

**ARL Director of Libraries Report for January & February 2023  
March 2023 Board Meetings**

**Administration & Personnel**

- We have two open positions (plus the Director position) – An Adult Services Librarian position at Watauga and a Circulation Assistant position in Wilkes.
- The region’s search for a new director continues.
- Staff evaluations for 2022 and work plans for 2023 are completed.

**Budgets & Finance**

- End of February 2023 budget %’s across the region:

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Ashe	67.57%	58.11%
Watauga	63.86%	63.74%
Wilkes	65.49%	62.45%
Regional	62.59%	66.16%
LSTA	46.88%	69.74%
ARPA	100%	85.52%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67.26%</b>	<b>64.02%</b>

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

- Non-Recurring ARPA \$6,000 set aside by the board.

**Grant Activities**

- All three county libraries have submitted an LSTA EZ grant application to the State Library by March
  - Watauga is asking for \$35,000 for a new van with which to continue and expand outreach services. A match of 10% will be required since partnering with Community and State agencies, largest partner will be Watauga County Schools.
  - Ashe is asking for \$22,000 for a Mamava Lactation free standing Pod to support breastfeeding families. A match of 10% will be required since partnering with AppHealthCare.
  - Wilkes is asking for \$39,172 for a Library Locker to be placed within the Town of Wilke giving 24/7 access to requested library materials and to further reach out to that side of the county. A 10% match will be required as we are partnering with the town.

**Technology**

- E-Rate Form 471 for funding year 2023-2024 was filed on January 18th after the window opened on January 17th. If approved, this funding covers eighty percent of our broadband and WAN costs, which run around \$45,000 per year.
- We’re investigating creating an app that could be used by all cardholders with several exciting features.
- We’ve been able to work with Tech Soup this month to obtain free replacement hardware for computers with hardware issues that were out of warranty.