

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

**News**

- Please welcome Patty Dempsy, Customer Service Clerk, to the library. Patty started working at the front desk March 3, 2025.
- Chris Hamburg, Adult Services Coordinator, is in the process of setting up a materials purchasing account with Ingram. We currently purchase through Baker and Taylor (B&T). In recent months, B&T has increased delivery costs while reducing materials discounts. B&T discounts have dropped to 5-35% and shipping costs have risen 3%. Ingram offers discounts to 45% with a flat rate for shipping. While seeing better costs along with streamlining the ordering process with Ingram, we will retain an account with B&T to provide access to materials not offered via Ingram.
- Patch of Lakeshore Quilters installed an exhibit of quilts, one set by the circulation desk and a second set by the fireplace. The quilts are on display through the first week of April.
- At their March 17, 2025, meeting, City Council unanimously approved appointment of Jack Powalisz to a three-year term on the Lester Public Library Board, expiring May 1, 2028. Powalisz will begin his term on the Lester Public Library Board of Trustees at the May 13, 2025 meeting.
- March 17, 2025, the Lester Public Library Flickr page hit the milestone of twelve million views. Flickr is featured in this month's Board Education.

**Library Foundation**

- Lester Public Library Foundation Book Bags are now on sale at the circulation desk for \$3.00 each. This campaign will raise awareness of the Foundation and recoup book bag costs.

**Library Legislation**

- On Friday, March 14, President Trump signed an executive order regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and six other federal agencies. *The executive order states that the agencies' "non-statutory components and functions ... shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law," and they should also "reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law."* The IMLS is an independent federal agency that supports libraries and museums in all 50 states and U.S. territories through grantmaking, research and policy development. IMLS administers both federal grants to states, which determine how funds are spent, and discretionary grants to individual library entities. For now, it "appears" that the IMLS will operate at least to fulfill the statutory duties of the organization, which includes grants to states, Library Services and

Technology Act (LSTA) funding to states. However, the IMLS is slated for reauthorization at the federal level in October; that is when the organization may be in jeopardy as a whole.

The Manitowoc Calumet Library System (MCLS) receives funds from IMLS in the form of LSTA grants; In the 2024-2025 budget, we are expected to receive funds which have been appropriated for technology (online resources) and direct continuing education funds to member libraries. LSTA grants currently cover these costs for MCLS: 1) Professional Learning funds (\$2,472 total) \$412 per member library and 2) Tech Sparsity aid in the amount of \$12,269 which pays entirely for our access to Consumer Reports & Novelist Plus and a portion of our access to New York Time Digital.

### **Activities**

- 03/03/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting, Hosted by the Lester Public Library
- 03/04/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/06/25 – Two Rivers Business Association Meeting
- 03/06/25 – Youth Services Reference Associate interview, with Chris Hamburg, Adult Services Coordinator and Terry Ehle, Youth Services Coordinator
- 03/10/25 – Met with Mike Mathis, Director Parks and Rec, Terry Ehle, and Chris Hamburg to work out dates and times for cooperative programming.
- 03/11/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/11/25 – Lester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
- 03/12/25 – Lester Public Library All Staff Meeting
- 03/12/25 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting
- 03/13/25 – Attended the Two Rivers Environmental Advisory Board presentation, “Keep Wildlife Wild,” hosted by the library
- 03/17/25 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting, Hosted by the Lester Public Library
- 03/18/25 – Help Desk Shift
- 03/19/25 – Help Desk Shift
- 03/20/25 – Help Desk Shift
- 03/21/25 – Help Desk Shift
- 03/25/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
- 03/26/25 – Manitowoc Calumet Library System Board Meeting
- 03/27/25 – Youth Services Reference Associate interview, with Chris Hamburg, Adult Services Coordinator and Terry Ehle, Youth Services Coordinator
- 03/28/25 – Met with David Pennefeather, President, Lester Public Library Board of Trustees

Jeff Dawson, Director, Lester Public Library 04/01/2025