

Anne West Lindsey District Library Board of Trustees Meeting
February 24, 2026

The monthly meeting of the Anne West Lindsey District Library of February 24, 2026 was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Heather Abell Castlebery and a quorum was established. In attendance were Nancy Schmidt, Elaine Miskell, Paula Buritsch, and Bill Slider. Sharon Wunderle and Betsy McKinney were not in attendance. Library director, Mary Stoner; library staff, Pam Alstat; and financial secretary, Jennifer Sigler attended as well.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Elaine Miskell and seconded by Bill Slider. The motion carried.

Minutes from the February 3, 2026 meeting were read and approved with a motion from Bill Slider and seconded by Paula Buritsch. The motion carried.

Under *Communications*, Mary Stoner reported \$50.00 in daily fees and \$272.00 in NSF fees had been waived by First Southern Bank. All board members were welcomed to join the Cartersville Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards Night on February 27, 2026. A portion of taxes distributed from Williamson County had been received. The board of trustees discussed an e-mail that was sent to the library by a patron with an issue involving the police.

The *Financial Secretary's Report* was presented by Jennifer Sigler. She reported on the library's balance sheet and transactions by account as of January 31, 2026; profit and loss as of January 2026; operating budget vs. actual July 2025 through January 2026; deposit detail, and check detail January 2026. A motion was made by Elaine Miskell and seconded by Bill Slider to accept this financial report per audit. The motion carried.

In the *Library Director's Report*, Mary Stoner reported the following for February 2026:

- (1) The memorial was finalized for Jeanie Halldorson and work continued on memorials for Robert Hall, Richard Abell, Mary Slider, and Carrol Adcock.
- (2) Mary Slider spoke at the Cartersville Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting on February 4th and shared some information on programs planned for 2026 that will focus on helping our local businesses grow and thrive.
- (3) An ad was placed in the Cartersville High School newspaper (physical and digital).
- (4) Facebook followers increased from 1,845 to 2,030 in the last year. Instagram followers increased from 292 to 307.
- (5) Data was added to Excel and Google spreadsheets to keep track of programming attendance, curbside services, door counts, and reference statistics. These numbers will appear in several state reports.
- (6) A new maintenance report for 2026 was created after the building and grounds were checked.
- (7) The Friends of the Library met on February 18th. They are focusing on their membership drive for 2026 and the Spring Book Sale on April 16-18, 2026.

- (8) Mary Stoner discussed a grant opportunity with Carolyn Deane from Artspace 304.
- (9) The action plan for the 2025 portion of the Strategic Plan has been revised.
- (10) Work is continuing on scheduling a meeting between the AWL Board of Directors and the Colp Village Council. They would like to meet on March 10, 2026.
- (11) An agreement has been signed to purchase another year of Ancestry.com.
- (12) Jessica Short at JALC has been contacted about purchasing an AED machine.
- (13) Mary Stoner assisted librarians with creating accounts for Ingram Publishing, an alternative source for buying books.
- (14) During the month of February, library Staff processed 221 items and 16 new library cards were issued.
- (15) The total number of Anne West Lindsey District library cardholders is 6,447.
- (16) February 23, 2026 marked Mary Stoner's eleven-year anniversary as Library Director.
- (17) Youth Services collected 50 valentines for seniors and were delivered to The Voyage Senior Living Community in Herrin.
- (18) Digital circulations continue their strong upward pattern in Adult Services, with Libby carrying a lot of the gains.
- (19) The library is hosting two local authors for book signings, Mitchell S. Karnes and Arkeym Young in March. Also, a Computer Skills Class and Poetry Out Loud will return.
- (20) Programming total for February was 1,148.

Along with her customary Director's report, Mary Stoner presented reports from the librarians for the month of February 2026. The Director's and Librarian's reports were accepted with a motion from Bill Slider and seconded by Elaine Miskell. It carried.

Under *Board Action on the Financial Secretary's Requests*, Jennifer Sigler requested \$20,574.31 be moved from the tax account at First Mid Bank to the memorial account at First Southern Bank. Paula Buritsch made a motion to move \$20,574.31 from the tax account at First Mid Bank to the memorial account at First Southern Bank. Elaine Miskell seconded the motion and it carried.

Under *Committee Reports*, the 2025 and 2026 Maintenance Reports were discussed. Top and secondary priorities were individually reviewed. Raising funds to replace the original carpet and other needs were covered. Bill Slider had a recommendation of a young man to take over the maintenance duties of Dr. John McConnaughy since he is retiring. Elaine Miskell made a motion to approve the Maintenance Report with a second by Paula Buritsch. It carried.

Under *Unfinished Business*, the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Colp has a tentative meeting date of March 10, 2026 to sign the document.

Under *Trustee Training and Comments*, Mary Stoner presented the Illinois Public Library Standards-Advocacy & Community Engagement: Action Plan. The action plans in each section are to be used as a tool for library directors, staff and board members to discuss and determine how their library is addressing the Illinois Public Library Standards. Public libraries are always

evolving due to new trends, changing societal norms and cultural influences. Our library is meeting all standards listed which includes core, intermediate, and advanced.

The next Anne West Lindsey District Library Board Meeting will be held March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Elaine Miskell and seconded by Bill Slider at 7:30 p.m.

These minutes were submitted by Nancy Schmidt, Secretary of the Anne West Lindsey District Library Board.