

Veterans Resources at the Moorhead Public Library

A couple weeks ago I met Bernie, a long-time friend and fellow Air Force Veteran at the Moorhead Library. We talked about what a wonderful resource the Library is for our community. With this in mind, I spent some time with Jenny and learned more about what is offered at the Library. The Moorhead Library is part of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) system which serves the residents of Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Norman, Polk and Wilkin counties in northwest Minnesota.

Anyone with a Moorhead address can walk into the Moorhead Library and get a library card simply by showing proof of being a Moorhead resident. This process is the same for all the LARL locations. Once you have your LARL card, things become available to you. Of course, there are books to be checked out and read, but also DVDs, CDs and Magazines. In 2015, I checked out and read over 50 books. If our local library doesn't have the item you want, you can request it from any of the other branches in LARL, they normally arrive in a couple days. If LARL doesn't have it, they have an agreement called Interlibrary Loan with the Minnesota colleges and other Minnesota public libraries. Not only does the Moorhead Library have books but they also have a number of books in electronic format so you can check them out on your Kindle or other device and read them.

Veterans and others can also come to the library and use their computers. If you want to print or fax something, that will cost, but it is very inexpensive. If you need help using the computers, the staff is very willing to help you. Mondays from 2:00 – 3:00, they have open practice on the computers with staff members there to give you individual help. You can also request an appointment for help with a staff member. The computers have Microsoft Office so you can use them for word processing, spreadsheet work and even create a PowerPoint presentation. If you bring a flash drive with you, you can copy your work to it. Remember, you must pay for printing.

If you want to research your family history, the library has a subscription to Ancestry.com and it is free to use. They also have access to HeritageQuest which can be accessed remotely with your LARL library card.

Moorhead hours are 9:00 am to 9 pm Monday thru Thursday, 10 am – 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday. If you have questions give them a call at 218-233-7594 and check out their news and special events at their website www.larl.org.

News item: Last week, I attended a breakfast meeting on how to provide better healthcare to the underserved and the unserved. Several people said we need better options for mental health care. A later column will have more on this topic.