

Director's Report: Submitted by Patrick Pittman

February 2026

Director's Focus:

Space Analysis; Future Renovations; Year-End Assessment/Reporting

Personnel: See Personnel Committee report.

Finance: See Finance Committee report.

Facilities: See Facilities report.

Policy: See Policies Committee report.

Library Function: February showed stability over the course of a somewhat unpredictable pattern of winter weather. While the library has set an overall goal for increased usage, a flat year over year does not necessarily serve as a negative indicator. The library had 6,116 visits over 212 service hours in February 2026. In February 2025, the library had 6,038 users over 208 service hours. The patrons per hour align closely in both years, hovering around 29 users by hourly average. The library's staffing model works to this point. The slow process of discovering the patrons per hour required for increased staffing has started by using AI and projection models.

The driver for a significant portion of monthly attendance in February centers around the public-school break. Families come to the library for activities, reading, a place to warm up, as well as programming. Programming specifically had good attendance during this break. Two of the biggest draws featured hands on learning opportunities geared toward children of all ages. Crunchy Sam's Reptiles and Invertebrates showcased some of the lesser-known creatures of the natural world. The Sankofa African Dance and Drum Ensemble illustrated the importance of music and dance in communication. Both programs encouraged discovery and engagement, netting an average of 70 participants at each program.

Additionally, the beloved children's book character Bruce the Bear made an appearance at Seymour in collaboration with Parma Public Library. This special story time had a higher than typical attendance. The more regular offering of Intro to 3D Printing maintained a steady attendance of 25, maintaining its popularity despite the number of times the library has offered it. A wide diversity of programming brought many regular patrons but drew in new faces from across Monroe County. Seymour programs represent a major strength of the library staff with the metrics proving their value to the community.

Circulating materials remained flat for the third consecutive month since stabilizing in December 2025. The library will continue to slowly inject capital into e-materials to see if any meaningful differences start to emerge. One of the more salient aspects of the Bonadio Report

correctly pointed out demonstrated that programming did not rely on cost for success. The library has implemented this guidance in many ways. However, no such forward guidance exists for increasing circulation. In many ways circulation relies on identifying trends and spending accordingly, but it does not represent an efficient model. Since total circulation has come roughly on par with pre-COVID, perhaps the library should account for some plateau. However, it appears as though circulation may have some room for growth.

To date, the New York State Library has not released its portal for end of year reporting. As such, the year-end reporting to the municipalities has only started taking shape. The final report will be released in April to ensure accuracy and completeness to the library's municipal funders and the to NYSL. The Monroe County Library System has offered a great deal of support while the NYSL explores options for reporting. However, the process created challenges at all levels as libraries across the state await the release of the new platform. A resolution should be presented in early March.

Looking Ahead: February also served as a month of brainstorming for several upcoming events and deadlines. First, the Summer Reading Program continues to demonstrate high use and engagement. The librarians have started planning what the program will entail under this year's theme: "Unearth a Story". Additionally, the librarians began thinking about what kind of library best represents this community. The prospect of future renovations leads to considering how patrons view and use the library.

Part and parcel of considering renovations also requires what the service population thinks of the library. As required in the Long-Range Plan, a community survey has started coming together. While it has a semi-fluid timeline, the survey will capture user experiences and perspectives in 2026. The feedback will create one component of a larger picture to keep momentum throughout the library. Public feedback shapes a great deal of how the library develops plans of service, programming, and building enhancement. The staff will heavily utilize the data returned.

In Closing: The library sustained its success from 2025 in February. The metrics measured show promise for how the remainder of 2026 may shape up. The library staff continue building areas of public interest and popularity to maintain relevance. This will define upcoming projects, such as the Summer Reading Program, building renovations, and the community survey. While the library has multiple steps between each benchmark, the payoff should prove rewarding. As a reminder, the library will close on Wednesday, April 8th for Staff Training Day. The library will take a deeper dive into some of the prospective projects at that time.