

With the help of various staff, including Cassie and Jenn, I was able to submit the annual report to the state last month. I'm always interested in seeing the finalized reports from other libraries around the state for comparison purposes. Typically, the composites are made public in the summer.

Although our statistics aren't back to pre-pandemic numbers, we're definitely in a recovery phase. The increased foot traffic has meant a return to some of the issues that we were experiencing two years ago (problems we were hoping to forget!). We have increased occurrences, primarily at Main, of day-long users experiencing homelessness and hunger and simply looking for a place to spend the day that is in a safe, controlled environment. This means increased pressure on the staff to deal with patrons who may exhibit issues such as personal hygiene, a lack of sleep, drug use, and other concerns.

We call on our Peer Support Staff, Angela Tiberi, often to deescalate situations and to simply talk to folks and help navigate available resources. Angela visits the temporary homeless shelter and Floyd Simantel Clinic several times a week and continues to build trust and relationships with those patrons who also come to the library. We have scheduled a training session for the Main staff with Joanna Denney, the Chillicothe Police Department's Social Worker, to discuss strategies for dealing with difficult situations and patrons.

We're still waiting to receive word that our Outreach (bookmobile) van is ready to be picked up. The last word we got was that it was in quality control, so I expect a call any day. The corresponding book lockers for Clarksburg and Zane Village are nearly complete and will be installed soon, too. The infrastructure is nearly complete at both locations. The Outreach Department is going to expand rapidly in short order.

In addition to the Friends' book sale, this year's National Library Week meant a return to an in-person Legislative Day. Ruby Smart, Liz Gibbons-Camp, and I went to the state house on Wednesday, April 6 for the OLC event. First Lady Fran DeWine was presented with a book of resolutions from around the state (including ours) recognizing her work with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and Senator Jay Hottinger was presented the Andrew Carnegie Award for his work on the PLF and for years of library support.

Afterwards, we had good conversations with Senator Bob Peterson and Representative Mark Johnson. It was also good to talk other librarians that I had not seen since before the pandemic.



Since this is an off-budget year, our primary message was thanking the legislators for continued PLF support and increasing the PLF in last year's budget to 1.7%. We also took the opportunity to express concern about the chilling affect House Bill 327 would have on all public institutions.



## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Staffing **[ACTION]**: Yet another busy personnel month. I know, from talking to other libraries, we're not alone. Nearly every resignation is because the person is going to a full-time job and all of our new hires are exciting opportunities to continue to build our services and audiences.
  - a. Accept Arissa Adam's resignation, Main library, effective March 25
  - b. Accept Sid Cory's resignation, Mt. Logan library, effective March 29
  - c. Accept Marita Perry's retirement, South Salem library, effective July 1
  - d. Hire Shannon Barton, South Salem library, effective March 22
  - e. Hire Eric Mills, Facilities Assistant, effective March 28
  - f. Hire Romaine Pollchik, Mt. Logan clerk, effective April 4
2. Accept \$1500 from the State Library for an LSTA grant supporting Bookwork **[ACTION]**: This is an annual grant that Youth Services has received many times in the past. There is a \$500 matching component (which we've already budgeted for in the summer reading line).
3. Update Public Service Policies [discussion]: Over the past two months, the board approved slight revisions to the Human Resources Policy. Now, I've had key staff reviewing the public services policies for consistency and making sure that specific policies are still relevant. We've made a few changes. The programming policy, for example, was expanded to include Adult Services (previously in focused primarily on children). We also need to expand our Outreach (formerly Special Services) policies to include the bookmobile and book lockers. I'm not asking for a vote this month, but wanted to give everyone a draft to review before asking for approval next month.