Draft Minutes
MarLA Board Meeting
August 25, 2025 (MCL)
7:00 p.m.

Members Present:
Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Mary Burke, Janice Hunton, Liz Kelly, Jim Maher, Annie Minnich, Debra Mitts Smith,

Members Absent:
Elaine Larson, Kathy Scoggin, Laurie Schmidt, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Liz

Reading of Mission/Vision Statement - Annie

Secretary's Report – Janice
- Minutes of June 16, 2025 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: none
- Lynn moved to approve, Liz seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Lynn
- Review of financials - not much change in the last two months. New shelves ordered, delivered, and paid.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming –
- Adult Programs
  - We're supporting the BLA Committee's presentation involving Ed Fleming and Cheyanne St. John on Sep. 22.
  - We continue to provide sound support for the Arrow Broken events, with two more to go in the Village Hall for this season.
  - We've laid out a list of potential speakers on a variety of topics, and intend to schedule programs for October, November and January.
- Doc Night
  - Starts up again October 2. Gayle Knutson and Paul Creager are working a lineup. Plans now are for docs in October, November, December, February, at least.
- Art Displays
  - They were on hold pending the new arrangement in the library. Tammy will get back on it soon.

- River Radio
  - We tentatively plan to start Season 7 on September 20. Program schedule may be slightly lighter this year than our typical 15 shows a year. We'll see how timing works out.

Beyond Land Acknowledgement - Liz

- Adult Program scheduled for September 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. "Dakota Life Along the Saint Croix" and Community Potluck (5:30pm)
- Children's Program - MVS and Reservation School Pen Pal Program.
- Family Program – Blue Hummingbird Woman, no further update

Children's Programing – Debra

- Successful summer camp wrap up.
- Six Gazebo Storytimes - moderate success with attendance. The committee will think about possible tweaks for next year.
- Kathy met with the new Director/Principal for MVS to chat about our collaborations and all seems to be on track for the upcoming year. When the teachers are back we will get our school visit days organized. Visits will start on September 8. Volunteers will be needed!
- Sept - December 2025 Family Fun/PJ Storytime nights are planned. Elaine and Sue are working on publicity. The October evening will include a singer for little ones provided to us through the Washington County Library Legacy Funds.
- Kathy worked with the teachers and the former interim director of the MVS for their "wish list" including needs/suggestions using the $750 from the Rotary Club. The purchasing is in process with Valley Booksellers.
- Our next Children's Committee meeting is September 23. We will be inviting a few new folks who have expressed interest in Children's programming and hoping for new members. (Ruth has moved to Stillwater and should be recognized in some special way for her years of work with this committee.)

Collections – Debra

- Most children's books ordered were for the Washington County funds of $500.
- $2,030 adult, $805 children's books ordered YTD

Communications – Elaine

- Recent Activities
  - Publicity and website updates for fall events – the Sept 22 BLA presentation and potluck, the
  - Scholarship Opportunity for the student board liaison,
  - Family Fun Nights/PJ Storytimes and Poetry events.
  - Set up the scholarship application using Google Forms.
  - Set up 2-factor authentication for our main email addresses as required by Google. We would like to find a better way to do this, but for now the authorization codes will be sent to Elaine Larson's phone number. If you need access, don't hesitate to contact Elaine.
- In progress
  - Sue Knapp continues to update materials and signs with the new logo.
  - Research better ways to share email addresses such as info@marinecommunitylibrary.org
  - The new student liaison will be asked to contribute Library social media updates. In preparation for this, we need to review and update our social media accounts. We also need to identify who will work with the student on these accounts.

Fundraising/Finance – Lynn

- Fundraising reports were reviewed, no emerging trends were found. A few personal asks resulted in several large donations for the new AV equipment last year. No fundraising events planned beyond our usual fundraising letter campaign in October, in hopes that our usual donors will meet our budget needs for the next year. Discussion included questions of stating a specific goal, and targeted uses for funds.

Operations – Mary

- Trained two new volunteers for library support
- Still looking for volunteer support to monitor the Scandia free library bookshelves. MarLa agreed to do this service with Scandia because the library serves Scandia, Marine and May. Currently need volunteer support for the remaining months of the year.
- Volunteer badges have been updated with new logo.
- Updated library maps coming shortly showing updated collection moves. These will reside in the volunteer handbook and on the volunteer table.
- Refresher training is being planned for the fall.
- Currently finding new homes for the no longer used wavy bookshelves and periodical rack.
- Thank you to the most recent bookshelf/collection move team of: Lynn Bjorkman, Janice Hunton, Beth Honetschlager, Loralee DiLorenzo, Sue Logan, Steve Suby and Mary Burke. And to Jeff Black for his amazing work designing and installing the new bookshelves and cabinet.

Outreach – Deb/Janice

- Scandia Farmer's market - limited traffic at Scandia, but interested in volunteering.
- MMFS Fall Festival - Deb and Lynn will staff the table this year.
- If we are going to continue doing events like this, we need to spend the money and energy to develop a booth that is inviting, durable, weatherproof, light-weight, and dynamic. The board is enthusiastic about this prospect.
- Volunteer appreciation - potentially set for January. Perhaps Saturday the 17th, party, cake, etc. Volunteers have expressed interest in doing something in person as we did before to enhance socialization among volunteers.
- Stugas delivery pilot program - first round of deliveries is completed successfully.

Other Business - Lynn

- Email account management - Google is requiring dual factor authentication. Elaine is looking into options.
- Conversations with the city include the MOA, signage allowable in front of building, and a possible window in the door to the library
- Recruiting new board members for February. Current board members are talking to potentially interested folks. Position of board president has grown to be a big job, and may be better split into two roles.

Brief Board Educational Information/Discussion and Review of Mission/Vision Statement Successes or Opportunities

- The new shelving happened quickly and successfully!

Adjournment and confirmation of next meeting date

Next board meeting:
October 20, 2025
Adjourn time 8:15 p.m.