

December Director's Report for 12/12/2023

<u>Library Stats:</u>	<u>Stockton Seymour:</u>	Visits--25	<u>Cassadaga:</u>	Visits—187
	WiFi--7		WiFi—20	
	Ref--1		Ref—36	
	House--0		House—71	
	Print-- 0		Print—\$19.75	

I attended the NYLA 2024 Conference at Saratoga Springs, NY, on Nov. 2-4. I attended several seminars which were informative and instructive:

- “Small Libraries, Big Data” (Th)-- data & graphs are hugely beneficial tools for explaining the need & usefulness of libraries to the community.
- “Re-ignite Your Programming” (Th)-- thematic, year-long events lend cohesivity to programming.
- “Get Them to Show Up: Community Engagement” (Fr)-- Pop-up events; don't plan programs ON holidays, do it before; pair up with new businesses; collaborate whenever you can.
- “Beyond the Building” (Fr)-- off-site events at distilleries, dog parks, nature parks, bakeries, etc. Organize tours of local businesses: even if it's not a book club, it's still educational because they're learning something new.

Thanks to the generosity of CCLS's mini-grant for NYLA, \$500 of my expenses were reimbursed to the library. It covered the \$290 conference fee, the \$25 new membership fee and the rest went to the hotel expense.

The Medicare consultations with Rebecca Poynton on Nov. 2nd at CASS worked out very well. The attendees were able to have complete privacy while discussing their options. Positive patron feedback confirmed their satisfaction with the site and Ms. Poynton.

I met with the director and 2 other employees at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute on Tues. (7th) regarding the upcoming Spring '24 Parks Project. We discussed details to get the grant application started; it's due the last Wed. of December to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF). RTPI has chosen a designer for their graphics for the two sets of 3 large posters displayed at CASS and STO for the months of April-June. She will be paid a \$500 stipend. Local students will be surveyed for their favorite local birds of North America for inclusion into this project. Students at P-Tech of Dunkirk (BOCES) will be welding the metal angle-bar frames to support each banner. All plans pending grant approval.

There would be an “Unveiling Event” at each park on Saturday (April 6th). A library Pop-Up would be at each. We will notify local newspapers to see if they can cover our Parks event. It coincides with the April 8th (Monday) solar eclipse and many people are going to be in the area.

I have some free eclipse glasses from CCLS, and I've ordered 60 more. I'd like to reserve them for kids at our Pop-Up event at the CASS High School on Monday, April 8th. I'm planning to offer water bottles, photo booth, library swag, etc. at our tent.

The CPR Certification Class was cancelled by the instructor due to a family emergency. The back-up instructor had CO-VID. It has been rescheduled for Monday, January 22nd from 6-8 p.m. at our Cassadaga Branch.

The proposal for the ALA: Libraries Transforming Communities Grant was submitted on Nov. 28th online. Don Banaszak contributed to it. Additional letters of support were submitted by Barb Mallette and Don Banaszak. I applied for the \$10,000/\$20,000 funding with hopes for the higher amount. The full grant would allow us to install automated doors in the back vestibule at Cassadaga, replace the broken ramp with a redesigned concrete ramp and add ramp handrails. A partial grant (\$10,000) would only allow us to replace the broken ramp.

Bobbie oversees Saturday Storytime at Cassadaga, with occasional special events; and turnout has been improving. On Saturday, Nov. 4th, The Erie Canal Pioneer Days event at CASS was attended by 8 children and adults.

We've been getting a couple of ladies regularly attending our Wednesday Cassadaga Knits at 1:00-3:00pm. Contact has been made with Mike Morton of Sundance Kids Farm, and he will bring his animals to CASS for the Feb. 3rd Winter Festival. The fee is the same as last year (\$100).