

**AURORA FREE LIBRARY**  
**Board of Trustees – Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Facilitator: Dave Eckhardt: President AFL Board of Trustees

Attending Trustees: Lori Knopp, Mary Jo May, Thea Miller, Dennis Looney - via zoom, Michelle Belot - via zoom. Absent - Lars Peterson

Sandy Groth: Library Director

1. **Call to Order:**The Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by President, Dave Eckhardt.
2. **Consent Agenda Approval:**Several items were up for approval – the 1/15/26 Trustee Board Meeting Minutes, the 2/12/26 Annual Association Meeting Minutes, and the 3/15/26 Trustee Board Meeting Agenda. A motion was made to approve the three items by Dave and seconded by Thea. Approved by a 6-0-0 vote.
3. **Conflicts of Interest:** There were no conflicts of interest.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Lori reported an Operating Balance of \$49,693.66. This figure is lower than this time last year as we redistributed checking account funds into bank CD investments. The balance for the end of our 2025 year investment at the Community Foundation of Central New York was \$256,705.
5. **Director’s Report:** Sandy shared a thorough written report via email prior to the meeting, but highlighted some recent updates. Sandy was contacted by Congressman John Mannion that he would like to visit our Library on Wednesday, April 29th between 10-11:30am. This is a visit for him to meet and listen to community members and is not a political event. Rosen grant update: We will receive \$10,000. Sandy was told by a reviewer that in general the grants are often not given for funding staff salaries. Kathy and David Kirk have been cleaning out and organizing the basement storage. Thank you both!
6. **Committee Reports:**  
MOH - No report was made as Lars was absent.  
Preservation - Dave had distributed a thorough report showing past projects as well as upcoming projects. The MOH cooling project was completed in 2025, which will add great comfort during summer

performances. Many window restorations are on the agenda for this upcoming year as stated in his report.

Book Lovers' Ball - Jo shared that the date is set for **Sunday, October 11th** 5 to 10 pm. This year's Ball will be a semi-formal Tapas style dinner at the Aurora Inn with music by the Destination as well as a Silent Auction. Tickets will be offered at \$85 for the early bird price, which will be made available on line later this spring. Date of ticket sales TBD. A nice diverse committee is in the works! Mark your calendars!

Long-Range Service Plan - Dennis presented a draft survey for our review, which will help us, as a Board, to focus on the needs of our extended community and give us a clearer insight into what our patrons most appreciate and desire from the AFL. Thank you Dennis! This survey will be made available online and on paper later this spring.

Fundraising - Dave reported that the Fargo benefit was a success as we raised approximately \$450 dollars, and a thank you has been sent to the Inns. The book donations are also coming in nicely for our annual book sale to be held in July, and we thank Jennifer for her volunteer assistance in sorting.

7. **Old Business** - A reminder to all trustees to complete the required hours of professional development which does not include the NYS Sexual Harassment training. The school vote at SCCS is on May 19th, at which time our request for a tax levy increase will be on the ballot.  
No additional old business.
8. **New Business** - An updated Trustee contact list was distributed. Library Board meeting dates and projected agenda items were shared in a new 2026-2027 Trustee calendar. Statements for conflict of interest, ethics, and whistleblower policies were distributed for review, and agreement signature letters were given to each Trustee for return to Sandy. A motion was made by Jo to approve these policy items, and Dennis seconded it..  
Approved by a 5-0-0 vote (Lori had departed the meeting at this point).  
There was no other New Business.
9. **Adjourn Meeting** - A motion was made by Thea to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Michele. After approval by a 5-0-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm. Our next meeting is April 16th at 5:30, unless there is a need to meet at an earlier date of April 9th to approve the 2025 Annual Report.