

**MEMORANDUM:**

**To:** Winnefox Library System Trustees  
**From:** Mark Arend, Assistant Director  
**Subject:** Report of System activities  
**Date:** 19 May, 2008

The following is an update of activities since our last meeting. I would be happy to provide further details at our meeting, or feel free to give me a call or send an email in advance.

**Library Summer Reading Programs:** Winnefox staff have been very busy lately helping libraries get ready for their summer programs. In addition to supplying printed materials our staff also helps coordinate the summer performers.

This year's children's program, developed by the 45-state Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), is *Catch the Reading Bug* and is being used by all Winnefox libraries. While summer programs for children are a traditional library staple, teen and adult programs are increasingly popular. This year's teen program, also developed by the CSLP, is *Metamorphosis @ Your Library*. Eight libraries are planning teen programs this year. Several years ago Oshkosh developed a bug-related summer program: *Cooties*; Renee dug it out of her files and nine libraries are using this as an adult program.

Libraries put a lot of effort into their summer programs both because it increases library use and because it's good for the children. Research shows that children who participate in a public library reading program over the summer start the school year ahead of those who don't.

**The Economic Contribution of Wisconsin Public Libraries to the Economy of**

**Wisconsin:** The DPI recently commissioned a study to determine the economic impact of public libraries on the state's economy. This study, conducted by Northstar Economics, concluded that:

- Public libraries return \$4.06 for every dollar of taxpayer investment
- Public libraries contribute over three-quarters of a billion dollars to the state's economy
- The highly developed system of libraries of all types in the state is a competitive advantage for Wisconsin

This report, as well as links to other studies of the economic impact of libraries, can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/econimpact.html>

**Library Director Changes:** Bev Haag has resigned as director of the Oakfield Public Library. Two of our long-term library directors have announced their retirements. Edie Philips, director of the Winneconne Public Library, has retired effective the end of April. Lois Potratz, director of the Spillman Library in North Fond du Lac, is retiring effective the end of June.

**Act 420 Billing:** 2009 will be the second year in which libraries will be entitled to bill adjacent counties for library use by that county's rural residents under Act 420. Twenty eight Winnefox libraries had billable use from residents of neighboring counties in 2007. I will have maps at our meeting showing the *potential* impact of this on 2009 budgets. I stress potential because while libraries are entitled to bill not all choose to do so and those that do bill may choose not to bill all counties they could. Libraries do not have to bill until the end of June and as of this writing I have only heard from a couple of libraries that have made their decision.

**Libraries: Partners in Sustaining Communities:** In your packet is a reprint from the March issue of *Public Management* magazine. *Pubic Management* is published by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) a professional organization for municipal and county managers and administrators. Copies of this article have been sent to county boards in Winnefox and library directors have been encouraged to share it with their municipal and library boards.

**Legislative update:** The Legislature has passed the "Budget repair bill" which the Governor has vetoed in part. As of this writing we do not know if this will affect system funding in 2009. I hope to have more information on this by the time we meet.