

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Mark Arend
Subject: Report of System Activities
Date: March 16, 2009

There is a lot of activity around the system this spring. I would be happy to provide further details at our next meeting, or feel free to give me a call or send an email.

Annual reports: The system annual report and the Plan evaluation and certification of compliance are in your packet. You also have a more “user-friendly” report that highlights the services that member libraries received in 2008. I have prepared similar reports for each library and county; if you would like to see any of these let me know.

As of this writing not all libraries have completed their 2008 annual reports. I hope that they will all be done by the time we meet.

Legislative Day report: A dozen people representing Winnefox libraries attended WLA Legislative Day on 3 February and had some good meetings with Legislators and their aids.

Library use reimbursements across county lines: I have begun to compile figures for reimbursement across county lines but do not have figures from libraries outside of Winnefox yet. I hope to have them for our May meeting.

Culver’s National Library Week program: Once again Culvers Restaurants is generously sponsoring a coloring contest program for National Library Week: 12 - 18 April. Participating libraries will be receiving prizes and coupons for all children participating.

State Budget Update: The Governor released his 2009 – 2011 State Budget last month. Here is an outline of library-related provisions in the budget:

- **System funding:** Unexpectedly, library system funding received increases of 1.5% in 2010 and 3% in 2011 to maintain funding at 8.2% of local library expenditures. The total increase would be \$1,033,200 for the biennium.
- **Library service contracts:** These contracts fund four agencies. The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Cooperative Children’s Book Center receive operating funding. The Milwaukee Public Library and the UW System Libraries receive funding to support interlibrary loan (ILL) access to their specialized collections. The Governor has proposed increases of 3.4% in 2010 and 3.1% in 2011 to fund these agencies to provide services at their current levels. The total increase would be \$106,700 for the biennium.

- Badgerlink: This is the service that provides statewide access to online resources for all Wisconsin residents. The Governor is proposing an increase of \$682,200 for the biennium to continue current service at the current level.
- Newsline for the Blind: This service provides access to daily national and local newspapers and magazines for blind individuals through a toll-free number. The Governor is recommending an increase of \$12,500 for the biennium to continue current service at the current level.

In past budgets, most library-related funding has come from the state's general fund (GPR), with some funding coming from the Universal Service Fund (USF). In this budget, however, the Governor has moved funding for all these library-related programs to the USF. The USF is one of the states "segregated funds" and comes from a tax on telecommunications companies.