

# GRAL Director's Report

**MARCH 2022**

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## **ADVOCACY**

- The Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel released a map of new State House and Senate districts February 15. Currently, both the State Senate and House representative for Grand Rapids live within the Arrowhead Library System boundary. Redistricting could change this with possible impacts on Library advocacy.
- I participated in Virtual Library Legislative Week (February 28 – March 4).

## **LIBRARY MANAGEMENT**

- 2021 Minnesota Public Library Annual Report

I have included a copy of the report in this packet. State Library Services asks for Board approval on this report – and the signature of the Board Chair. Please know this report was reviewed by Mollie Stanford, Regional Librarian, at Arrowhead Library System.

## **FACILITIES MAINTAINANCE / SPACE**

- Quiet Study upgrades

The Facilities Maintenance Manager is planning / working on upgrades to the quiet study rooms to make them sound proof. This project is funded by the Library Foundation.

- Window Treatments in the Community Room

The initial quote on window treatments from Floor to Ceiling for the Community Room came back higher than \$4,999 – we will have to get another quote. I am working with the Facilities Maintenance Manager to obtain a second competitive quote.

## **FIRE RESPONSE**

- 15 calls with 1 response during the Library work shift.

END OF REPORT

## February 2022 in Children's

Okay, here's my challenge: write a board report without talking about the bright sunshine and melodious, beautiful, astounding, sounds of dripping icicles outside my window. Oops! Failed, again.

February was filled with blessed normalcy. There were a few zoom meetings, a webinar or two, a radio gig, and lots of Online Storytime. (We've been trying to film two on each film day, as we like to have some storytimes ready to go, in case of emergency. Our stock of extras was nearly depleted.) It takes me about 6 hours a week to fully prep for one storytime, so it feels like I was up to my eyeballs in scarf songs, felt, and glue. Artastic, as always, was very well received.

I also made a huge step towards the future in planning for our very first in-person children's program in over two years. Along with a handful of other ALS libraries, we will host Mr. Cody, a magician from Kentucky. His program is unique, as Cody, himself, has autism. He wraps his magic in messages of inclusion, and I am very much looking forward to attending. We will host Mr. Cody in the KAXE/Rotary tent, as I still prefer an outdoor venue, with the Community Room being a back-up in case of inclement weather.

Looking ahead, I have three big projects that I hope to further in March: Summer Reading planning, a new collection space for early chapter books (to highlight them in hopes that that makes the jump from beginner readers to chapter books a bit smoother for young readers) and the development of our Discovery Kits, which are STEM-inspired games and projects in kits that can be checked out of the library. More about these later, as we get closer to the launch!

Happy Reading!