

Hendry County Library Cooperative Minutes, December 12, 2024

Opening Remarks

- The Hendry County Library Cooperative Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Toni Couse at the Clewiston Library.

Roll Call of Members

- Present:** Natasha Hayes, Patrick Bridwell, Toni Couse, Nicole Hellard, Carol Rushing, and Priscilla Brown.
Absent: Jackie Espinoza and Deneisha Thorpe.

Minutes from Last Meeting

- A motion to accept the minutes from the August 15, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Bridwell and seconded by Mrs. Couse. The motion was carried.

Director's Report

- Insignia Updates-** Clewiston Library branch is up and running efficiently, but the Florida B. Thomas and Barron branches are still having some troubles with the printing process. Nicole has been monitoring communication between her IT staff (Nick) and Insignia (Alonna Campbell) to ensure this process is moving, but unfortunately after the exchange of IP addresses, all communications have paused and this problem is still outstanding. Cooperative Director will follow-up with this issue.
- State Aid Grant Status-** This year's grant application has been submitted and all deadlines have been met. We will anticipate receiving the funds between April through June 2025.

Old Business

- Financial Update-** Library Director provided a handout that stipulates each branch's carryover and therefore, each Director is aware of the Cooperative's financial standing overall, branch expenses, etc.

Library Cooperative Carryover Trail				
Year	Harlem	Barron	Clewiston	
22-23 carryover	\$50,843.26	\$26,020.38	\$67,264.05	
minus 22-23 expenses	\$27,246.05	\$27,358.58	\$94,928.20	
Deposit \$	\$35,181.75	\$35,181.75	\$70,363.50	
carryover to 23-24 yr.	\$58,778.96	\$33,843.55	\$42,699.35	
Year	Harlem	Barron	Clewiston	
23-24 carryover	\$58,778.96	\$33,843.55	\$42,699.35	
minus 23-24 expenses	\$22,299.25	\$32,645.28	\$84,115.54	
Deposit \$	\$33,907.50	\$33,907.50	\$67,815.00	
carryover to 24-25	\$70,387.21	\$35,105.77	\$26,398.81	
Year	Harlem	Barron	Clewiston	
23-24 carryover	\$70,387.21	\$35,105.77	\$26,398.81	
minus 24-25 expenses	\$8,169.97	\$25,026.06	\$22,744.69	Accurate Expense Figures as of Coop Mtg. Date 12-12-24
Deposit \$	\$33,907.50	\$33,907.50	\$67,815.00	**basing off of what we received last yr.
carryover to 25-26	\$96,124.74	\$43,987.21	\$71,469.12	

New Business

- **Impact Fee Study-** Cooperative Director has received an email requesting specific data from the library system as it is needed to complete an Impact Fee Study for Hendry County. Due to the depth of the data needed as well as still learning the reporting structures and reports from Insignia, Natasha will begin processing this ASAP.
- **ILL Costs-** Each year, library patrons enjoy books from all across the globe and that is in thanks to the Tampa Bay Library Consortium and SWFLN, for providing access to the Interlibrary Loan process. Each item that is ordered from either 3 branches, is charged a set rate. Currently, SWFLN pays our Cooperative's invoices which are due to TBLC and then invoices our Cooperative to recoup those fees. For the Fiscal Year, 2023-24, our Coop had a balance of \$554.27 which covers a set amount of ILL's and then an additional balance of \$135.93 (costs for going over our allotted ILL's). Natasha has spoken with Brian at SWFLN on multiple occasions and thankfully, he has the funding to simply pay these invoices and not seek reimbursement back from the Co-op. Starting in FY 2025, the Cooperative needs to decide how many ILL's we want to allow per branch, if we want to set a limit and how we want to reimburse SWFLN annually? At this meeting, the board moved to continue with the fee structure that we currently have and split the bill in to thirds annually. This motion was made by Mr. Bridwell and seconded by Ms. Rushing.
- **Annual Plan of Service –** The Board reviewed this year's plan of service. Mr. Bridwell motioned to approve the plan and Mrs. Couse seconded.

Member Library Reports

Barron Public Library:

June:

- The branch has received its new furniture including the new cafeteria style tables for the general public seating area and shelving units for the collections
- The mural in the children's area is almost complete and looks amazing. This theme for the mural is "Florida Outdoors"
- Month of September focused programming around National Library Card Sign Up Month as well as had a specially designated table set up for the Supervisor of Elections so that patrons can register to vote
- Month of October hosted several Halloween themed events such as pumpkin painting and the annual Virtual Halloween Costume Contest
- Month of November was busy with various events, Showtime4Kids comedy act, a variety of passive programs but most importantly, hosted the first DiNovember which was a huge hit. Had a Dinosleep-over which had 32 fluffy animals participate in and enjoy a night at the library while staff was able to catch/take their picture throughout the evening/night and post online for patrons to enjoy.
- Month of December consisted of various holiday activities, such as a visit from Santa, Christmas comedy act, cookie decorating (rescheduled from October) and much more.
- Within those four months, the library held their usual programming that includes storytimes, Chess Club, Spanish Class, Spanish Club, Crafternoons, and much more. Monthly calendars were provided so all members can see each activity offered.

Florida B. Thomas Library

- Month of September, was focused on everything "Money." From savings accounts to being financially responsible was highlighted and discussed. This was also the month that Diamond Painting was offered at our branch.
- Month of October focused on the Community Book Club which met every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
- Month of November highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month. The library hosted a 3 day training for the community with Edwin in which they learned all about Mental Health.
- Month of December focused on the holidays which consisted of a Christmas Choir performance by the Calvary Carolers, diamond painting, gingerbread cookie decorating and more.

- Within those four months, the library held their usual programming that includes, Senior Dominos, homework help, virtual video game play, creative arts & crafts, Senior Bingo and more.

Clewiston Public Library:

- Months of September, October, November and December included was/is busy as the holidays are here: programming included: Adult book club, Mats for Cats sewing club, Craft Corners, Adult Take and Make (Press Flowers Bookmark), Steam Club (Osmo Tech), Pirate themed events such as Storytime with puppets and more.
- Each month Teen Manga Club, Gaming Club, crafternoons, virtual reality gaming and more was held.
- DiNovember was also highlighted with themed programming during the month of November.
- December focused around the holidays and a wonderful evening with the Calvary Carolers was held. We are looking forward to our Pajama Storytime coming up on the 21st.
- The library's monthly calendars were presented to all in attendance which details all programs/events held during this time period.

Selection of Date and Location for Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20th at 6 p.m. at the Barron Library.

Public Remarks: none

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.