

**Moorhead Library Board**  
**Board of Trustees, Regular Meeting**  
April 8, 2025  
5:30 p.m.

**Agenda**

- Open Meeting
- Approve Agenda
- Approve minutes from February 2025 meeting
- Library and Community Center Update
- LARL Board Update
- Director's Report
- 2025 Endowment Funds
- Other Business
- Next Meeting: September 9, 2025

**Moorhead Public Library Advisory Board**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 11, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

**Present:** Chizuko Shastri, Karin Olson Held, Neely Benton, Sonja Bloomquist, Cady Rutter, Emily Moore, Megan Krueger, Liz Lynch (guest, LARL executive director), Linda Shell (guest, Friends of the Moorhead Library)

**Members not present:** Samantha Gust, Charley Johnson

**Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. There were enough board members present to have a quorum. Neely Benton, Board Chair, conducted the meeting.

**Approve Agenda**

- Sonja moved to approve the agenda; Cady seconded. Motion passed.

**Approve minutes from November 2024 meeting**

- Neely moved to approve the meeting minutes; Sonja seconded. Motion passed.

**Welcome new member(s) and introductions**

- Cady Rutter
- Emily Moore

**2025 Board Elections**

- By unanimous vote of Board members:
  - Neely Benton elected as chair
  - Samantha Gust elected as vice chair
  - Karin Olson Held elected secretary

**Giving Hearts Day (February 13)**

- 2nd year participating in Giving Hearts Day
- Goal is \$20,000 (up from \$10,000 goal in 2024)
- How to help – wear buttons, use stickers, distribute postcards, give early.
- Swing Barrel Brewing is hosting a round up campaign all week. Round your total up to the nearest dollar, and Swing Barrel will donate those proceeds to the library.
- Vision Bank will decide who has the best video. People can vote once each day.
- Special recognition opportunities when you donate online (in honor, in memory). Recognitions show those honorary gifts on the video.
- Word of mouth campaign to donate in former library director Ann's memory, and a meeting room in the new library will be named for her.
- Have the confidence to ask for a gift to the library!
- Celebrate at the library on February 13 from 4-8pm. Cookies, popcorn, punch, music from Tuckerd Out, photos with Booker the Owl.

**LARL Orientation / Library Legislative Update**

- Liz provided an overview of how the 12 Regional Public Library systems in Minnesota, and LARL, are organized, funded, and operate.

**Library and Community Center Update**

- Project is currently on schedule. The utility installation in the basement is nearly complete. The project has gone vertical! A beam topping ceremony will be planned for later this spring.
- After Giving Hearts Day, other fundraising efforts will ramp up.
- The new library is on track to open in spring 2026!

**LARL Board Update**

- Reviewed the LARL Board meeting report from November 21, 2024.

**Director's Report**

- The Caregiver Connection program is going well. Each month, one agency presents an educational program after the Baby Bounce literacy program.
- The City of Moorhead now pays for security services.

**Other Business**

- None.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm. Next Meeting: April 8, 2025**

## **LARL Board meeting report on March 27, 2025**

### **1. 2024 Audit Report** by Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. Thief River Fall, Minnesota

- In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the library failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting and bidding, deposits and investment, conflict of interest, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions of the Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Other Political Subdivisions, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. §6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.
- 2024 total revenues were \$4,313,410 and operating grants and contributions (signatory funding, state grants, investment earnings, miscellaneous, special projects) accounted for **97 percent** of total revenue for the year.
- The total cost of all programs and services was \$4,048,504. **LARL's expenses are predominantly related to staffing headquarters, branch libraries, and LINK sites.**
- Total revenues were greater than expenses, increasing net position by \$264,906 from last year.
- Expenditures exceeded appropriations by \$198,279 in the general fund. The over-expenditures were funded by greater than anticipated revenues.

### **2. Financial Report**

- With 16.67% of 2025 complete, LARL spent 16.44% of budgeted expenses as of February 28, 2025.
- Approved to authorize the Director of Finance to submit the 2024 Annual Report to State Library Services.
- Approved the Final Report for State Regional Public Library System Arts and Cultural Heritage Program for FY2023 funding year.

### **3. Director's Report**

#### **LARL News**

##### **hoopla:**

- LARL discontinued the LARL hoopla subscription, effective January 31. The cost-per-transaction model is unsustainable for the LARL collection budget. LARL will use the hoopla funds to enhance the LARL subscription to the Libby (Overdrive) eBook, audiobook, and magazine app.

##### **Book Blizzard:**

- During the months of January & February, LARL challenged customers to read various genres to win a Book Blizzard prize. There were 444 entries in 2025.

**Spring Legacy Tour:** <https://larl.org/legacyseries/>

#### **Statewide News**

##### **2025 Minnesota Legislative Priorities**

- **Legacy (HF1790):** \$3M per year appropriation in Arts & Cultural Heritage Funding for public library systems.
- **Capital Investment:** \$10M appropriation for Library Construction Grant funding and raise grant to \$2M
- **Minitex (HF2065) Ed Finance Committee:** \$2M per year increase for eLibrary Minnesota resources.
- **Minitex:** \$1.5M per year increase for operating funding.

#### **Moorhead Community Center and Public Library Update (The Loop)**

- **Thank you to Korsmo Funeral and Cremation Service** donated \$25,000 for the new Moorhead Public Library/LARL Headquarters project and **Moorhead Friends of the Library** made a \$25,000 donation out of their Giving Heart Day(GHD) fundraising. A long time LARL employee Larry Reed donated \$5,000 and the LARL Board members donated to the GHD project.

Submitted by Chizuko Shastri

**Moorhead Library Board**  
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**Director's Report**

**Programs and Services**

**Family Resource Center Office Hours**

The Moorhead Public Library has entered into a partnership with the Clay County Family Resource Center to provide the space needed to bring much needed services to community members. The Family Resource Center will begin offering weekly office hours at the library starting sometime in April. Exact hours are yet to be determined.

**AARP Tax Assistance**

The Moorhead Public Library has partnered with AARP again this year to provide space for the organization to offer tax assistance to the public. We have welcomed over 600 people through our doors so far this winter through this partnership.

**Library Activity**

I am happy to report that visits to the library are up so far in 2025. January and February statistics show a 22% increase in meeting room usage and a 9% increase in gate count compared to 2024.

**Upcoming Events**

LARL's spring Legacy event series is now underway and we are lucky to host many of these events at the Moorhead Public Library. These include children's program Imagination Theater with Michael Paul Gallo, an author visit with Leif Enger, a canoeing presentation with author and adventurer Rollie Johnson, and more. A full listing of Legacy events is available at <https://larl.org/legacyseries/>.

In addition to our Legacy series, Moorhead Library staff are busy planning and hosting several other events. Popular events have included cultural programming with the Japan Outreach Initiative and the new Language Exchange and Conversation Corner, which allow participants to practice world language and English speaking skills. A full listing of Moorhead Library events is available at <https://larl.org/locations/moorhead/>.

**The Friends of the Moorhead Library**

**Giving Hearts Day**

The Friends raised \$29,853 during their Giving Hearts Day campaign this year. They have pledged \$25,000 of this amount to the new library project. Thank you for your contributions to this campaign!

**National Library Week Fundraising Events**

National Library Week is coming up and The Friends of the Moorhead Library are celebrating with two fundraising events to help support this project. The first is their annual Spring Social on Sunday, April 6th from 1:00-4:00. The event will begin with their annual meeting and will feature entertainment, refreshments, an art and book sale, and more. They plan to issue their \$25,000 Giving Hearts Day contribution to the new library project during the 1:00 meeting.

The second fundraiser, Bookmarked!, will be held on Saturday, April 12th starting at noon at Swing Barrel Brewing in Moorhead. This event will include the launch of a library-themed beer, a flash tattoo fundraiser with Zoltar tattoo, a book sale and more.

#### Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Moorhead Library will host their spring book sale April 24th - 26th.

#### **Building / Facility Issues**

Nothing to report at this time.

