

AURORA FREE LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026

Facilitator: Dave Eckhardt, President AFL Board of Trustees

Trustees: Dennis Looney (Zoom), Mary Jo May, Thea Miller (late), Lori Knopp (Treasurer), Lars Peterson (late) and Michele Belot

Guests: Marie Dentes and Terry Miller (BLB members)

Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Consent Agenda Approval: Dave made a motion to approve the July 16th Meeting Minutes and the September 17th Meeting Agenda. Lori seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

3. Conflict of Interest: There were no conflicts of interest.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lori reported an operating balance of \$24,665.98 in the checking account. The savings balance is near \$27,000, PayPal account is \$5,615.28, and three CD's are slightly over \$23,000.

5. Director's Report: Sandy shared a thorough Annual Director's Report that was presented in a tri-fold that highlighted recent and upcoming programs. as well as active members of various committees. There will be three Pottery Workshops with two sessions each (2 for adults and 1 for kids) starting Thursday September 24. There will also be a Felting Workshop on Saturday November 7th. Storytime begins this week. Sarah, our Intern, is still completing her required hours. Aurora Ledyard Historical Society has asked if we would be a drop-off point for their time capsule items. The Board did not raise objections but suggested that we might consider adding something to the capsule.

6. Committee Reports:

- Morgan Opera House: Upcoming performances including Life as a GenZ Parent on September 17th as well as Michaela Groth and Friends on October 24th, and Perry Ground November 15th with "Rethinking Thanksgiving" (Onondaga Nation). Sloane Bailey has been nominated to the MOH Committee.
- Book Lovers' Ball: Guests Marie Dentes and Terry Miller, members of the BLB Committee and Jo May (Chair) spoke provide an update on the current status of the BLB. Tickets are selling well with great sponsor support and a fabulous array of Silent Auction items. Many attendees are happy to see it return to the Aurora Inn. Tickets are now \$95 by cash or check and \$100 online.
- Preservation: Dave has submitted a NYSED project grant proposal for \$5,966 for the basement heating system, with our cost share estimated to be \$597.

- Long Range Service Plan: Dennis shared that all of the public survey responses seemed positive with little mention of need to change how the Library is operating. So far we have received 73 responses. Dennis also shared a breakdown of those who responded. Our next step is to form a committee to summarize the survey responses and make recommendations for the Board to consider.
- Route 90 Weekend Book Sale: Books were transferred to the Masonic Lodge on Wednesday July 22nd, and the three-day weekend sale started July 24th. We had a record sale income of \$2,009. Thank you to all donors and volunteers!

7. Old Business: Sandy reminded Trustees to complete the Sexual Harassment Training Requirement as well as their two hours of Annual Trustee Training. Sandy shared the links to the FLLS online training website. No other Old Business.

8. New Business: The FLLS Annual Meeting will be held in Waverly on Friday, October 16th. Sandy, Dave, and Jo will attend.

A motion was made by Thea to approve the Nomination of Sloane Bailey to join the MOH Committee, seconded by Lori. Dave read her impressive CV, and after a brief discussion and endorsement by Lars the vote was 7-0-0, motion carried. Welcome Sloane!

Sandy stated that all AFL policies will need a thorough review and updated as needed, with new policy statements added as required by NYS. She will provide more information to the Board with the specific needs to meet the requirements.

No further new business was raised.

9. Adjourn Meeting: Dave made a motion to adjourn, and Thea seconded it. The motion was approved 7-0-0, and the Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 15th** at 5:30 pm.