Arkadelphia, AR, July 15 , 2024

Arkansas Literacy Association Awards Luncheon – Searcy, AR, July 18, 2024