

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Vienna Library for the December meeting. President Carole Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:15. The following board members were present: Carole Wagner, Toleda Jett, Heather Walker, Rachel Williams, and Lerilee Huhman. Tierney Earp, Brittany Davenport, and Stacey Dunham attended via Zoom. Nora Bond attended by phone. One guest, Genna Jett, was at the meeting as she considers serving on the Maries County library board. Staff members present were Assistant Director Lisa Garro, Lysha Thompson, and programmer Michelle Vaughn were in attendance. Jenny Dillon was not in attendance.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: Rachel made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Heather seconded. All approved.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Toleda and seconded by Rachel.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: A brief discussion was held then Toleda made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds and Heather seconded. The motion passed.

Director's/Librarians' Reports: The director's, assistant director's, and programming librarian's reports were presented. Michelle shared the latest programming statistics report. She was excited about the recent attendance at several events at the Eldon branch. She also reported that she asked the attendees what they would like to see happening at the library. The following suggestions were made: homemade ice cream, pipe cleaner animals, board game days/nights, teen book clubs, maker swaps. She said upcoming plans include canning programs and seed swaps in the spring. Soil and water conservation will present a program in March. Michelle is also considering a possible program on handknitting.

The Assistant Director's report was handed out and reviewed.

- The summer library programming grant was awarded. The amount of \$8,000 will cover additions to the library collection and presenters.
- Laptops have been updated and are available for use at the Iberia and Vienna branches. One desktop will stay at each branch as it contains the card catalog information for patrons to use. Possible upgrade on furniture is being researched.
- The Chromebooks that were ordered for the Eldon branch were out of stock. It was reported that they may ship on February 2nd. These were donated by the 100 Empowered Women of Eldon organization.
- Upcoming events: February – MU extension will give presentations at each branch on the tick-borne disease, Alpha Gal, that is affecting many in Mid-Missouri. Please spread the news so there is good attendance for sharing information. March --String art, dragon eyes, makers swap, pantry mixes and peep dioramas. Battle of the Books will be happening.

The Director's report:

- Currently actively cleaning and maintaining records within the Missouri Evergreen consortium. Also preparing to resume weeding of the collection. Items removed have not circulated in over 3 years. The process will provide more shelf space and assist in inventorying each area (finding missing or mis-shelved items. This will be a year-long task.
- Staff evaluations will begin soon. All staff will also complete a self-evaluation to aid in reflecting on responsibilities, and how their role fits into the overall library operations.
- Hwy 42 road closure for bridge work will present a challenge for traveling between libraries (and home for some staff). MODOT is suggesting detours through either Brinktown or Argyyle.

****See the Director's Report for January 2026 for more details.**

Communications: Donna Jones sent a thank you note for the recent raise in pay. Clinton Jenkins sent a letter with information on applying for positions within the county.

Old Business: Board members will soon receive the Director's Performance Appraisal form through email. The form should be completed as soon as possible so that the information can be reviewed. The committee will present the results to the director either before or after next month's board meeting.

The proposed pay scale for new hires was discussed. One suggested change was to raise the pay for program librarian (without Bachelor[s degree]). Stacey made a motion to accept the HRLS Base Pay Schedule for New Hires 2026 with the suggested changes. Heather seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business: None.

District Board Reports: Maries County library board reported that they elected the following slate of officers for 2026:

President – Rachel Williams

Vice President – Heather Walker

Secretary – Carole Wagner

Treasurer – Toleda Jett

They also reported that they made the decision to transfer 5% (\$5,328.61) of the unexpended operational funds from 2025 to the capital improvements fund for Maries County.

The Miller County library board reported that they elected the following slate of officers for 2026:

President – Nora Bond

Vice President – Brittany Davenport

Secretary – Lerilee Huhman

Treasurer – Stacey Dunham

They reported that they made the decision to transfer 5% (\$18,316.09) of the unexpended operational funds from 2025 to the capital improvements fund for Miller County.

Committee Reports: None.

HRLS Policies: None.

Executive Session: An executive session was needed. The HRLS board entered into executive session at 7:05 and returned to the regular monthly meeting at 7:15.

Adjournment: Heather made the motion to adjourn at 7:18 and Toleda seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary