



Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Date: 04/16/2026

Location: Library Community Room

Trustees Attending in person:

Gary Sheffer (President), Dani French (Vice President), Jim Kelly (Secretary), Patty Brennan (Treasurer), Aaron Able, Jessica Almeleh-Frazer, Miranda Barry, Sean Gilleran, Michael Grisham, Sharon Javna, Katie Konigsberg, Jared Muehlbauer, Kyla Perez, Carol Pledger, Kelley Robinson, Heather Thiry, Jill Turner,

Excused: Kellen Henry

Staff Attending: Emily Chameides (Director)

Others Attending: Barbara Klassen

The meeting was called to order by Gary Sheffer at 06:00 pm. He welcomed trustees and guests.

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Patty Brennan and seconded by Miranda Barry. The vote to approve minutes was unanimous.

Reports

President's Report: Gary Sheffer

Gary noted that the Executive Committee met and discussed Bard college and the Armory building and noted that we would send a list of questions to Bard and encouraged the Board to feel free to send the Executive Committee any questions you have for Bard. We are hoping to meet with them in the next few weeks.

Gary noted that we may consider potentially hiring an appraiser. Gary noted working with Library partners to gather a focus group of local business leaders to discuss the Armory building.

414 Committee: Dani French

Dani went over the basics of what a 414 initiative is, HAL's recent 414 history, and what a 414 campaign looks like and recommended a timeline for us to consider whether we would engage in any upcoming 414 initiative. A 414 task force will consider the 414 campaign in an upcoming meeting in the next month.

Treasurer's Report: Patty Brennan

Through March, we collected 67% of our budgeted operating income and spent 20% of our budgeted operating expenses.

In income, total receipts were \$10,009 for the month. Notable in income for the month (under public funds for local municipalities): Columbia County Libraries Association (\$2,554)

In expenses, total expenses were \$71,309 for the month. Notable in expenses for the month, (in public programs): History Room (\$6,792.98 Pro Printers Exhibit Panels and other printed Materials). In utilities: Electric total of \$7,529.87 from two Nation Grid bills: \$4,830.44 National Grid (electric & gas 1/29/26 - 2/24/26) and \$2,669.43 National Grid (electric & gas 2/25/26 - 3/26/26)

Patty and Emily noted the potential to renew the Library's six-month CD with Greylock Federal Credit Union that is up for renewal soon. They proposed to keep funds dispersed in our CD accounts below the FDIC limits, so to renew the certificate at \$245,000 and to deposit proceeds from interest into our Community Bank account.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Sean Gilleran and seconded by Aaron Able. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

A motion to roll over our Certificate of Deposit (CD) accounts at time of renewal at \$245,000 as proposed was made by Michael Grisham and seconded by Kelley Robinson. The vote to approve the renewal was unanimous.

A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Detail for March 2026 by Michael Grisham and seconded by Jill Turner. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

Director's Report: Emily Chameides

Emily noted progress in filling the Assistant Library Director position with potential to fill it in the upcoming weeks. Emily detailed recent grant applications and successes. Emily noted that the Pride Parade is upcoming June 20. Emily noted that next Tuesday 4/21 is a luncheon in appreciation of library staff and volunteers (National Library Workers Day) at the library.

A motion to approve Emily's Library Director Annual Report to New York State was made by Dani French and seconded by Patty Brennan. The vote to approve the report was unanimous.

Advocacy: Jared Muehlbauer

Jared noted that senators have until this Friday, April 17 to sign the Dear Appropriator letter to support continued and increased funding for the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) and the Innovative Approaches in Literacy program (IAL). Jared noted that Senator Gillibrand has signed the LSTA letter but has not yet signed the IAL and that Senator Schumer has not signed either letter (he may not due to his position as Speaker). Jared encouraged trustees to call or use the ALA Online Advocacy Center to send a message to our senators encouraging them to sign on to these letters!

Programming Committee: Kelley Robinson

Kelley noted that the Summer Warm Up Party and summer reading events will be all hands on deck and volunteer assistance will be welcome. The Warm Up Party is scheduled for July 7.

Fundraising Committee: Miranda Barry

The honorees for the Gala have been notified and accepted. The Tea Social is set for Thursday, May 28 from 4:30 to 6 at Banque. Miranda noted that volunteers for a sub-committee to work on the story for that event would be helpful. We have narrowed down CRM options to 3 finalists; we will demo them next.

History Room Committee: Gary Sheffer

Gary noted that the History Room is working on a 5 year plan and had a great session discussing that. The History Room is considering a 2027 exhibit on the work of the Louis Paul Jonas Studio, including its production

of life-sized dinosaurs for the 1964 World's Fair.

Gala Committee: Jessica Almeleh-Frazer

Jessica asked the Caboose about round tables and noted that they think it's a bad idea and we would have to cut back the number of tickets we could sell. The committee plans to send out the save the date for the Gala event. 21 days before the event we have to confirm the total # of attendees, 14 days before the event we have to note if anyone has any dietary restrictions. If anyone wants to join to help now or in the weeks before the event please feel free to.

Board Development Committee: Sean Gilleran

Sean asked Board members to select a Committee to participate in in the upcoming year and Board committee commitments were made.

Public comment

None

Motion to adjourn was made at 06:40 pm by Dani French and seconded by Sean. The vote to adjourn was passed unanimously.

Jim Kelly, 04/16/26	5/21/26
Recording Secretary	Date of approval