

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025

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

Public Comments: None.

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

Financial Reports: It was noted that there is a Miller County CD coming due at the end of August. Following a brief discussion the financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Stacey and a second by Nora.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Discussion was held on several items, then Nora made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds, and Lerilee seconded. The motion passed.

Director's/Librarians' Reports: The director, assistant director, and programming librarian reported on the following:

The programming librarians shared their reports and mentioned the positive wrap up of the summer reading program. Michelle reported the plant swap, banjos, and pool day were well received. She has set up times to go to seven daycares and one school. She is working on contacting other schools in the county. Jenny talked about the great giveaways and the good turnout. She is also connecting with teachers to set up times to visit. She plans to have more cooking activities as they are popular.

The Assistant Director's report:

- The Summer Learning Program (SLP) was well attended. A breakdown of the numbers was impressive with 1,223 participants attending 100 programs. These numbers are similar to past years.
- A new item will soon be available for patrons. Tonies contain songs and stories related to a character and are geared to younger children. The library checkout guidelines have been set. One Tonie and one character can be checked out per household for one week.
- Text alerts are being used to send reminders for upcoming programs.
- Provided upcoming programs include a puzzle competition in October and games month is in November.

The Director's report:

- Tax levies for both counties were decreased on a recommendation by the auditor due to an increase in assessed valuation. It is projected that both counties will still receive slightly more revenue than last year.
- Information on a potential sales tax initiative was provided. Public libraries must be added to a Missouri statute by the county's state representative. The state reps have not been responsive to the director's request. Along with several other libraries there is going to be a petition to add counties to the statute.
- The annual Maries Co Friends of the Library book sale is August 23-30.
- Preparing statistics for the state library. Time consuming but must be completed in order to continue to receive state aid money.

See the August 2025 Director's report for further details.

Communications: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

District Board Reports:

Carole reported that Toleda Jett was elected to serve on the Maries County library board. It was also reported that the tax levy was set at 0.1583 for the coming year.

Lerilee reported that Tierney Earp was elected to serve on the Miller County library board. Also the tax levy was set at 0.1198 for the coming year.

Committee Reports: The LAGERS retirement system research committee (Rachel, Brittany, and Camelia) recently met. Rachel gave a report sharing information that Camelia had worked out on the cost of paying into LAGERS for prior years of service. There appear to be more questions as the board continues to learn about the system options. Board members were encouraged to send any questions to the committee, and those questions will be sent to Ms. Rolwes for further explanation. Discussion will continue next month.

HRLS Policies: None.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Nora made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 and Rachel seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary