

**Lester Public Library
Director's Report
June 2025**

News

- June 2, 2025, libraries across Wisconsin launched a postcard campaign, "Speak Up for Libraries," to encourage library patrons to write postcard messages to federal elected officials in support of federal funding for libraries and museums. Manitowoc Calumet Library System distributed postcards and instructions to Lester Public Library. We set up a station, across from the circulation desk, where the postcards will be filled out and collected. We will collect the postcards that will then be sent to the representatives together with postcards from across the state. June 23, 2025, 2,353 post cards collected across the state are on the way to Wisconsin's federal elected officials.
- The library received two blood pressure monitors, via a Rural Health Grant from the American Heart Association, that can be checked out by our patrons. Library staff were trained on how the monitors work, the monitors can be checked out for a 3-week period, just like a book.
- The Manitowoc County Library Services Advisory Committee met at the Manitowoc Public Library, June 12, 2025. Representing Lester Public Library - President Sharon Sleger, County Representative Don Weiss, and Youth Services Coordinator Terry Ehle. The Committee reviews and approves Manitowoc County Funding for year 2026 - \$235,115.00 was approved for the Lester Public Library – a 6.8% increase from 2025. With the County allocation rising above \$227,263.00, Robert Ziegelbauer, Manitowoc County Executive (also present at the meeting), noted that Lester Public Library is eligible for another County representative on the Lester Public Library Board of Trustees.
- Becky Scherer, Manitowoc Calumet Library System Director, shared intersystem reimbursements to be received by Lester Public Library for year 2026:
Calumet County: \$1,033.00 – 43% increase from 2025 (\$721.00)
Kewaunee County: \$8,756.00 – 86% increase from 2025 (\$4701.00)
Sheboygan County: \$83.00 – 73% Reduction from 2025 (\$144.00)
Brown County: \$1322.00 – 12% increase from 2025 (\$1175.00)
Manitowoc County: \$235,115.00 – 6.8% increase from 2025 (220,094.00)
Together the county reimbursements for 2026: \$246,309.00 – 8.6% increase from 2025 (\$226,835.00)

Library Foundation – No Report

Library Legislation

- On June 14, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) included the state library aid items endorsed by the Wisconsin Library Association in a public instruction omnibus motion authored by majority party members. The requested cost-to-

continue funding for library service contracts, BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind, as well as a \$1 million/first year and \$2 million/second year increase in funding for regional library systems was approved on a 12-4 party line vote. Good news for Wisconsin libraries.

- As a result of the JFC's funding, the Manitowoc Calumet Library System will receive an increase of approximately \$20,000 in state aid for 2026. This is a 4% increase, \$499,217.00 in 2025 to \$520,006.00 projected for 2026.

Activities

06/02/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting

06/03/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting

06/10/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting

06/10/25 – Lester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

06/11/25 – Lester Public Library All Staff Meeting

06/11/25 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting

06/16/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting

06/25/25 – Attended the Tom Pease Summer Reading Concert – held indoors due to rain

06/27/25 – Attended the Cool City Classic Car Cruise

06/30/25 – Help Desk Shift

Jeff Dawson, Director, Lester Public Library 07/01/2025