MarLA Board Meeting
October 20, 2025 MCL
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lynn Bjorkman, Deb Yanker Black, Janice Hunton, Kathy Trombly-Ferrin, Jim Maher, Elaine Larson, Debra Mitts Smith, Eloise Powell, Annie Minnich, Liz Kelly, Laurie Schmidt

Members Absent:
Mary Burke, Kathy Scoggin

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order – Lynn

Reading of Land Acknowledgement Statement – Elaine

Reading of Vision Statement - Deb

Secretary's Report – Janice
- Minutes of August 2025 meeting were presented.
- Discussion: corrections provided by Lynn.
- Jim moved to approve, Liz seconded; minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Kathy
- Review of financials -we are short of the 75% budget projections YTD, spending has been more than typical. CDs are coming due in spaced intervals, and are being renewed. Revenues are low for the last few months. Fundraising letter going out soon which will hopefully recoup the low donations.
- We need to add line items for the documentary night and the Arrow Broken balances on hand.

New Business - Lynn
- Board Welcome to our new Student Scholarship winner Eloise Powell. She is excited to start this position!
- Discussion about committee budgets, "bigger than anticipated" expenses and planning for 2026. Lynn requested that the committees anticipate expenses that are beyond the typical request so we can plan ahead rather than having it being a surprise. Extras like shelving and chairs can be put to a special vote of the board. BLA will have their own budget for next year. Committee budget requests are due on December.
- Update on Library Board Succession Planning - meeting to discuss approaches to inviting new board members. Lynn agreed to stay on another year to work towards a board chair succession.
- Nonprofit meeting, Monday, November 10th at Marine Village Hall - intent is to bring the non-profit organizations from Marine, Scandia, and May Township together to work collaboratively rather than competitively, and to help lessen volunteer fatigue.
- Consideration of Jordan Bequest table-top plaque, for a cost around $50. Lynn drafted the message below, and Jim will provide updates considering board feedback tonight.

In 2001, Elizabeth Jordan made a bequest to the Marine Community Library. Today, the Jordan Bequest is held in an endowment with the St. Croix Valley Foundation. The investment income of this gift, patron donations and volunteer energy power our library and continue to honor her legacy.

Committee Reports

Adult Programming –

- Adult Programs: We are in the midst of booking a variety of speakers for programs, including Karin Winegar, former Star Tribune reporter who has a new book about horses; Diane Skomers, fairly new Marine resident with an interesting story to tell about her late husband, known as Mr. Ragtime; and potentially a U of M professor who's written an interesting book related to the Scopes Monkey Trial and how it relates to the assault on science.
- Doc Night: The initial documentary, *Secret Mall Apartment*, was attended by about 100. November's doc is *Checkpoint Zoo*, a great story about the rescue of zoo animals in Ukraine. December's title is TBD. We will take a break in January, then return in February and March.
- Art: Art of Donna Zittel is currently on display, and may stay up into January.
- River Radio: The new season is off and running with two shows planned for October, two in November, one in December, and more to come after the new year.

Beyond Land Acknowledgment -

- The adult program presented on September 22 with Ed Fleming and Cheyanne St. John, "Where the Waters Remember Dakota Life Along the Saint Croix," along with the community potluck, was a huge success! A video recording of the presentation is available on the MarLa website, thanks to Jim and Matt.
- We are exploring a Student Pen Pal program between the Marine Village School and the Reservation School.
- We are also exploring the idea of hosting author Tara Perron for a Native-themed Family Program next year with the Marine Village School.

Children's Programing – Kathy/Debra

- The Children's committee reviewed summer activities, and thought they were all very successful.
- Storytimes were a bit disappointing, attendance was unpredictable, ranging from zero to 12 children, they are considering other weather-friendly locations.
- Fall family fun nights kicked off with a great first PJ time, attended by 25-30 kids. Four fun nights are planned this fall, with special guests for November and December. Will Sings for November, Marty and Gary authors of FAM, will present in December.
- MVS will continue their every other week student visitors, and volunteers are always needed for their visits.
- Halloween night festivities, planning is still in process.

Collections – Debra

- $2,300 for adult books, and $863 for children's books has been spent YTD. Rotary funds for children's books are not included in these totals.
- Kay H and Beth H are working together to co-chair the committee.

Communications – Elaine

- Publicity and website updates for Documentary Nights, River Radio, Family Fun Nights.
- New Logo updates completed by Sue Knapp: book spine stickers, shelving signs, nametags, digital letterhead template, Library Hours sign, Open/Closed sign.
- We received an invoice from Sue Knapp on Sept 3 for her work from April 1 on. The invoice included the logo/rebranding, posters, the Messenger ads and miscellaneous design items. Sue included context for the charges - she discounts her work for the Library and hasn't raised prices since she started charging the Library.
- Loralee and Sue Knapp have been working on producing MailChimp emails that display better on phones. The posters that we often include in the emails are not designed for phone display, so they are testing out some other options.

Finance and Fundraising – Kathy

- Discussed earlier in the agenda.

Operations – Mary

- No report for this meeting.

Outreach – Deb/Janice

- We interviewed two candidates for the student liaison position, and are excited to welcome Eloise Powell to the board.
- The Stugas program has not had much activity this summer, and we need to provide more educations about the service.
- We have completed our outreach events for the summer with the farmer's market in Scandia and the fall festival at the folk school, and have decided they are worth continuing into the future. We bought a tent and a table for these events, and it works well for use by one person.
- We are planning a volunteer recognition celebration in January, date TBD.

Strategic Planning – Laurie

- No report for this meeting.

Other Business - Lynn

- Review of 2025 Library Calendar (attached)
  - Volunteer Event TBD.
- Fundraising mailing assembly planned for Wednesday, October 22, 3 to 7 p.m.

Vision Statement Successes or Opportunities

- Eileen Devine commented that the books are surrounding the children like a hug!
- Young child at a library event eagerly raised his hand and declared, "This is the best library!"

Next board meeting:
December 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Adjourn time 8:09 p.m.