

Central Arkansas Library System

Board of Directors Meeting

October 23, 2025, at noon

Hybrid Meeting: Main Library & Zoom Video Call

Board members in attendance were Karama Neal, Alexis Sims, Dustin McDaniel, Ginann Swindle, Luke Underwood, Audrey Evans, Esperanza Massana-Crane, Jennifer Jamison, David Finkbeiner, and Ryan Davis. Stacey McAdoo, Madhav Shroff, and Joyce Elliott were absent.

Staff in attendance were Nate Coulter, Jo Spencer, Tameka Lee, Kate Matthews, Hannah Saulters, Nathan Smith, Ellen Samples, Eliza Borné, Joe Hudak, Ray Terry, Sarah Jane DeYoung, Pamela Bandy, Heather Zbinden, Andre Thornton, Sarah Sewell, Polly Deems, Maria Aguilar, Glenn Whaley, and Sarah Mallory.

Also in attendance were Evangeline Parker-Guest and Solomon Graves with Comcast.

Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes

Neal asked the Board to approve the September Minutes.

Swindle moved to approve the September Minutes as presented. Sims seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Approval of September Financials

Underwood reported that as of September 30, 2025, CALS' assets totaled approximately \$99,944,084.78. Total liabilities are \$7,917,367.33. Income through September is \$16,700,000. This is five percent over this time last year.

Neal filed the September Financials for audit.

Information Items

1 . Director's Report

Coulter highlighted a few items from his written report:

- Coulter thanked Parker-Guest and Graves for attending the Board meeting.
- Coulter also thanked the CALS staff involved with the Opening Day celebrations and the Six Bridges Book Festival. Between the two events on October 4, Main had approximately six thousand visitors. Neal and Massana-Crane applauded CALS staff for

a wonderful day of events, programming, and celebration. The Book Festival attendance was the largest post-Covid. Evans said the turnout for the festival really garnered a feeling of community.

- Coulter noted the recent donations from the Carnegie Foundation to the original Carnegie libraries across the country. The Carnegie Foundation recently donated \$10,000 in unrestricted grants to those libraries.
- Aguilar discussed the upcoming Day of the Dead celebration. The event will take place on November 1, 2025, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Children's Library and Learning Center. The event will include an art exhibition and workshops, crafts, performances, and food.
- Smith discussed the Digital Literacy program at CALS, which the Comcast grant is helping to support. The program launched in 2022 and provides one-on-one technology help for patrons. Jakeob Ward and Camille Davis are the current digital literacy guides. They primarily work from the McMath and Dee Brown branches but do visit other branches. Last year, they held 1,628 sessions with patrons. Borné shared feedback she received from patrons; several individuals appreciated the fact that they can receive help, without feeling pressured to purchase anything.

Move to Adjourn

McDaniel made the motion to adjourn. Evans seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Neal called the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



President



Secretary