

**LUTHER AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 14, 2022
115 State Street
Luther, MI 49656**

CALL TO ORDER

President Langenburg called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present:	President:	L. Langenburg
	Vice-President:	J. Trimberger
	Treasurer:	D. Long
	Secretary:	K. Goodlein
	Trustee:	K. Frankfort
	Director:	A. Shank

VISITOR COMMENTS

Mary Wagner is interested in volunteering at the library.

BOARD COMMENTS

None. *Director Shank just got the quote for the AC check to be discussed in New Business. It is \$210.00

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion and seconded made by Frankfort and Trimberger to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 9, 2022. **Motion CARRIED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion and seconded made by Goodlein and Frankfort to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Motion CARRIED.** *Director Shank noted that the \$2300.00 donation received from the Gerber Foundation was not from a grant that she applied for but is merely a very generous donation that is to be used for youth literacy.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Shank confirmed her written report and added the following:

- During Luther Days a woman took a step off the top platform, missed the first step, and fell. 911 was called and Luther Fire Dept. personnel responded. Director Shank documented the incident. Frankfort thought we should have a generic Incident Report to keep the gathered information consistent. Director Shank will contact area libraries to see if they have an Incident Report we could use/modify.
- At the April 14 Board Meeting, staff had proposed looking into obtaining a new outdoor reader board sign. Shortly thereafter, the grandchildren of Dr. Campbell contacted Director Shank and wanted to make a donation in memory of their grandfather. They agreed to fund the new reader board and sent in a check for \$2,000.00 which will cover the project designed by Krazy Kat Signs in Manton. A memorial plaque will be placed inside the library.

Motion and seconded by Trimberger and Langenburg to approve the reader board purchase through a donation. **Motion CARRIED.**

- Staff are still taking inventory and cataloging materials.
- One of the hotspots was not returned. The Sheriff's Department is investigating.
- Ideas need to be formulated on how the library can reach out to residents (especially in the 4 western townships) on how the library could serve their needs.

Motion and seconded by Langenburg and Frankfort to approve the Librarian's Report. **Motion CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Light Fixtures** – Both the lights in the workroom (6) and Director Shank's office (2) will be replaced with LED lights @\$100 each. Tim's labor will be covered by his employer as a community service project. The lights will be installed in September. Motion and seconded made by Frankfort and Trimberger to purchase 8 LED lights for approximately \$800.00.

Roll Call Vote: **(5) AYES** – Frankfort, Goodlein, Langenburg, Long,
Trimberger

(0) NAYS

Motion CARRIED.

- b. **AC Units** - The library had an AC issue and discovered that the units had not had a routine service check in a while. Advanced Mechanical can check both units for \$210.00. Motion and seconded made by Trimberger and

Goodlein to have Advanced Mechanical perform an AC service check on both units and replace the filters for \$250.00.

Roll Call Vote: (5) **AYES** – Frankfort, Goodlein, Langenburg, Long, Trimberger

(0) **NAYS**

Motion CARRIED.

- c. **Tile & Carpet Cleaning** – Floors were last cleaned in 2020. Sunshine Carpet Cleaning bid \$300.00 to clean carpet and tile. Motion and seconded made by Langenburg and Trimberger to have Sunshine Carpet Cleaning clean the carpet and tile for \$300.00.

Roll Call Vote: (5) **AYES** – Frankfort, Goodlein, Langenburg, Long, Trimberger

(0) **NAYS**

Motion CARRIED.

- d. **Internet Issue** – Cory Walker (Emergency Geeks) replaced the router and did other work. We don't have the costs yet but will have to approve payment at the next meeting.

- e. **Holiday Schedule** – Provided for our information only.

- f. **Personnel Policy Regarding Volunteers** – Wording in Section XIV.

Volunteers was clarified. Second line will read: *Persons wishing to serve as a volunteer must first submit an application form and sign a consent form for a background check to be kept on file to be used if needed.* Motion and seconded made by Trimberger and Langenburg to approve the Personnel Policy as amended. **Motion CARRIED.**

- g. **Directors & Officers Liability Insurance** – We received a detailed quote from Fekete Knaggs & Burr Agency. Table this to next month so we can get a detailed quote from Mark Cole Insurance.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Employee Resignation** – Reviewed resignation letter; asked Director Shank to conduct a detailed “exit interview”. Long will prepare newspaper hiring advertisements.

b. **Luther Grocery Store and Blue Bags** – Luther Grocery Store owes us money for Blue Bags. They have been paying down the bill. We will wait upon the decision of the insurance adjustors pending any further action.

c. **Elite Fund for e-Rates service** – Motion and seconded made by Langenburg and Trimberger to pay \$300.00 for the e-Rates service.

Roll Call Vote: (5) **AYES** – Frankfort, Goodlein, Langenburg, Long, Trimberger

(0) **NAYS**

Motion CARRIED.

d. **Swank Movie License** – Motion and seconded made by Langenburg and Goodlein to pay \$204.00 to MMLL for the Swank Movie License for one year.

Roll Call Vote: (5) **AYES** – Frankfort, Goodlein, Langenburg, Long, Trimberger

(0) **NAYS**

Motion CARRIED.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustees introduced themselves to the visitor Mary Wagner.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Langenburg adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Goodlein, Secretary

Luther Area Public Library
7/1/22 thru 7/31/22

Checking Balance 7/1/22

\$209,866.97

Income

7/6 cp/fx - 18.50 } 414.00
 bk sale - 5.00
 fund. - 9.00
 Y bags - 66.50
 B bags - 255.00
 Pl. bk - 60.00

7/6 Luther Day Sales 680.10

7/7 cp/fx - 11.25 } 403.75
 fundg - 9.00
 Y bags - 105.00
 B bags - 187.50
 Pl BK - 90.00
 don - 1.00

7/13 LCCF 900.00

7/13 Campbell memorials 2200.00

7/19 cp/ - 8.50 } 204.50
 Bkst - 1.00
 Fundg - 31.00
 Y bag - 14.00
 B bag - 150.00

7/28 cp/fx - 11.50 } 357.00
 fundg - 6.00
 Y bag - 112.00
 B bag - 227.50

7/31 LOSB 8.93
5168.28

+ 5168.28

215,035.25

expenses

#54731 7/18 A. Shank 510.69
 39.5 hr (553 - 34.29 - 8.00)

74 7/18 S. Hillman 432.89
 37.5 hr (468.75 - 29.06 - 6.80)

75 7/18 T. Laughlin 508.17
 43.5 hr (500.25 - 31.02 - 7.23)
 5 hr (50 - 3.10 - 7.3)

76 7/18 U.S. Treasury 1441.03
 2 qt report

77 7/18 CLS (rugs) 61.09
2953.89

	Carry over —	2953.87
#5478	7/8 Xerox (copier)	136.68
79	7/14 D. Long	---
	July meet. (80-4.96-1.16)	113.06
	2 ledgers (39.18 - office)	
80	7/17 IRWS (BB-3976)	460.00
81	7/19 MSU Extension (Plat Bks)	283.00
82	7/19 Emergency Geek (computer updates/work)	198.59
83	7/19 Tip Top Entertainment (SRP)	495.00
84	7/22 A. Shank	530.09
	41 hr (574-35.59-8.32)	
85	7/22 S. Hillman	277.05
	24 hr (300 - 18.60-4.35)	
86	7/22 T. Laughlin	522.70
	44 hr (506-31.37-7.34)	
	6 hr (60-3.72-.87)	
87	7/22 Consumers	275.91
88	7/22 D. Coykendall (SRP)	5.78
89	7/22 Emergency Geek (computer router)	169.99
90	7/25 Elite Fund, Inc. (E-rate work)	300.00
91	7/27 Chase Card (2 bks - 44.43 / SRP 109.61)	147.19
92	7/27 IRWS 2 boxes	920.00
93	7/26 MGS. copy paper overages	135.62
94	7/27 UIA / St of MI (2nd qt)	6.01
		<u>7930.54</u>

Debits

7/1 DG (office (2 bx envelopes 3 rolls duct tape)	29.00
7/5 Meijer (SRP-food/Actv)	19.57
7/5 Walmart (SRP-20.80 (Bldg-13.58)	34.38
7/6 Meijer (SRP-food)	18.40
7/6 DG (Misc-2 cases water)	11.75
7/11 Walmart (SRP-food/Actv)	68.26
7/11 Loggers (SRP-food)	38.07
7/15 Walmart (SRP-food/actv)	54.60
7/18 DG (SRP-12 ⁵⁰ /Bldg-2 ⁵⁰)	15.00
7/21 Walmart (SRP-food/actv)	52.54
7/21 DG (SRP-food)	5.60
7/25 Loggers (SRP-food)	23.26
7/26 DG (SRP-shirts)	68.00
7/26 Walmart (SRP-shirts)	31.53
7/27 Walmart (SRP-)	7.60
7/27 Walmart (Bldg-clean)	29.04
7/28 Amazon	21.05
7/28 DG	28.75

\$ 556.50

total expenses

- 556.50
- ~~7930.54~~
- 8,487.04

Check balance 7/31/22

CD balance

total assets 7/31/22

\$206,548.21 *
34,672.83 *
\$241,221.04 *

Donna Long, treasurer

D&O Limit

From: Tasha Blake (tblake@fkbinsurance.com)

To: lutherlibrary@att.net

Date: Monday, June 20, 2022 at 09:30 AM EDT

Hello Amy,

The underwriter said the lowest limit available is \$500,000 with \$1000 Deductible (retention). The annual premium would be \$861 for the \$500,000 limit. Please let me know of any additional questions or concerns. Thanks!

Tasha Blake

Commercial Lines Account Manager

Fekete Knaggs & Burr Agency

1025 S Mitchell St

Cadillac, MI 49601

P: 231-779-7919 F: 231-779-7925

Visit us on the Web: www.fkbinsurance.com

**Luther Area Public Library
Selection and Reconsideration Policy**

Selection:

Support for Intellectual Freedom:

The Luther Area Public Library has adopted the American Library Association's (ALA) Freedom to read statement, which reads, in part:

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

The complete Freedom to Read statement can be found in the appendix.

Objectives:

The library's materials collection is developed and managed to meet the majority of the cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs of the library's service area. The library builds and maintains a patron-oriented collection by anticipating and responding to needs and expectations.

Collection decisions are made in conjunction with the strategic initiatives, especially the following:

- Positioning the library for lifelong learning
- Embracing diversity
- Developing library services that incorporate both physical and virtual collections
- Committing to excellence in service to improve effectiveness and remove barriers

Responsibility for Selection:

In public libraries, the governing body of the institution is technically responsible for the resources in its library; however, it often delegates this responsibility to others. Responsibility for coordinating and making the final decisions rests with the Library Director, who may delegate this responsibility to certain staff members.

Staff contributes to the development of patron-oriented collections by:

- Engaging in open, continuous two-way communication with library patrons and recognizing that individuals have different ways of expressing their needs based on age, language, economic status, culture, or other characteristics
- Interacting with patrons with understanding, respect, and responsiveness
- Handling all requests equitably
- Working in partnership with one another to understand and respond to community needs
- Understanding and responding to rapidly changing demographics, as well as societal and technological changes
- Recognizing that materials of varying complexities and formats are necessary to satisfy diverse needs of library users
- Balancing individual needs and broader community needs in determining the best allocation of collection budget for acquiring or providing access to materials and information
- Seeking continuous improvement through ongoing measurement
- Reviewing the collection on a regular basis to identify areas of community interest that may need to be strengthened

Selection Criteria:

Public libraries are diverse and represent a broad demographic. With a patron base that can include infants to the elderly, selection criteria should take into account the various interests and needs of the patrons the library serves. Criteria for selection of materials should also depend on the goals and mission of that particular library/system. In general, public libraries provide collections containing a wide variety of material formats, including print, audio-visual, and electronic. In selecting materials and developing collections for adults, as well as for children and teens, library staff includes materials that represent the broad range of human experience, reflecting the ethnic, religious, racial, and socio-economic diversity not only of the region it serves but also the larger global perspective. Library collections will provide a broad range of opinion on current issues.

Collections contain popular works, classic works that have withstood the test of time, and other materials of general interest. Works are not excluded or included in the collection based solely on subject matter or on political, religious, or ideological grounds. In building collections, library staff is guided by the principle of selection, rather than censorship. Furthermore, the selection of a given item for a library's collections should not be interpreted as an endorsement of a particular viewpoint.

To build a collection of merit, materials are evaluated according to one or more of the following standards. An item need not meet all of these criteria in order to be acceptable.

General Criteria:

- Present and potential relevance to community needs
- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audience
- Cost
- Importance as a document of the times
- Relation to the existing collection and to other materials on the subject
- Attention by critics and reviewers

- Potential user appeal
- Requests by library patrons

Content Criteria:

- Authority
- Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- Skill, competence, and purpose of the author
- Reputation and significance of the author
- Objectivity
- Consideration of the work as a whole
- Clarity
- Currency
- Technical quality
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Representation of important movements, genres, or trends
- Vitality and originality
- Artistic presentation and/or experimentation
- Sustained interest
- Relevance and use of the information
- Authenticity of history or social setting

Special Considerations for Electronic Information Sources:

- Ease of use of the product
- Availability of the information to multiple simultaneous users
- Equipment needed to provide access to the information
- Technical support and training
- Available in full text

Acquisitions Procedures:

The Luther Area Public Library Director has the responsibility for the overall selection and maintenance of all materials and formats within the collection of the library.

Criteria for non-fiction works:

- Accurate, clear and logical presentation
- Comprehensive and complete treatment
- Author's qualifications
- Of lasting value or current need
- Original point of view
- Popularity of work or author

Criteria for fiction works:

- Vitality and originality
- Artistic presentation or experimentation
- Representation of important genre or trend
- Popularity of work or author

Selection may be limited by the following factors:

- Price and format
- Availability of low-demand materials in other library collections
- Physical limitations of the library building

Selection of library materials will not be influenced by:

- The possibility that the content may offend some members of the community
- The possibility that they may come into the possession of children or young adults
- The liability of materials to theft or mutilation

Selecting Materials on Controversial Topics:

A balanced collection attempts to represent all sides of controversial issues as far as availability of materials, space, and budget allow. Selection is based upon criteria stated in this policy. The race, religion, nationality, or political views of an author or creator; offensive language; depictions or descriptions of violence or sexually explicit activity; controversial content of an item; or endorsement or disapproval by an individual or group in the community does not cause an item automatically to be included or excluded from the library's collection.

All public libraries contain materials that some patrons may find objectionable. Libraries may omit from the collection materials that some patrons feel are important. In either case, the library has procedures that patrons may use in requesting the reconsideration of materials.

Gifts and Donations:

Accepting gifts and donations is an important way for the public library to benefit from the generosity of the community it serves. Gifts and donations of materials are reviewed using the same criteria as purchases. The library reserves the right to dispose of any gifts that are given to the library. The library will determine how to best incorporate such materials into the existing collections. Materials not added to library collections may be used for programs or given to other local organizations such as schools or senior centers.

Gifts received by the library that are not added to the library's collection may be sold. The proceeds from this sale shall accrue directly to the benefit of the library, in a fashion consistent with accepted library policies. Any items unsold by the library may then be donated to another organization or discarded.

Funds may be given for the purpose of acquiring materials recommended by library staff as prescribed in this policy, or for purchase of specific items suggested by the donor. When the library receives a cash gift for the purchase of materials, the library staff must make the selection with the general selection principles set forth in this policy.

The library cannot place a monetary value on gifts for tax purposes, but receipts are provided upon request.

Gifts of funds are always welcome and may be designated as memorials.

Collection Maintenance and Weeding:

The library continually withdraws items from the collection, basing its decisions on a number of factors, including publishing date, frequency of circulation, community interest, and availability of newer or more valid materials. Items dealing with local history are an exception, as are certain classics and award-winning children's books. Fiction that was once popular but no longer in demand and non-fiction books that are no longer useful are withdrawn from the collection.

Withdrawn books may be sold. The proceeds from such sales are used for the benefit of the library. Books that are not sold will be disposed of at the discretion of the library.

Reconsideration:

Guiding Principles:

Whether during an informal complaint or a formal reconsideration of a library resource, library staff, administrators, and trustees complete their work using general agreed-upon principles such as:

- Libraries have diverse materials reflecting differing points of view, and a library's mission is to provide access to information to all users.
- All library users have a First Amendment right to read, view, and listen to library resources.
- The Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association can be used as guiding documents.
- Any person has the right to express concerns about library resources and expect to have the objection taken seriously.
- When library resources are reconsidered, the principles of the freedom to read, listen, and view are defended rather than specific materials.
- A questioned item will be considered in its entirety, not judged solely on portions taken out of context.

- Parents or guardians have the right to guide the reading, viewing, and listening of their children but must give the same right to other parents/guardians.
- Questioned items will remain in circulation during the reconsideration process.
- The reconsideration process should be completed in its entirety and not subverted or ended prematurely, leaving the library open to legal challenge.

Statement of Policy:

The Luther Area Public Library fully endorses the principles documented in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement of the American Library Association. Materials available in the library present a diversity of viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy. The library also selects a wide variety of library materials that satisfy the diverse interests of our community. The library upholds the right of the individual to secure these resources, even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to some. The library's varied collection is available to all; however, it is not expected that all of the collection will appeal to everyone.

Patrons who wish to request the withdrawal or reclassification of materials currently owned by the library are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Director. If the patron is not satisfied with the response to their request, the Director will provide the patron with information and a form to request formal reconsideration of the library resource. Withdrawn books may be sold. The proceeds from such sales are used for the benefit of the library. Books that are not sold will be disposed of at the discretion of the library.

Formal Reconsideration Process:

The following steps will be used when an individual feels that further action is necessary to address concerns about a library resource. For the duration of this process, the material in question will remain in circulation in the library collection.

1. A concerned patron who is dissatisfied with earlier informal discussions will be offered a packet of materials that includes the library's mission statement, selection policy, reconsideration form, and the Library Bill of Rights.
2. Patrons are required to complete and submit a reconsideration form to the Library Director.
3. The Director, with appropriate professional staff, will review the reconsideration form and the material in question, to consider whether its selection follows the criteria stated in the collection policy.
4. Within 15 business days, the Director will make a decision and send a letter to the concerned person who requested the reconsideration, stating the reasons for the decision.
5. If the individual is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted within 10 business days to the Board of Trustees.
6. If the Board plans to address the appeal at their board meeting, the individual will be notified, by the Director, of when and where the meeting will be held.
7. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to limit the length of public comments.
8. The decision of the Board is final.

Adopted June 25, 1953; revised January 28, 1972, January 16, 1991, July 12, 2000, June 30, 2004 by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee.
Adopted by Luther Area Public Library board on: DRAFT

Luther Area Public Library
115 State Street, P.O. Box 86
Luther, MI 49656
lutherlibrary@att.net

Request for Reconsideration of Material Form

The Trustees of the Luther Area Public Library have established a materials selection policy and a procedure for gathering input about particular items. Completion of this form is the first step in that procedure. If you wish to request reconsideration of a resource, please return the completed form to the Library Director.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you represent self? Or an organization? Name of Organization _____

Resource on which you are commenting:

Book (or eBook) Magazine Digital Resource Movie
 Audiobook Music Other

Title _____ Author/Producer _____

1. What brought this resource to your attention?

2. Have you examined the entire resource? If not, what sections did you review?

3. What concerns you about the resource?

4. Are there resource(s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

5. What action are you requesting the committee consider?

*****Library Use Only*****

Date Library Director reviewed _____ Date Board of Trustees reviewed _____

Material Removed? YES NO

Appendix I

Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an

orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions

offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. What one can read should not be confined to what another thinks.

3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be

legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the

best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

Appendix II

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019. Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>).

August 5, 2022



MLA Members and Friends,

The Michigan Library Association stands in solidarity with the Patmos Library Board of Trustees on the decision to retain a small collection of LGBTQIA+ materials on their library shelves. We are equally disheartened to learn that continued funding for the library was defeated on the August primary ballot because the library would not remove these materials.

We recognize that individuals have the right and responsibility to make decisions about what materials are suitable for themselves and their own families. We also stand united with the majority of the Patmos Library Board, and with librarians across the nation in upholding our Constitutional protections. The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. No one has the right to make rules restricting what other people read or to make decisions for other families. Freedom only exists when individuals can make their own choices. When a book is banned by those who want to censor voices they don't agree with, our democracy itself is threatened.

Of utmost importance to any public library is curating collections that allow every citizen, young and old alike, to see themselves in the books and resources their library provides, and choosing a broad range of subject matter that reflects diverse experiences. It is important to emphasize that the presence of any reading materials in a library collection does not imply endorsement of the ideas expressed in those materials. The library is simply doing its job to provide a wide variety of views and expressions—if the library “endorses” anything, it is citizens' right to access a broad selection of age-appropriate materials. This is a core tenant of librarianship – to provide for the interests of all, and to do so without bias.


Of the 50 library millages across Michigan that were on the August primary ballot, five were voted down, but only one was voted down due to extremist rhetoric and opposition concerning the small collection of materials with LGBTQIA+ themes on the shelves of the Patmos Library.

And we all know that there are extreme consequences to be addressed for those that voted “NO”.

How will the community fare, when and if, the library closes its doors because its funding was not approved? Economically? Socially? Educationally? The Patmos Library serves many purposes – simultaneously a community center, voting precinct, history center, a place to read, gather, socialize, study and learn – a beautiful cultural institution in the heart of Hudsonville. The day will come when there is no access to WiFi. No access to employment assistance. No access to books, materials and eContent. No access to veteran’s benefits. No access to storytime. No access to afterschool, weekend and evening programs. No access to lifelong learning opportunities. NO ACCESS at all because the Patmos Library will shut and lock their doors and will no longer serve the needs of anyone, including those that voted no.

It is the responsibility of libraries throughout Michigan and our nation to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those that some individuals in our society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular, or unacceptable. We stand with you as you uphold the First Amendment rights that are enshrined in the Constitution by serving the entire population, including those who see value in material that others may find objectionable.

The Michigan Library Association will help Patmos Library in any way they deem needed to address this challenge.



Ryan Wieber
President
Michigan Library Association



Dillon Geshel
Intellectual Freedom Task
Force Chair
Michigan Library Association

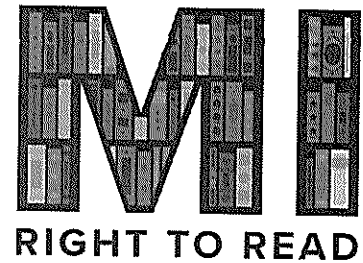


Deborah E. Mikula
Executive Director
Michigan Library Association

Leading the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement

How Can You Help?

Below are a few things you can do to take action for the right to read and support all Michiganders' First Amendment rights.



Build the Coalition.

There is strength in numbers. If you have not done so already, please invite friends, family, and colleagues to join the MI Right to Read coalition and be fully prepared to defend First Amendment rights.

Write a Letter.

We encourage you to write a letter of support to the Patmos Library Board. A list of board members and the mailing address are available on the Patmos Library website. We also encourage you to write a letter to your local media and let them know how much you value your library and librarians. Remember to keep your letter short, personal, positive, and proactive, and take a firm stance on protecting the right to read.

Be an Ally.

Right now is a difficult time to work in libraries. Let library workers know they have support in their community. It only takes a quick phone call, email, or thank you note to encourage and support library workers who are dealing with misinformation and personal attacks. Thank them for their work, ask if they need help, and share your contact information so they know they can call on you.

Fight Misinformation.

There are very real consequences of misinformation and political rhetoric about library collections. Stay informed about local issues and threats to ban books in your library. Do your part to keep your community informed by sharing information about intellectual freedom and the right to read.

What is intellectual freedom? What's the difference between a material ban and a challenge? What does this have to do with the First Amendment? Read the MI Right to Read Intellectual Freedom Fact Sheet for answers to FAQs and get informed so you're ready to protect every Michigander's right to read!

Post on Social.

Our [Intellectual Freedom Toolkit Message Center](#) has pre-written posts to help spread the word on social media. Craft your own message in support of the right to read or use any of our examples. Plus, be sure to follow [MI Right to Read](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and share our posts.

Donate.

[MI Right to Read](#) provides educational resources and support for librarians and library boards across the state to stop misinformation campaigns and protect the right to read for all Michiganders. Donations of any amount are welcome to the MLA Advocacy Resource Fund to help support this work.

You can also donate to the [Fund Patmos Library for 2023 GoFundMe campaign](#) that was established by a Jamestown resident. [Learn more.](#)

In the News

News about the vote to block funding for the Patmos Library has reached the national stage. Check out national and local news coverage below and stay informed and engaged in the conversation around First Amendment rights and book challenges so you can educate friends and neighbors when you see misinformation about libraries in your own community.

From: Michlib-l <michlib-l-bounces@mcls.org> on behalf of Melissa Huisman via Michlib-l <michlib-l@mcls.org>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 9:30 AM
To: michlib-l@mail2.mcls.org <michlib-l@mail2.mcls.org>
Subject: [Michlib-l] MLA letter

Hi! Just to clarify, if you caught it in MLA's great email - the Patmos Library is in **Jamestown township**, not the City of Hudsonville. (Their post office can only handle P.O. boxes, so they use our post office. Hence, the address.)

If you do contact the media, as MLA suggests – I'd be grateful if you make that distinction.

Thankfully, our City officials are very pro-library and supportive. We'll do all we can to educate the Patmos library cardholders, many of whom use our two libraries interchangeably – at least for now. Once their doors close, even that will not be possible.

Here is the info from the letter in question: *"The Patmos Library serves many purposes – simultaneously a community center, voting precinct, history center, a place to read, gather, socialize, study and learn – a beautiful cultural institution in the heart of Hudsonville.*

Thanks to MLA for the information and support.



Melissa Huisman
Library Director
Gary Byker Memorial Library of Hudsonville



Contact me:
mhuisman@hudsonville.org :: 616-669-1255 x 5



Libraries

US library defunded after refusing to censor LGBTQ authors: 'We will not ban the books'

Residents of Jamestown, Michigan, voted this week to shut down town's library rather than tolerate certain LGBTQ books

Matthew Cantor

🐦 @CantorMatthew

Fri 5 Aug 2022 09:19 EDT

A small-town library is at risk of shutting down after residents of Jamestown, Michigan, voted to defund it rather than tolerate certain LGBTQ+-themed books.

Residents voted on Tuesday to block a renewal of funds tied to property taxes, Bridge Michigan reported.

The vote leaves the library with funds through the first quarter of next year. Once a reserve fund is used up, it would be forced to close, Larry Walton, the library board's president, told Bridge Michigan - harming not just readers but the community at large. Beyond books, residents visit the library for its wifi, he said, and it houses the very room where the vote took place.

“Our libraries are places to read, places to gather, places to socialize, places to study, places to learn. I mean, they’re the heart of every community,” Deborah Mikula, executive director of the Michigan Library Association, told the Guardian. “So how can you lose that?”

“We are champions of access,” she added, including materials that might appeal to some in the community and not others. “We want to make sure that libraries protect the right to read.”

The controversy in Jamestown began with a complaint about a memoir by a nonbinary writer, but it soon spiraled into a campaign against Patmos Library itself. After a parent complained about *Gender Queer: a Memoir*, by Maia Kobabe, a graphic novel about the author’s experience coming out as nonbinary, dozens showed up at library board meetings, demanding the institution drop the book. (The book, which includes depictions of sex, was in the adult section of the library.) Complaints began to target other books with LGBTQ+ themes.

One library director resigned, telling Bridge she had been harassed and accused of indoctrinating kids; her successor also left the job. Though the library put Kobabe’s book behind the counter rather than on the shelves, the volumes remained available.

“We, the board, will not ban the books,” Walton told Associated Press on Thursday.

The library’s refusal to submit to the demands led to a campaign urging residents to vote against renewed funding for the library. A group calling itself Jamestown Conservatives handed out flyers condemning a library director who “promoted the LGBTQ ideology” and called for making the library “a safe and neutral place for our

children”. On Facebook, the group says it exists to “keep our children safe, and protect their purity, as well as to keep the nuclear family intact as God designed”.

Residents ultimately voted 62% to 37% against a measure that would have raised property taxes by roughly \$24 in order to fund the library, even as they approved similar measures to fund the fire department and road work. The library was one of just a few in the state to suffer such a loss, Mikula said: “Most passed with flying colors, sometimes up to 80%.”

The vote comes as libraries across the US face a surge in demands to ban books. The American Library Association identified 729 challenges to “library, school and

university materials and services” last year, which led to about 1,600 challenges or removals of individual books. That was up from 273 books the year before and represents “the highest number of attempted book bans since we began compiling these lists 20 years ago”, the ALA president, Patricia Wong, said in a press release.

▲▲ I’m not sure what instigated the culture wars we’re seeing, but libraries are at the front end
Deborah Mikula

“We’re seeing what appears to be a campaign to remove books, particularly books dealing with LGBTQIA themes and books dealing with racism,” Deborah Caldwell-Stone, head of the ALA’s office for intellectual freedom, told the Guardian last year. Celebrated books by Toni Morrison, Alison Bechdel and Ibram X Kendi are among those facing bans.

“I’m not quite sure what instigated the culture wars that we’re seeing, but libraries are certainly at the front end,” Mikula said. Indeed, as states across the US move to deny LGBTQ+ rights, the ALA’s No 1 “most challenged” book last year was Gender Queer.

“When you remove those books from the shelf or you challenge them publicly in a community, what you’re saying to any young person who identified with that narrative is, ‘We don’t want your story here,’” Kobabe told the New York Times in May.

Each library chooses its own collection, Mikula noted, an intensive process that involves staying abreast of what’s new, listening to what’s being requested, and “weeding out” selections that are rarely on loan.

“Our librarians are qualified. They have advanced degrees,” she said. “We want to make sure that the people who have been hired to do this work are trusted and

credible, and that they’re making sure that the full community is represented within their library. And that means having LGBTQ books.”

If community members oppose the inclusion of certain books, there are formal means of requesting their removal, involving a review committee and ascertainment that the person making the appeal has actually read the book in question. But recently, she said, people have been “going to board meetings, whether it’s a library board meeting or a school board meeting and saying, ‘Here’s a list of 300 books. We want them all to be removed from your library.’ And that’s not the proper channel, but they’re loud and their voices carry.”

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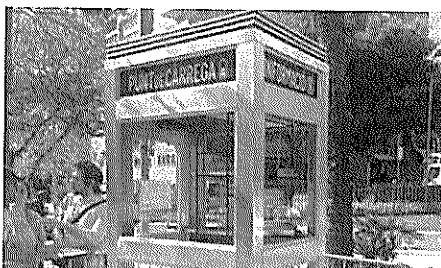
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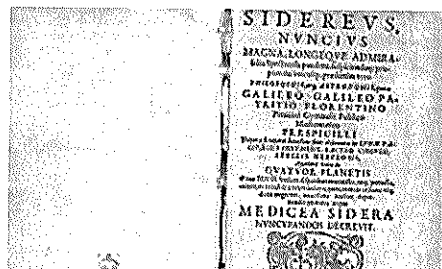
Remind me in September



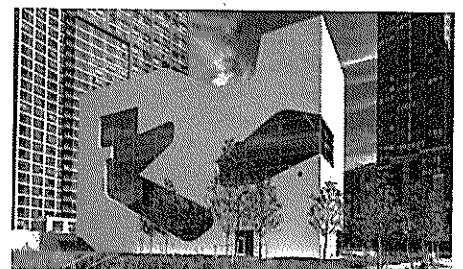
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