CLLS 30\textsuperscript{th} Celebration Ideas

\textbf{A Taste of Soup} in Lost Creek, WV

\textbf{This Fund-Raiser for the Southern Area Library raised over $1800 in its second year}

Lost Creek, West Virginia, population 491, recently began a soup-tasting fund-raiser on a Sunday in January. This event takes a small amount of time, a small number of volunteers, and little up-front cost. Here are the details:

8-10 people each volunteer to make 3 gallons of a favorite soup

Local authors set up a table free of charge for entertainment.

Coffee, ice tea and ice water are available, and volunteers make desserts. Local restaurants (Panera, Bob Evans, Eat ‘n Park) donate bread.

Pre-sold tickets cost $8 per person.

Participants spend time at “soup stations” sampling each soup that interests them. Each person gets half an insulated cup of soup to try. They can come back for seconds. Tasters vote on their favorite soup by placing money in a decorated mason jar that sits on each table. Lost Creek’s winning soup made over $96, second place made $91, and the others ranged from $11 to $35.

Set up began at 10 AM, doors opened for tasting at noon, clean up at 2 PM. Volunteers spent no more than 5 hours of time helping at the event.

This small rural library, in only its second year, raised $1800 which is 5\% of their annual budget. It’s straightforward and depends heavily upon goods that are donated. Great idea for a small library or a first-time fund-raiser. We could call it “Soup’s On for Literacy!”