

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
Regional Board Meeting
January 15, 2026 – 5:30 PM
Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library

In attendance; Board members; Chair Amanda Hollomon, Judy Barnett, Susan Berry, Jennifer Boling, and Seleta Rogers. Also attending, Alan Harkness, Director of CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries). Katie Burnett, Asst. Director of Public Services (CVL), Mallie Brossett, Branch Manager Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library (CVL), and Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, (CVL)

- I. Call to Order – Chair Hollomon called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- II. **Approval of October 16, 2026, meeting minutes** – Berry made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.
- III. Comment – There were no comments.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Director Harkness presented the treasurer’s report. Revenues and expenses for Period 6, ending December 31, 2025, are on track for this time of year.
- V. Director’s Report – Director Harkness presented the Director’s report. Each board member received a copy of the new winter guide featuring the library system wide program *Food & the Soul of America*, that will be running from January until April 2026. Every branch will hold events featuring award winning culinary authors, chefs and interesting culinary based activities honoring the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America through food. He invited every board member to spread the word and invite family and friends to the events across the branches. He also pointed out the information in the guide on the upcoming Columbus Children’s Book Festival in May.

Both the Marion County Public Library and the Columbus Public Library have received state dollars to effectuate repairs to those buildings. Director Harkness asked board members to thank their local state congress representatives if they see them, for voting on behalf of the CVL. While laws trying to hold librarians responsible for materials checked out by children that some might not like failed last year by a narrow margin, these same laws will be up for a vote again this year at the state level. Director Harkness will keep the board informed of any progress regarding these worrisome law proposals.

The Stewart County Library Board has decided to postpone the request for the state renovation grant for another year as they work on raising the funds needed for the requested local match. The site that CVL was looking at for the New North Columbus Public Library is no longer a viable option. The CVL will need to search for a different location.

Director Harkness reminded everyone about the system wide library board training on Saturday, January 31, 2026. He is happy that some 30 plus library board members and staff have signed up for this training. The Georgia Public Library Service Magazine featured the Columbus Public Library’s Children’s Department prominently in its Fall issue. There are photos featuring several

library board members and staff with their families enjoying the library. The new CVL Strategic Plans should be completed by July 2026.

Director Harkness went over the latest CVL Dashboard. Active cardholders have gone down slightly. Visitors are also slightly down, but e-material circulation and program attendance are up. Computer use continues to go up. The two book mobile drivers have resigned, and new ones have been hired. The book mobiles are being readied to be repainted and wrapped. Aflac has issued a grant for their sponsored book mobile's painting and rewapping.

Director Harkness wished to inform the board that the protestor who had caused a commotion in August came back to the Columbus Public Library on December 20th with another individual who decided to do a 1st amendment audit. They disrupted an event being held in one of the public meeting rooms where a group was handing out gifts to foster children, and it led to a confrontation between them and some people from the group. Director Harkness believes the CPL staff did a respectable job containing the situation, but he is consulting with the MCSD Attorney about the incident and is awaiting further instruction. Director Harkness will keep the board apprised of the situation.

VI. Unfinished Business – There was none.

VII. New Business –

i. Review and vote on listed policies

a. CIR1: CVL Circulation Policies

After some discussion Barnett made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy CIR1. Motion was seconded by Berry. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

b. CUS3: Safe Child Policy

After some discussion Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy CUS3. Motion was seconded by Barnett. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

c. GOV7: Collection Development Policy

After some discussion, Rogers made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy GOV7. Motion was seconded by Rogers. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

d. INF2: Interlibrary Loan Policy

After some discussion Berry made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy INF2. Motion was seconded by Barnett. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

e. INF7: Institutional Cards

After some discussion Barnett made a motion to approve the changes as presented to policy INF7. Motion was seconded by Berry. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

ii. Vote for a Vice Chair

Barnett made a motion to accept the nomination of Judy Barnett as board vice chair. Boling seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling, and Rogers.

iii. Renew appointment for Chair or vote for a new chair.

Berry made a motion to renew the appointment of Amanda Hollomon as board chair. Rogers seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by Hollomon, Barnett, Berry, Boling,

and Rogers.

VIII. County Library Trustee Report

A. Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Chair Hollomon asked Branch Manager Brossett to give an update of the Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library. Manger Brossett highlighted events that the CCPL participated at the end of 2025, including the local Christmas parade and bringing reindeer games to a local Christmas party program. The instruments to be installed in the children's garden should be ordered this week and installed by spring. There are several upcoming programs with the largest events being Spring Break Staycation, with activities every day during Spring Break, and a Community Baby Shower in April including children up to age 5. The CCPL is also has an ongoing partnership with the local elementary school to bring different literacy programs to the children.

B. Marion County

Marion CLB Chair Rogers stated that the Marion County Public Library has received a \$20,000 grant and a \$7,000 grant for repairs to the library building and parking to include ADA compliance upgrades to the front door, repaving and lighting of the parking lot, and other building repairs. She highlighted several programs, especially the ones with the Pastoral Institute. She praised the MCPL Branch Manager Carter for her hard work. They are hoping to renovate the library building in the near future.

C. Muscogee County

Board Member Berry is excited for the Food & Soul of America Program starting next week. Vice Chair Barnett is disappointed that the site that was being considered for the new North Columbus Public Library fell through.

D. Stewart County

Board Member Boling praised PMPL Branch Manager Davis for the programs the Parks Memorial Public Library is holding at the local elementary school. She has volunteered several times and has had an awesome time. The PMPL is looking for a new part-time assistant. Branch Manager Davis has applied for two grants, one for ADA compliance upgrades and the other for program funding.

IX. Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026, at 5:30PM.

Location: Mildred L. Terry Public Library.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM

DRAFT