

Lakeland Library Cooperative
Adult Services Committee Meeting
December 8, 2025
Zoom Virtual Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7407387755>
2pm

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Chair: Katie Alphenaar, Vice Chair: Vacant, Secretary: Kristin Skinner

- I. Call to order (2:05pm)
- II. Greetings and Introductions - Call to Order
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Motion by Tawnee Szczepanek (Allendale Township Library), seconded by Kim Senior (Spring Lake District Library)
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - A. Motion by Kristin Skinner (Flat River Community Library), seconded by Alison Anderson (Spring Lake District Library)
- V. Lakeland Reports
 - A. Carol working on a long-term management program for directors and mid-level managers for the Continuing Education group
 - B. Julie is retiring at Lakeland
- VI. Continuing Education Reports
 - A. Working on future projects
- VII. New and Unfinished Business
- VIII. 2025 Successes and Trials
 - A. Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library) had a successful program where patrons donated fleece to make tie blankets for an animal shelter
 - B. Kristin Skinner (Flat River Community Library) had success with warming tree donations from the community
 - C. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) shared that their February Kindness Month started early with a pantry that the community donated to including shelf-stable full meal kits
 - D. Kristin Skinner (Flat River Community Library) had success with the Flat River Adult Advisory Board to get adult community members interested in helping with programming
 - E. Carol (Lakeland) suggested that a strategic plan will help with programming
 - F. Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library) has had trials with programming with community members, but not getting much interest from patrons
 1. Barbara Haywood (Hastings Public Library) suggested partnering with environment/education committees and that they bring the people/patrons

2. Alison Anderson (Spring Lake District Library) suggested doing a newsletter once a month to get community interest as they have a high open rate using Mailchimp
 3. Amber suggested that she can add a link to the home library's calendar from Patron Point emails
 4. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) suggested physical mailers that are popular with Loutit patrons
 5. Kevin Hawley (Loutit District Library) suggested twice monthly newsletter
- G. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) upping outreach and has Tovertafel Pixie (more mobile) for interactive learning for those with dementia, loved it at senior living centers
1. Link: <https://www.tover.care/us/tovertafel-pixie>
- H. Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library) partners quarterly with COA for a tech teaching class where they promote Libby and share how to download the Lakeland app also
- I. Amber shared link to example newsletters: [Sample Print Newsletters](#)
- J. Kristin Skinner (Flat River Community Library) asked how to make print programming more accessible/appealing
1. Alison Anderson (Spring Lake District Library) suggested one flyer per program and so patrons can take what they want
 2. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) suggested monthly and series handout to highlight smaller programs
 3. Kim Senior (Spring Lake District Library) suggested that front-line staff are encouraged to promote programming, word of mouth
- K. Barbara Haywood (Hastings Public Library) program suggestions from chat:
1. Working with MI Michigan Story to have open mic nights where he gathers Michigan based stories for his podcast and is partnered with PBS affiliate WKAR-FM broadcast the show
 2. Build-a-Board: A Charcuterie Workshop with Chef Bridgette Rhaine
 - a) Attendance: 15 participants
 - b) Chef Bridgette Rhaine led participants through crafting their own charcuterie boards, learning pairing techniques and presentation skills—including creating decorative “meat roses.”
 3. Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity - Lift Every Voice Speaker Series – Pathways in Partnerships-Another Side Of Government: Veterans
 - a) Attendance: 27 participants
 - b) Partners: Round Table Companions for Racial Equity
 - c) This impactful session featured Carla Wilson-Neil, Veterans Authority Board member, and Willie Taylor, Director of I Carried the Cross Foundation. Both shared stories of advocacy and support for veterans. The event encouraged meaningful dialogue on service, equity, and community partnerships and was livestreamed on the library's Facebook page.
 - d) Lift Every Voice Book Club

- e) October 2025 | Attendance: 10 participants
 - f) The group discussed *The Small & Mighty* by Sharon McMahon, exploring themes of resilience and empowerment. The discussion fostered inclusion, understanding, and shared connection among participants, reinforcing the club's mission to highlight diverse voices and perspectives.
 - 4. Partnered with COA and they hoisted an extra bingo night at the library during Active aging week
 - 5. Dr Ellen Holste has left Pierce Cedar Creek Inst and has started a new business, EnviroSpeak, She led an amazing Useful versus Likely to Kill You Mushroom identification 101 last fall. She is an amazing presenter!
envirospeakllc@gmail.com
- IX. 2026 Ideas (Programs, Displays, etc)
- A. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) is excited about an adult battle of the books program and an AI series in the spring for all ages/accessible
 - B. Kim Senior (Spring Lake District Library) will be doing a film series, partnering with PBS and GVSU, to show independent films with lunch, first will be *The Librarians* with school librarian coming to talk about book bans
 - C. Kevin Hawley (Loutit District Library) had success with kitten yoga
 - 1. Link to event:
<https://www.loutitlibrary.org/calendar/#/events/wKc5n3oL7q/instances/1ROJ2zfsvH/>
 - D. Tawnee Szczepanek (Allendale Township Library) has upcoming woodburning programs (4 in series) as well as a Mahjong training program (4-week series)
 - E. Kevin Hawley (Loutit District Library) is doing a display in January with the cartoonist Herb Block foundation traveling exhibit that will focus on Civil Rights cartoons, etc.
 - 1. Free but has shipping cost but if you do it early can get free shipping
 - 2. Becki Hartke <Becki@elyinc.com> is the contact for Herblock.
<https://www.herblockfoundation.org/herb-block>
<https://www.herblockfoundation.org/editorial-cartooning/traveling-exhibits>
 - F. Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library) suggested book bedazzling programs for teens and adults using E6000 glue, suggested 2 hours at least for the program
 - G. Katie Alphenaar (Loutit District Library) asked if anyone is planning for the 250th US birthday
 - 1. Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library) has permission from PBS to show clips that are 30 minutes, looking for presenters
- X. Next meeting date
- A. Tuesday, February 17, 2pm
- XI. Motion to Adjourn
- A. Motion by Kristin Skinner (Flat River Community Library), seconded by Shanni Kerr (Ionia Community Library)
 - B. Adjourned at 2:57pm