

# LOWER UMPQUA LIBRARY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## *The Library News*

**DATE: January 28, 2019**

**Issue Number 5**

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR / DISTRICT MANAGER POSITION

At the January 22, 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors offered this position to Sue Cousineau and she has agreed to accept. This was a unanimous decision by the Board. As many of you know, Sue was the Branch Manager during the County management period for a long time. Since she is familiar with Library operations she will be able to engage quickly. She will be learning about the Special District management side of things but is eager to do so. She expressed interest in supporting the improvements in the Library that have begun and has some excellent ideas of her own. She shared her passion for the Library and that she is eager to return to her first love. She is a proponent of community engagement and looks forward to finding ways to partner with organizations in the community. She also touted the importance of volunteers who are essential to the Library in many ways. She has seen many changes in the Library in her tenure over the years but sees good things happening in the future. The fact that the Library Strategic Planning is in progress is perfect timing as a platform for her re-engagement. She will be participating in those events and working with the Library Consultant. It will be a busy time for her as she is coming up to speed on some many issues. Once she is on board, she will be looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

### NEW COMPUTERS & PRINTERS

Using grant funds, new computers and printers were purchased and installed. The staff now have much better capacity to create written products such as flyers and notices. Ron Eberlein and Lee Bridge were very involved in the securing and installing of this equipment.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

Using a \$25,000 grant from the State Library, the Board of Directors have obtained the services of experienced Library Consultant Penny Hummel and she has brought on board a Technology expert, Lance Murty, to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and strategic plan with broad community involvement. She will be conducting personal interviews, organizing small focus groups, and eventually a stakeholder retreat in which the community representatives can participate in planning. Ms. Hummel met with the Board on 1/8/19 to review the plan and get their input. Mr. Murty met with Board members regarding the technology issues on that same date. Mr. Murty has significant experience with Library technology in multiple settings and will bring back a technology assessment and plan for upgrading the library systems at the 2/12/19 work session meeting. This process is important to developing clear pathways to the best Library we can create. Once completed, the Strategic Plan will be what the Board uses to make decisions for the future. The plan will be based on what the community identifies as its needs and priorities. If you have not been personally contacted to participate in this process, we invite you to attend Board meetings to comment on it. There will be a survey distributed broadly in the near future. More information will be forthcoming on how to do that. This is everyone's Library. Make your voice heard.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Using a grant from Special Districts Association Organization (SDAO) secured by Gary Goorhuis, the Library security system will be improved significantly in the coming weeks. This will include more cameras attached to the alarm system.