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WLN System Administrator Retires

Cesare Muccari has been System Administrator of the Westmoreland Library Network (WLN) in Greensburg for the past eight years. Prior to that, he had been Library Director at Greensburg Hempfield Area Library for twenty-seven years. Effective October 6, 2022, he has retired from his position with the WLN, leaving behind an enduring legacy of caring and accomplishments for which he can take immense pride.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment is his part in helping to fully establish the shared electronic catalog services of the Westmoreland Information Network (WIN™), first by actively supporting the original launch led by Murrysville Community Library, then by leading/promoting the infrastructure and security upgrades of WIN services.

WIN automates access to the 24/7 countywide collection of the whole WLN: “The World within Your Reach” at www.WLNonline.org. It was launched in December 2007. The infrastructure was significantly upgraded by WLN technical staff more than once with Cesare’s leadership and substantial grants that he gained through his vision and diligence.

At the outset of the WIN, there was a committee of eight Library Directors charged with the responsibility of preparing a case and recommendation for the WLN Board and other member Libraries. Cesare was one of the eight. His Library was also one of two of the eight that had already recently upgraded its individual cataloging system to one or the other of three of the most modern, individual-library systems to be had at the time. The other Libraries were mostly in the backwoods of cataloging antiquities, without the financial means to modernize on their own. That was certainly true for Murrysville Community Library. In any case, “modernizing” as a loner was far from truly modernizing as a collaboration of all public Libraries in the county.

Cesare understood that, and despite the investment that his Library already had in a new local cataloging system, he had the greater good in mind; he agreed to join the majority who voted to invest collectively in what became known thereafter as the WIN, also as the Polaris Integrated Library System (ILS). Even though Polaris was not the existing provider at his Library. In a much upgraded infrastructure now, the Polaris ILS is what you the patron use today to order books and other items from wherever you happen to be, 24/7.

I have known Cesare through his WLN leadership years and the latter of those years at Greensburg Hempfield Area Library. I worked in close contact with him as WLN Board President and Treasurer, positions that I held alternately for a number of years. I worked with him when I was Murrysville Community Library Board President for several years and as Board Liaison to the WLN, which I continue to be even now. We have done some good things together. Most of all, I can say that we became friends while doing them.

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I spoke to him often at off-hours about WLN issues, and even at long distance sometimes, as Cesare and his wife Wendy like to travel on vacation – keeping himself always on call, once while at a restaurant in Iceland, a couple of times while in Italy, and often while at his home away from home at poolside in Florida. I wish him well on more dream travels, now absent the long-distant calls that he always took from me with grace.

Charles B. Greenberg
Board Director, Murrysville Community Library Foundation