

**ARL Director of Libraries Report for November & December 2022
January 2023 Board Meetings**

Administration & Personnel

- We have one position (other than that of the soon-to-be-retired Director) open – the Adult Services Specialist position at Watauga.
- Jane’s retirement date is Feb 1, so she is still officially employed although not at work (using up some vacation time this month but available by phone or email).
- We held our annual All Staff Training Day on Friday, December 9. Fifty+ of our 61 employees attended. A good time was had by all. Jane made out like a bandit with gift baskets from all three counties.
- The region’s search for a new director continues.
- Staff evaluations for 2022 and work plans for 2023 should be completed by the end of the month.

Budgets & Finance

- End of December 2022 budget %'s across the region:

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Ashe	47.55%	44.58%
Watauga	48.81%	50.13%
Wilkes	50.86%	46.14%
Regional	45.12%	49.5%
LSTA	100%	100%
ARPA	100%	79.29%
TOTAL	52.38%	49.97%

(Note: Fines/Fees revenues are running ahead.)

- Non-Recurring ARPA \$ from state: Along with the \$6,000 set aside by the board, there remains approximately \$11,600 for each County Librarian to use for her library/libraries.

Grant Activities

- The Watauga grant request to the Local Foundation of North Carolina (funded by the credit union) to help pay for a new van for library outreach was not awarded.
- All three county libraries will submit an LSTA EZ grant application to the State Library by March 1:
 - Watauga is asking for \$40-\$45,000 for a new van with which to continue and expand outreach services. A match of either 10 or 25% is required depending on whether we have partners for the project or not.
 - Ashe is asking for money to increase equitable access to library materials by installing pickup lockers in 3-5 locations throughout the county.
 - Wilkes hopes to partner with the Town of Wilkes to put a Library Locker in the town limits, giving 24/7 access to requested library materials and to further reach out to that side of the county.

Technology

- We completed an upgrade to Evergreen 3.9.1 successfully. (Evergreen is the software that NC Cardinal libraries use for cataloging materials and for patron records.) There were minor issues to resolve after the upgrade, but it went well overall.