

**AURORA FREE LIBRARY**  
Literacy Community Learning  
Annual Association Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2026

**Facilitator:** David Eckhardt, President, Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees

**Association Members in Attendance:** Terry Miller, Marie Dentes, Katrina Overton, Michele Belot, Barb Blom

**Trustees:** Dennis Looney, Thea Miller, Lori Knopp, Jo May, Lars Peterson, and Susan Dean (on Zoom)

**Staff:** Sandy Groth, Library Director

**1. Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by Dave Eckhardt at 5:34 pm.

**2. President's Welcome to Association Members:** Dave offered a special *Thank You* to Marie Dentes and Robin Driskel for their many years of service to the BLB, and a card with a book store gift card for both were shared. Dave welcomed the additional Association Members that were in attendance, as well as Michele Belot who will be nominated as a new trustee this evening.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Lori shared a Financial Report for the 2025 year of operation.

**4. Director's Report:** Sandy presented a thorough slide review that highlighted many of the programs and activities that took place in 2025. She also referenced the many sponsors and grants that contributed funding for a wide array of wonderful programs for all ages. Great job, Sandy and the entire Library staff! Sandy also shared the 2025 numbers for door count, programs and program attendance, and for the circulation of books and other collection materials in a chart comparing 2025 with past years.

**5. Committee Reports:**

**Morgan Opera House** - Lars shared the highlighted programs of the 2025 Season.

**Preservation** - Dave shared the major renovations that occurred in 2025 and the upcoming windows projects with potential funding sources.

**BookLovers' Ball** - Jo shared updated information for the 2026 Ball. It is scheduled to take place at the Aurora Inn on Sunday 10/11. Ticket prices will be significantly lower as this will be a Tapas Dinner and Cocktail Gala rather than a sit-down dinner.

**AFL Strategic Long Term Planning** - Dennis has created a community survey that will assist us in future planning and projected goals.

**Fundraising** - There were many successful fundraisers, which Dave and Sue shared, including the BLB, Plant Sale, Book Sale, and Fargo dinners. There will be another Fundraiser dinner at the Fargo on Friday February 20. All in-house lunches and dinners will be awarded a \$5 per meal donation to the Library.

#### **6. Election of 2026-27 Board of Trustees by the Association:**

Dave called for nominations and voting for the following Board of Trustee members:

Lars Peterson (2nd Term to end in February 2029)

Mary Jo May (1st Term to end in February 2027\*)

Michele Belot (1st Term to end in February 2029)

Barb Blom made a motion to approve the nominations and it was seconded by Terry Miller.

A vote by all members was taken and resulted in a 13-0-0 unanimous vote.

Thanks were extended to Sue Dean who has been a valued Trustee for six years. Thank you Sue!

#### **7. Election of 2026-27 Officers by the Board of Trustees:**

Nominations were made for David Eckhardt as President, Dennis Looney as Vice President, Jo May as Secretary, and Lori Knopp as Treasurer.

A motion to approve these nominations was made by Thea and seconded by Lars. The current Board members voted unanimously (7-0-0) to approve the 2026-27 Officers' slate.

**8. Concluding Remarks:** Dave again extended his thanks to Marie Dentes and Robin Driskel for their fundraising service, and to Sue Dean for her dedication as a Trustee.

**9. Adjourn Meeting:** A motion was made by Lori to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Dennis. The vote was unanimous 13-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm with refreshments to follow.

**The Next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 pm.**

- **Note:** Mary Jo May was appointed by the Board of Trustees in March 2025 to assume Bird Cramer's Trustee position, who served just one of three years.