

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Belle Library for the July meeting. President Carole Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00. Board members present were Carole Wagner, Denise Tyler, Rachel Williams, Stacey Dunham, Brittany Davenport, and Lerilee Huhman. Heather Walker attended via Zoom. Nora Bond was absent.

Staff members present were Director Lisa Garro, Lysha Thompson, Jenny Dillon, and Michelle Vaughn. Two guests were potential board members for each county, Toleda Jett from Maries Co and Tierney Earp from Miller Co. Another guest present was Kathy Rolwes with LAGERS.

The potential new board members for each county were introduced to the board.

Public Comments: None.

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

Financial Reports: Following a brief discussion, the financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Rachel and second by Denise.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Discussion was held concerning several items. Lysha explained that the summer reading grant would be paying for some of the programming (Happy Faces Entertainment and Hollis Taylor, artist). Also, the Friends of the Maries County Library will be paying for the gravel and parking lot improvements at the Vienna Branch. Stacey made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds, and Brittany 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. They showed an example of the book chandelier made during one of the recent programs. Michelle reported that she was able to take books to Willow Creek for their book club. Both are looking forward to wrapping up the summer reading program with an exciting program from Happy Faces.

The Assistant Director's report:

- Trying to spread the news about upcoming programs on Facebook and using Text Caster. This seems to have been helpful.
- Vienna Lion's Club recently made a donation to purchase two bikes for big prize drawing for the Summer Programming. Looking for donations from businesses for two more bikes – one for each branch. Also gift cards and other prizes will be given out at the end.
- Recently met with the program librarians to refresh the planning format, expectations and procedures for the library programs. They also started planning for the next several months.
- Several items need to be collected—metal lids (like pickle lids) and any size empty cans for upcoming programs.

- It was reported that Happy Faces Entertainment will be high energy and combine science and reading. The ABC Super Readers program will be held July 23rd and 24th at all 4 branches. The wrap-up for SLP will be held July 28th and 29th.

Ms. Rolwes arrived and began her presentation. She reviewed the procedures for applying with LAGERS. She explained the four permanent elections and the four flexible elections that can change every two years. Questions were raised about prior service years and the number of full-time employees. Lisa will survey staff to find out the number interested in joining. In the next few days, Ms. Rolwes will send prior service estimates for the library using different benefit elections.

A suggestion was made to create a committee to research the possibility and the effect of the cost on the budget of joining LAGERS. Rachel and Brittany volunteered to be on the committee and will meet with Camelia in the near future to gather information to share with the board.

The Director's report:

- Shared more information regarding the MO Senate Bill 3 – it may also impact the amount HRLS could receive from the Athletes and Entertainers tax revenue.
- House Bill 567 – minimum wage will be set at \$15 per hour starting in 2026. HRLS is already paying that rate for new and incoming employees.
- HB 1146 and SB 159 - related to the reconsideration of materials in public libraries. If it passes, it will require library policies on how to challenge materials. Lisa reported that HRLS has a policy and form for patrons to fill out already in place. However, there needs to be an appeal procedure added. See the July 2025 Director's report for more details on the above legislations.
- The IMLS funding came through to the Missouri State Library which will allow HRLS to pay for the Chromebooks and SLP programs. The future of IMLS is of concern.
- Overdrive and Libby subscriptions will remain the same price.
- Missouri Evergreen rates will go up over the next three years.
- Water rates in Eldon and Iberia will increase.
- Amigos is now offering all Amigos members FREE continuing education sessions.
- Missouri Evergreen will now be offering an online catalog for kids - KPAC (Kids Patron Access Catalog). Lisa has put Heartland on the list to acquire this service. See the July 2025 Director's report for further details.

Communications: None.

Old Business: Two bids for the old library van were received. Lisa opened them – one was \$3,000 and the other \$4,000. Brittany made a motion to accept the \$4,000 bid and Denise seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Unfortunately, with a cost of \$1million, the Eldon bank building is not a reasonable possibility for library relocation at this time. Also, a lot of remodeling would need to be done to make it fit the library's needs.

New Business: Large, blue promotional bags were distributed to all board members.

District Board Reports: None.

Committee Reports: None.

HRLS Policies: None.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Brittany made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 and Rachel seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary