

**Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Vienna Library for the November meeting. President Carole Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00. The following board members were present: Carole Wagner, Toleda Jett, Tierney Earp, Lerilee Huhman, Rachel Williams, and Heather Walker. Denise Tyler and Stacey Dunham attended via Zoom. Brittany Davenport and Nora Bond were absent. Staff members present were Director Lisa Garro, Lysha Thompson, Jenny Dillon, and Michelle Vaughn.

Public Comments: None.

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

Financial Reports: A brief discussion was held on the Miller County CD at the Bank of Iberia. The financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Lerilee and a second by Rachel.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Following a brief discussion on the Athletes and Entertainers Tax, 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, assistant director, and programming librarians reported on the following:

The programming librarians, Jenny and Michelle, shared their latest statistics reports. Michelle thanked the board for the extra days off at the holidays. It is very much appreciated by the staff. She reported on meeting with a new home school group. She also attended a literacy night, and a Parent as Teachers meeting both at Tuscumbia. She also said the crafts are popular with the seniors. She said they are also starting preliminary planning on next summer's reading program.

Jenny reported that she is trying to get consistent dates set on programming. She has three book clubs—two in Belle and one in Vienna. She is also doing outreach with Vienna Catholic school. She also reported that Michelle and herself attended the CSLP Summer Symposium in October and received lots of creative ideas for summer programming.

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

- HRLS will be collecting money to make shelf-stable meal kits to distribute to food pantries and/or organizations in both counties. The kits will be assembled during the December 12th staff meeting.
- Provided a copy of the donation letter to local businesses and organizations
- Working on the grant application for next year's summer library program.
- Reported on the passive programs planned.
- Puzzle competition was enjoyed so going to do it again in December.

The Director's report:

- SB775 (Book Ban) was ruled on by a circuit judge who determined to be unconstitutionally vague. Banned books will be returned to library shelves.
- The grassy lot west of Iberia library was discussed. The owner of Hard Times is interested in leasing or purchasing the lot. Photos of maps were shared to view the locations. Will check with realtor companies on the possible value of lot and library building.
- Miller County tax credit freeze showed a reduction of \$4,637.39 to the tax revenue for 2025.
- Community events-- Iberia Christmas Parade 11/28 (library will stay open). Belle's Jingle Stroll on December 13 (library will close).
- Upcoming events—Big Read, staff mtg and holiday meal, holiday closings, info on upcoming board mtgs, and director's evaluation in January.
- The Annual Report for 2024 was handed out to the board members.

**See the Director's Report for November 2025 for more details.

Communications: None.

Old Business: After discussion, Rachel made a motion to adopt the resolution to join LAGERS with the following one-time elections and benefit elections:

- One Time #3 --Annual hours –1,500
- One Time #4 --Prior Service – 25%
- Benefit #5 -- Life Programs – L-1
- Benefit #6 -- Final average salary – 3-year
- Benefit #7 -- Mandatory member contributions – 4%
- Benefit#8 -- Retirement Eligibility – Normal retirement

Also in the motion, Rachel set the restriction to stop matching the 3% investment to the Simple IRA plans for the full-time employees but will continue to match the 3% investment funds into Simple IRA plans for the part-time employees. Carol seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: The suggestion was made to have a recognition dinner for board members (Ralf, Eleanor, April, and Denise) who are leaving or have left the HRLS board in the past year. Plans are to meet at 5:00 at Hard Times Bar and Grill before the December board meeting on December 16th.

District Board Reports: None.

Committee Reports: The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2026 and the election will be held at the December meeting:

President – Carole Wagner

Vice President – Nora Bond

Secretary – Lerilee Huhman

Treasurer – Rachel Williams

The proposed 2026 Budget was presented. Following discussion related to the estimated LAGERS budget, Heather made a motion to accept the 2026 Budget and Toleda seconded. Motion carried.

HRLS Policies: Patron policies will be reviewed early next year.

Executive Session: An executive session was held.

Adjournment: Rachel made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 and Tierney seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary