

SCOTT COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025
NOON

The agenda for this meeting was posted in public in all Scott County Library System Libraries in accordance with Iowa law. President Kristal Koberg Schaefer called to order the September 22, 2025, meeting of the Scott County Library Board of Trustees at noon at the Eldridge branch.

Board of Trustees present: Dan True (zoom), Kevin Cahill, Kristal Koberg Schaefer (zoom), Marty O'Boyle, Shelli Engelbrecht, Angie Ehlers, and Director Tricia Kane.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved by Marty O'Boyle; seconded by Kevin Cahill. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Kevin Cahill moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Shelli Engelbrecht. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills and Receipts: The Accounts Payable Report for the meeting of Scott County Board of Supervisors for 8/16/25 – 9/12/25 were reviewed and discussed. Shelli Engelbrecht moved to approve the bills and receipts; seconded by Marty O'Boyle. Motion carried.

Review of the Circulation and Budget: We ended the year with \$12,522 in last year's budget. \$4,000 of those dollars goes to the Bookmobile fund, the excess goes to unassigned reserve fund.

Board Education:

- The final report was given for the summer reading program. Participation increased by 6.19% this year which is incredible especially when the trend nation-wide have shown decreases in summer reading participation. Every branch increased the number of events offered this year, resulting in a 30% increase in attendance. There were some amazing sponsors this summer!
- The Annual Report for the Scott County Library System has been completed and mailed out to the tax-supporting cities in our service area.

Director's Report:

- Tricia showed us the one-page ad that appeared in the September 17th issue of the North Scott Press. This is something that the NSP provides to us free of charge quarterly.
- Scott County is moving to a new Drupal version for the website, and the vendor is offering an AI chatbot that can be added to the website to help answer people's questions. We are working with IT personnel to test this product, and because we have had a chat component on our website for several years, we were asked to go first with the implementation. Our current chat product is a free option that will offer some possible answers to a question, but then it will go to the Information Librarian. The AI chatbot is more sophisticated and can handle much more detailed transactions before it escalates to a person.

- On Friday, October 3rd, we will be having a Harvest Festival at the Eldridge Branch from 5-7 PM. This is an all-age, family-friendly event with live music and free activities like pumpkin painting, harvest game, face painting, and a petting zoo. We will also have a fall photo backdrop, guessing contests, and lawn games. Food will be available to purchase, with all proceeds supporting the Summer Reading Program. The Friends of the Eldridge Branch will also have the book sale open inside the library. The book sale will then continue until Saturday, October 10th, with the popular \$2 a bag sale from 9 AM – 12 PM.
- A new Iowa law requires new board members (appointed or elected after July 1, 2025) to take a course on open meetings and records between one and two hours long, regarding compliance with Iowa Code chapters 21 and 22. The course must be completed within 90 days of election, oath of office, or assumption of duties. At this time, the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) is handling training and issuing certificates. This will apply to future members appointed to the Library Board.
- North Scott Rotary has donated funding to purchase books in honor of the weekly speakers to add to our collection. Once these are cataloged, they will be bookplated in the speaker's name, and we will advertise the additions on our social media pages.
- Sarah Carlin Vermillion was selected to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Albuquerque, and she will participate in a workshop with Community Webs on Preserving Community Stories for Rural and Small Libraries. She was granted a scholarship that will cover all expenses.

Old Business: Board members completed director evaluations. Tricia is continuing to do an exemplary job. The board unanimously agrees that we appreciate her skills, thoughtful insight, and ability to communicate with staff and patrons.

Kevin Cahill moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Marty O'Boyle. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 27, 2025 at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angie Ehlers