

## Director's Report for October 17, 2024

- The restoration and roofing projects are officially complete! Kerry from MJB, Ryan from RDA, and Collin from All-Star were here on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to do the final walkthrough. Hilde and I joined them, and it was agreed that all of our expectations for the project have been addressed. I received the Certificates of Substantial Completion for both projects on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. As of Tuesday, our one-year warranty began. So, if we notice that something isn't working right in the next year, the contractor responsible will come out and address it.
- I have not heard anything from the plumbers yet as to a proposal to have the p-traps replaced in the patron bathrooms. I will continue to try and contact them to get answers.
- The insurance company for the school opted to have the book return box fixed by Trademark Tooling here in town rather than purchase a new one. It should be back in place soon if not already.
- I do not have any new information about the Fire protection updates we need. I will continue to try and get clarification on what the electrician needs to do and what the company provides. I will look into other options as well.
- The MOU for Litchville-Marion Public School was sent and from what I hear it was signed. I have not received it yet though. Melissa and Sara will go to the Litchville-Marion School on Nov. 1 to get students signed up for library cards.
- Melissa attended the North Dakota Library Association conference (NDLA), Oct. 2-4<sup>th</sup>. She said it had a lot of good information and brought some back concerning Measure #4 that will be voted on in November and some concerning the possibility of more legislation similar to bill No. 2360 that was proposed at the last legislative session and would criminalize librarians for providing access to books. She emphasized that we need to be Pro-Active not Reactive. Here is a summary of the information she received.

Library related bills similar to 2360 is happening and they are working on revamp of 2360. 2360 was the bill that would criminalize librarians for providing access to books. If anyone would like to read the original 2360 bill. Here is a link to the document. <https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/documents/23-0672-04000.pdf>

The main gist of this section was to be Pro-Active Not Reactive.

Many Librarians read emotional testimony about Freedom to Read, and often it fell on deaf ears. Many Legislators believe Librarians have no credibility. To have an impact, Librarian's need to leverage, their boards, foundations, friends' groups, and community. If our community wants to keep their freedom to read, they need to fight with the librarians and be the voice in the Legislation's Ear.

There is a citizen Led Coalition and New Library Advocacy Group Right To Read ND

Below are links to their information

RIGHT TO READ ND (<https://facebook.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=7e8a03d70e&e=22ff649440>) !!!

Please like and follow them on Facebook (<https://facebook.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=7698ccca2b&e=22ff649440>) , Instagram (<https://facebook.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=8e8791db1d&e=22ff649440>) , and sign their pledge (<https://facebook.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=f52c2db814&e=22ff649440>) for action!

This is a new citizen-led group in North Dakota focusing on First Amendment Rights :) They will undoubtedly need all the help and support they can get during the upcoming Legislative session.... Please contact their media coordinator Randi Monley here (<https://facebook.us9.list->

[manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=c2b9522761&e=22ff649440](https://manage.com/track/click?u=13f2af47db812a6349ed0ac04&id=c2b9522761&e=22ff649440)) if you are able to help out in any way!

So, it is very important that we have your support! Your voice needs to be heard by our community as well as our state. If you know of others that love the library as well, please consider encouraging them to voice their support in person and in writing on these issues.

- Caitlyn's new Adult Painting Club program is a hit! She has had wonderful participation, and her class is already full for next month! Our programs have been well attended so far this fall and we are adding a new one beginning in November for pre-school age children called Nature Explorers Club. We are doing this in partnership with the Barnes County Soil Conservation District and will be led by their staff. It will be once a month on the second Thursday.
- Our moving plans have begun and will continue until we are fully settled back into our space. We have volunteers from the college sports teams, Melissa's husband, my husband, and the elders here to help at various times during this week. The library will be closed on Monday, October 21, so all staff can focus on putting everything back in order. This was voted on last month, but a date was not set until now.
- Our new bookcases and chairs from Roughrider Industries were installed this morning! We are excited to get them filled up and everything organized properly.
- As a treat for our staff and in support of my granddaughter's dance team (the VC Hi-Lites), I reserved a table for a trivia team during the dance team's Trivia Night Fundraiser last Saturday evening. I am excited to say we won 2<sup>nd</sup> place! We received \$100 dollars in prize money and donated it back to the dance team. We had a great time and are looking forward to this event again next year!
- As of September 30th, the library saved our community \$416,087 in physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 23,576 physical and 13,210 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media equal \$649,111.