

MEMORANDUM:

To: Winnefox Library System Trustees
From: Mark Arend, Assistant Director
Subject: Report of System activities
Date: 13 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 *Be Creative @ Your Library* and is being used by all Winnefox libraries. While summer programs for children are a traditional library staple, some libraries also have teen and adult programs. The CSLP's teen program, *Express Yourself @ Your Library*, is being used by six libraries. Some libraries have indicated that they will be using the adult program, *Master the Art of Reading*, but we don't have a count yet.

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.

Act 420 Billing: Now in its third year, libraries billing neighboring counties under Act 420 has become almost a routine activity. Twenty nine Winnefox libraries had billable use from residents of neighboring counties in 2008. 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 not heard from all our libraries.

Legislative update: The Joint Finance Committee approved the Governor's budget proposal as detailed in my March report. This means that funding for state library support will come entirely from the Universal Service Fund (USF). They also broadened the source of USF funds. At present only landline phones are taxed; Joint Finance is recommending that cell phones be included as well.

Staff News: Julia Tenor has been hired as an Interlibrary Loan Page.