

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
Regional Board Meeting
July 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM
Marion County Public Library

In attendance; Board members; Judy Barnett, Susan Berry, Donovan Granville, Seleta Rogers, and Amy Stankus. Also attending, Alan Harkness, Director of CVL (Chattahoochee Valley Libraries). Katie Burnett, Asst. Director of Public Services (CVL), Bailey Carter, Branch Manager of the Marion County Public Library (CVL), Elyse French, Branch Manager of the Columbus Public Library (CVL) and Lizette Cruz, Administrative Specialist, (CVL)

- I. Call to Order – In the absence of Chair Hollomon and Vice Chair Brito, Board Member Judy Barnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
- II. **Approval of May 1, 2025, minutes** – Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Granville. Unanimous approval by Barnett, Berry, Granville, Rogers and Stankus.
- III. Public Comment – There were no comments.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Director Harkness presented the treasurer's report. Revenues for Period 11, ending May 31, 2025, showed all expenses below projected and all revenues on track.
- V. Director's Report – Director Harkness presented the Director's report. Director Harkness introduced Bailey Carter, she has been the branch manager of the Marion County Public Library for one year. He also introduced the new branch manager for the Columbus Public Library, Elyse French, who started at the beginning of July. Director Harkness informed the board that the Branch Manager of the Parks Memorial Public Library will be retiring at the end of September. The CVL will begin the process of hiring her replacement.

Summer Reading is going very well. Within the next two days CVL is set to exceed this year's collective Summer Reading goal of 2,000,025 minutes read with 2 weeks to go until the end of Summer Reading. CVL has also passed a million items circulated for items checked out in one fiscal year for the first time in about 11 years.

The federal government is eliminating the Institute of Museums and Library Services. This will mean a five million dollar cut to the Georgia Library Public Service. This loss will affect e-rate internet services, the Georgia Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, as well as the availability of services in GALILEO. The CVL has already budgeted for the loss of funding for internet services. It will also probably mean layoffs for some employees at the GLS.

The CVL is working on a new strategic plan. The present one ended at the end of this fiscal year. Tiffany Wilson, CVL's Community Engagement Coordinator, is working with Orange Boy to formulate a new strategic plan. Once they have a draft, Director Harkness will bring it before the board.

Tracie Price, the Asst. Director of Business Services, has been working with her finance team to provide professional development opportunities for CVL staff. Several programs that are now

available for staff include Niche Academy, Precipio, and Web Junction.

The Georgia Libraries Conference is being held in Columbus this year. CVL will be paying the registrations of as many staff as possible who wish to attend. Director Harkness will be holding a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Workshop for the CVL leadership. He is certified to perform these workshops and has hosted them for over 30 years.

VI. Unfinished Business – There was none.

VII. New Business –

A. Review and vote on listed policies

i. INF1 Priorities for Reference Service

ii. INF2 Interlibrary Loan Policy

iii. MNG8 Exhibits and Displays

iv. PER7 Workplace Violence

v. PER19 Workers Compensation Benefits

After discussing a few minor changes, Stankus made a motion to approve the above-listed policies as written. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Berry, Granville, Rogers, and Stankus.

B. Approve the Final FY26 Budget

Stankus made a motion to approve the Final FY26 Budget as presented. Granville seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Berry, Granville, Rogers, and Stankus.

C. Approve FY26-FY27 Library Holiday Closure Dates

Berry made a motion to approve the FY26-FY27 Library Holiday Closure dates as presented. Rogers seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Berry, Granville, Rogers, and Stankus.

D. Approve Director's Salary Approval Form FY2026

Berry made a motion to approve the Director's Salary Approval Form FY2026 as presented. Granville seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by Barnett, Berry, Granville, Rogers, and Stankus.

VIII. County Library Trustee Report

A. Cusseta-Chattahoochee County

Director Harkness informed the board that they have hired a new manager for the Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Library, Mallie Brossett.

B. Marion County

Marion CLB Chair Rogers was proud to show the board an article about the Marion County Public Library in the local paper showcasing the statistical information that Branch Manager Carter had reported at the Commissioner's meeting. Branch Manager Carter then gave a report on the statistics highlighted in the paper. She also gave an update on the progress on the grant the Marion County Public Library had received to upgrade accessibility at the library.

C. Muscogee County

Director Harkness reported that the Columbus Public Library had a new program last week called KidChella. They had talented staff performers. The Columbus Symphony Orchestra hosted an Instrument Petting Zoo. It was attended by several hundred people. It was a very successful low budget program.

D. Stewart County

SCLB Chair Stankus was pleased to announce that the Stewart County Book Club has been a success and is meeting regularly.

- IX. Next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025, at 5:30PM.
Location: South Columbus Public Library.
- X. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM

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