

Director's Report for January 01.15.2026

- We had a great turnout for our strategic planning event held on Saturday, December 20th with Megan Langley from StrengthenND. There was a lot of good discussion, and I believe that everyone gave valuable input and feedback. I have not heard from Megan yet concerning a draft of the strategic plan she is creating for us, yet I expect to hear from her soon.
- The painting of the upper tin border inside the dome is progressing well and will hopefully be completed by the time we have this meeting. Please take time to stop and see it! Patrons are dealing with the minor inconvenience of the scaffolding and furniture displacement very well. It has brought new interest in the restoration project as there are still some people that are not aware of the extent of the restoration.
- Once the painting is finished, Ryan Goodman will come to do a final inspection of the project and have the scaffolding and other equipment removed.
- We continued to sell the left-over items from the "Libraries are Sweet and Books are My Jam" Market Day event throughout the Christmas season. There is very little left which is great to see.
- Employee evaluations were completed before Christmas, and I am happy to say they all went well and we have a very talented and dedicated staff here at the library! Our patrons are well served and enjoy their time interacting with staff.
- We received another nice donation to the library foundation this week. A check for \$10,000 found its way to my desk this week and is designated for the library. This, in addition to previous donations, will give us the opportunity to choose a project that will make a significant improvement to the library.
- The North Dakota Library Association in partnership with the ND State Library has designated February 1st through February 7th as "Library Joy Week." The intention of this week is to celebrate how our library brings joy to our patrons and community and to educate the broader community about the services and opportunities that the library provides and are free to the community. We had a great brainstorming session during our January staff meeting and have come up with several ideas for ways to celebrate library joy that week. One of those ways is inviting the public to a "Coffee and Cookies with the Library Board" afternoon event. This would give the board a chance to answer questions from community members and to encourage more support for the library. We will also be planning to have a night or two of Giant Joy Games for kids and older youth. We would also like to create short video clips of some of our patrons describing what library joy means to them.
- The library will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.
- As of December 31st, the library saved our community \$566,706 for physical checkouts. As of that same date, a total of 30,404 physical and 19,358 digital checkouts took place. Approximate savings to our patrons for both physical and digital media for the year 2025 equals \$927,539. This is a significant increase from the previous year! The difference is \$136,430 more in savings to be exact!