

**ARL Director of Libraries Report for March & April 2023  
May 2023 Board Meetings**

**Administration & Personnel**

- All positions (except the Regional Director) have been filled. The Youth Services Manager in Watauga is scheduled to start May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Update: Watauga AS specialist has resigned 05/10/23 and Wilkes Circulation assistant will be leaving at the end of May

- The region’s search for a new director continues.
- A big Thank you for all the support and goodies that were provided to our Library staff during National Library week.

**Budgets & Finance**

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

|              | <u>Revenues</u> | <u>Expenditures</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Ashe         | 69.05%          | 72.85%              |
| Watauga      | 78.93%          | 77.22%              |
| Wilkes       | 80.55%          | 77.27%              |
| Regional     | 78.48%          | 78.74%              |
| LSTA         | 46.88%          | 96.33%              |
| ARPA         | 100%            | 89.33%              |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>78.21%</b>   | <b>77.49%</b>       |

(Note: Fines/Fees revenues are running ahead. Reimbursement of LSTA funds have been requested. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Ashe appropriation arrived May 1<sup>st</sup>.)

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

**Grant Activities**

- We have sent a letter to Senator Ralph Hise asking for his support of the NC House recommended budget increase to State Aid.
- We should hear in June if any of the three county libraries have been awarded an LSTA EZ grant.

Application were submitted to the State Library in 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**

- We continue to make progress on application development with myLibro. Our target launch date is still in June.
- We’re in the early stages of investigating a website refresh or redesign. Our web host has provided us with more extensive data collection tools to analyze what our users are doing when they visit the site.
- We’re working on coordinating an NC Live workshop for staff across the region early 2024.