

AURORA FREE LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2026

Facilitator: Dave Eckhardt, President, AFL Board of Trustees

Attending Trustees: Lori Knopp, Mary Jo May, Thea Miller,
Dennis Looney, Lars Peterson, and Michele Belot

Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by President, Dave Eckhardt.

2. Consent Agenda Approval: Dave asked for a motion to be made to approve the 3/19/26 Meeting Minutes and the 4/23/26 Meeting Agenda. Dennis made a motion and Lori seconded it. Approved 6-0-0 (Thea had not arrived).

3. Conflict of Interest: None reported.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lori shared the current operating balance as \$38,939.34. In addition to that we have several other bank accounts such as PayPal, Preservation, and Morgan Opera House, plus a brokerage account at CFCNY. Discussion continued as to the need of the PayPal account, as it is no longer used.

5. Director's Report: Sandy shared updates on grant funding we have received. We received partial funding from our Rosen Grant and APT Arts Grant applications. She will decide which activities to fund with the Rosen funds and will discuss with Ellen/MOH what to offer with the Arts Grant. She reached out to Tri-Cities Opera, and they offered a \$1000 grant toward their performance. She also shared some upcoming programs including a Linocut Print Workshop by the Johnson Museum and a new Chess Club. Sandy had previously shared the draft 2025 NYS Annual Report with the Trustees for review. She also mentioned that Dan the Snakeman will be coming on

July 15th and will be funded by Kevin Fitzgerald at the Wells College Golf Club.

6. Committee Reports:

Morgan Opera House: Lars had no report at this time.

Preservation: We are waiting for grant money for upcoming projects. We have landed a contracting firm out of Skaneateles that specializes in stone masonry to work on repairs to the front steps. There is also anticipated work to be done on the gutters as well as the new lighting to the front walkway steps.

Book Lovers' Ball: 'Save the Date' cards are going out in early May for the BLB on Sunday, October 11th at the Inns of Aurora, 5pm to 10pm. Jo reported that Katrina Overton (BLB committee member) will be acting as the BLB Treasurer and working directly with Lori on the financials.

Long Range Service Plan: Dennis shared the revised version of the AFL interest survey that will be going out into the community in the near future. It will be in English and Spanish online and through paper copies at various public locations.

Fundraising: The annual Plant Sale will be held at the library on Saturday, May 9th.

7. Old Business:

- Sandy reminded the Trustees to complete their Sexual Harassment Training as well as the additional required 2 hours of Trustee training by the end of the year.
- Our 2025 Tax Levy request was accepted by the School Board and will be on the ballot for the May 19th public vote at the SCCS District Office.
- Congressman John Mannion will be visiting the Library for Meet & Greet discussions on May 6th from 10 to 11:30am.

8. New Business:

- Dave asked that a motion be made to approve the AFL 2025 Annual Report to the NYSED. Jo made the motion and Thea seconded. Approved 7-0-0.
- A motion was made to approve Peter Otis as a member of the Preservation Committee, replacing Jodi Gunderson. Lori motioned and Michele seconded. Approved 7-0-0.
- The Board was asked by SCCS Boosters if they could put a shoe donation box in the Library foyer through the end of the year. The Board agreed to allow it.

9. Adjourn Meeting: Dave asked that a motion be made to adjourn the meeting. Lori motioned and Dennis seconded, Approved 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Our next Trustees meeting will be on **May 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm.**