

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Iberia 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, Tierney Earp, Lerilee Huhman, Heather Walker, Denise Tyler, and Nora Bond. Rachel Williams, Brittany Davenport, and Stacey Dunham were absent. Staff members present were Assistant Director Lysha Thompson, and programmer Michelle Vaughn. Lisa Garro and Jenny Dillon were unable to attend.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes: Toleda 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 Lerilee and seconded by Nora.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: A brief discussion was held on Ingram Library Services, the new book purchasing company, that HRLS is using since Baker and Taylor is going out of business. Nora made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds and Toleda seconded. The motion passed.

Director's/Librarians' Reports: The director's, assistant director's, and programming librarians' reports were as follows:

The programming librarians' latest statistics reports were shared with the board. Michelle was excited to share the news that the teen section at the Eldon branch was recently painted and looks fantastic. They are seeing more teens coming into the library. She also reported that the 100 Empowered Women of Eldon organization donated benches for the outside area at the Eldon branch and they were recently delivered and set up. She also shared that there are more passive programs being added at the branches. Michelle shared that recently there have been several first-time attendees at programming events.

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

- HRLS Meal Kits update – money collected (\$1,270+) was used to make 127+ kits which will be distributed among the 4 library branch communities (based on the amount of money collected in each community). The kits were assembled during the Christmas staff party on December 12th.
- Laptops have been updated and prepared to replace the desktops at the branches. One desktop will stay at each branch as it contains the card catalog information for patrons to use.
- Ten Chromebooks were ordered for the Eldon branch. They are on back order. They were generously donated by the 100 Empowered Women of Eldon organization. The storage cart has arrived, and the set-up of Chromebooks will be a priority once they arrive.
- Upcoming events: January - Dirty Sodas for teens and Sourdough class for adults. February – MU extension will give presentations at each branch on the tick-borne disease, Alpha Gal, that is affecting many in Mid-Missouri.

The Director's report was shared by the assistant librarian:

- Recently attended the Missouri Public Library Director's Winter Conference. Many helpful sessions. One session was disaster preparedness, and another beneficial one was the legal session on Missouri's Sunshine Law focused on best practices for compliance, records, and transparency.
- In contact with the Iberia School District regarding the possibility of purchasing parcel of land in front of the school. Also, recent contact with Zink's Realtor about the value of property between the Iberia branch and the Hard Time Bar & Grill.
- Maries County Bank will potentially be having bank-wide grant opportunities in collaboration with a partnership. Grants will be in the \$2,500-\$10,000 range with the possibility of up to three times the amount of the original donation.
- Recipient of a scholarship from the Public Library Association (PLA) to attend the PLA Conference in Minnesota next spring. The scholarship also covers the cost of ALA membership.

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

Communications: None.

Old Business: Lysha reported that board members signature forms for LAGERS did not get completed in the allotted ten-day period. The process will be completed again and be delivered to LAGERS within the allotted time and before the end of the year.

New Business: Carol reported that the director's evaluation will be shared with the board to collect input on making any changes to the evaluation on Google Form. After changes are made, the form will be sent out to be completed by all board members by the second week of February. The results will be shared at the February board meeting.

Lysha shared the Heartland Regional Library Base Pay Schedule for New Hires 2026. After discussion, the proposed base pay schedule was tabled until the January meeting.

District Board Reports: The following slate of officers for 2026 was presented for the Maries County library board.

President – Rachel Williams

Vice President – Heather Walker

Secretary – Carole Wagner

Treasurer – Toleda Jett

The following slate of officers for 2026 was presented for the Miller County library board.

President – Nora Bond

Vice President – Brittany Davenport

Secretary – Lerilee Huhman

Treasurer – Stacey Dunham

The elections for the county library boards will be held in January.

Committee Reports: The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2026 and the election was held. Nora made a motion to elect the slate of officers to serve in the coming year. Toleda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

President – Carole Wagner

Vice President – Nora Bond

Secretary – Lerilee Huhman

Treasurer – Rachel Williams

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

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Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Heather made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 and Denise seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary