

April, 2025 Director's Report to Trustees

- **SERVICE AND SERVICE PROMOTION**

Maintain regular and open communications with all governing bodies, boards, librarians and the general public regarding the operations of the Suring Area Public Library.

- Below is a perspective by Tracy Vreeke (NFLS Director) regarding IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding.

- **Create and implement a wide range of programming for all segments of the population with an emphasis on children, teens, families, and senior citizens.**

- There are 4 entertainers lined up for the 2025 Summer Reading Program: 6/17/25 will be Ron Lindberg's "Bombastic Bubble Show", 6/24/25 is Caleb Strutz and his "Dragon Training Academy", 7/8/25 is Scott Oberman's "Magic World of Color", and 7/15/25 is J & R Aquatic Animal Rescue. These events will take place at Veteran's Park in Suring.
- We have restarted our game day for adults. It is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1 PM.
- On April 10th, Chad Lewis came to the Library to give a talk on "Wisconsin's Gangster Past". There were 20 in attendance. I will be having Chad come for another program this year.
- We have sent out sponsor letters for this years' Summer Library Program. The theme is "Color Our World".

- **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

To be a liaison between the Friends of the Library organization and the Library.

- The Friends have contributed \$10,000 toward the roof replacement. Thank you FRIENDS!!
- The Friends calendar of events is as follows:

Chocolate & Cheer Membership Drive (@ Randy's Place), 4/24/25, 6 – 8PM

Annual Rummage Sale, 5/8-5/10, 5/15-5/17

Bridge Ice Cream Social & Brat Fry, 7/20/25, 10AM – 2PM

Friends Annual Book Sale, 8/28-8/30

- The Friends are in need of volunteers to help with their Annual Rummage Sale.

- **To create and implement a long-term plan for the Suring Area Public Library.**

- The library is working diligently to accomplish goals set forth in the long-term plan.

- **COLLECTION MANAGEMENT**

Review collection development options that include both traditional and non-traditional materials.

- I have started adding to our YA Large Print collection.
- I am adding to our collection of classic materials.
- We have begun purchasing books that go along with our Summer Library Program.

Develop and implement a weeding schedule to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing needs/wants of library patrons.

- Weeding of our collection is almost done. The withdrawn items will be part of our Labor Day Weekend Annual Book Sale.

- **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Actively assess the care and maintenance of the library building and grounds as well as evaluate the functionality of the library and recommend and/or make changes as needed.

- The roof has been replaced. Paid in full.
- There was discuss with the Trustees regarding the purchase of a new copier/printer/scanner. We just need approval by the board. The price per month is only \$55 - \$60 more per month.

The Suring Area Public Library connects people with information, ideas, and experiences to provide education and enjoyment.

Library Funding Perspective

Many of you have been asking or showing concern for libraries amidst the national news around the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS). I would like to share a few words to provide some perspective around library funding in today's quickly moving environment.



Most, but not all, of the public libraries in Wisconsin are funded primarily by their governing body. In other words, most of a city or village library's funding comes from the city or village; joint libraries usually split costs, as determined in their joint library agreement contract; county or tribal libraries are mostly funded by the county or tribe.

Benefits of State Library System Membership



Wisconsin Public Libraries

- 467 Public Libraries
- 15 Public Library Systems
- 2.2 Million Wisconsin Library Card Holders
- 46.6 Million Books, Videos, Electronic Materials Used
- 106,000 Child, Teen, Adult Library Programs
- 15.7 Million Wi-Fi Sessions

That said, public libraries benefit greatly from their membership in a state library system. State library systems provide library infrastructure that would be cost prohibitive to individual public libraries, particularly in small and rural areas. State library systems are funded at the state level through Wisconsin's biennial budget process. This process is currently taking place with plans to finalize Wisconsin's budget for 2026/2027 in early summer.

At the federal level, IMLS oversees the [Library Services and Technology Act \(LSTA\)](#) 'Grants to States Program' which is the largest source of federal funding support for library services in the U.S. [Wisconsin](#) received \$3.23 Million in 2024, which equals \$0.55 spent annually per resident through Grants to States Program. Additionally, IMLS oversees the Native American Library Services program, an instrumental funding source for Wisconsin's Tribal Libraries.

Beneficial Relationship with DPI

NFLS and Wisconsin's additional fourteen public library systems benefit greatly from our relationship with Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Library Services Team. The DPI Library Services Team receives federal funding directly from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) via its Grants to States program. Benefits to systems include, but are not limited to, Professional Support Leadership, Collaborative Statewide Services, and Grants to Library Systems.



IMLS Employees on Administrative Leave

On Monday, March 31, 2025, Trump's newly installed director of IMLS placed all its 75 employees on administrative leave, [according to the labor union](#) that represents them. State and tribal libraries in Wisconsin no longer have access to their contact person at the agency and have been unable to obtain the status of current grant funding.

On Friday, April 4, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul announced Wisconsin would join a coalition of 20 states [suing](#) over threatening cuts to IMLS, and additional statements were issued by [Governor Evers](#) and [State Superintendent Jill Underly](#).

DPI Updates and Resources

Here's a recent update shared by DPI: [Happy National Library Workers Day & Update on IMLS/Federal Funding](#). Additionally, the DPI website has the following related resources:

- [Libraries – Grants and Funding](#)
- [2023-27 LSTA Five-Year Plan](#)
- [Where does LSTA Grant to States funding go?](#) (Infographic)

Federal funding and programs are vital to supporting the libraries in Wisconsin. DPI has launched a [webpage tracking federal funding](#) and its effect on public schools and libraries across the state. Included is an [interactive map](#) showing how federal funding impacts libraries statewide.

Statewide Library Advocacy Initiative



Our statewide professional organization, Wisconsin Library Association (WLA), in addition to coordinating efforts for the ongoing statewide biennial budget, has been instrumental in organizing the Wisconsin library community in a coordinated advocacy initiative: [MyWisconsinLibrary.org](#).

Watch your local library news for updates and a chance to show your legislators how much the public library means to you and your community!

As always, thank you for your continued support for Wisconsin's libraries!

Tracy Vreeke

Nicolet Federated Library System, Director