

The Friends of the Library Executive Board will meet on Monday, April 18, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in room 105. Committee chairs and members are welcome.

AGENDA

1. Call to order/Roll Call (Mathson)
2. Motion to approve minutes from the meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2026 (Mathson)
3. Call for additions to the agenda and announcements (Mathson)
4. Treasurer's reports (Gragert)
5. Library report (Hennings)
6. Board liaison report (Pesicka)
7. Staff General Updates (Yearous/Hayden)
 - a. Goodwill Partnership
 - b. Newsletter to online only
8. Old Business
 - a. Reminder of Future Meeting Dates
 - Monday, April 20, 2026
 - Monday, May 18, 2026 – Annual Meeting at 5 pm with a short Board Meeting to follow.
 1. Update on presentation
 - Monday, June 15, 2026
 - b. Board Member Recruitment
 - VP, Treasurer
 - c. Art Auction
 - d. Children's Book Drive
9. New Business
 - a. DSA nominee approval
 - b. Library Annual Ask approval
 - c. Volunteer Appreciation Party, Wednesday, April 29 @ 5 pm

The Mission of Friends of the Library

The mission of the Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library is to encourage literacy, expression, and discovery in the Chippewa Valley through support to the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and the surrounding community.

Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting March 16, 2026

Present: Jeremy Gragert, Treasurer; Michael Kersting, Member at Large; Astrid Hayden, Administrative Assistant; Kimberly Hennings, Deputy Director; Mary Jo Mayer, Secretary; Deb Mathson, President; Stacy Yearous, Program and Development Coordinator; Esther Moen, Past President; Anna Zook, Member -at-Large
Absent: Gary Persicka, Sara McLquham

1. **Mathson** - Meeting called to order 6:00 p.m.
2. **Mathson** - Motion put forth to approve Friend's meeting minutes with corrections if applicable from February 9. No corrections. Esther approves, Michael seconds. Motion approved.
3. **Mathson** - Call for any additions to agenda - Jeremy has an added item. Will discuss under New Business.
4. **Treasurer's report (Gragert)** - Noted bookstore sales. Also, memberships continue over budget for month.
5. **Library report (Hennings)** - Highlight of February was All Staff Day, which was focused on core values. It was a big month for Youth Services, notably the KPop Family Dance Party, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, and a \$5250.00 grant from Women's Giving Circle. A new "alert" is now active on the Self- Checks stations which is a "trumpet " sound which sounds if help is needed.
6. **Board Liaison report (Hennings)** - Board meeting on February 19th. Carnegie Grant for \$10,000.00 approved. Annual report shows numbers are strong for the state of public instruction. Great year for programs. Sent to DPI for approval.
7. **General Staff Updates (Yearous/Hayden)** - The annual seasonal train exhibit was approved by programming committee. Will be going forward with sponsorship.
8. **Old Business (Yearous)** - Review of 2026 meeting dates. The May mtg. will consist of the annual first then a short board mtg. to follow. Art auction is a go. Format will be a silent auction outside of Dabblebox. Volunteers donated items to be auctioned. Still open positions on board for VP and treasurer.
9. **New Business (Yearous)** - Friends will be purchasing a new color printer. Children's Book Drive coming soon. Flyers to be put up. This drive is an additional way to support all other programs. Volunteer appreciation party slated for April 29th. **(Gragert)** - Heads up's on the upcoming deficit projected for the city operating budget next year. All costs are going up and revenue down. A \$100,000.00 cut is being discussed for the library and other departments. Nothing is definitive at this time.

Meeting adjourned by Mathson 6:45 p.m. Minutes submitted by Mary Jo Mayer, Secretary. Next meeting April 20, 2026, 6:00p.m.

Statement of Financial Position Summary
Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library
As of Mar 31, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	\$141,201.70
Current Assets	\$141,201.70
Bank Accounts	\$78,918.57
Other Current Assets	\$62,283.13
Total for Current Assets	\$141,201.70
Total for Assets	\$141,201.70
Liabilities and Equity	\$141,201.70
Liabilities	\$15,012.01
Current Liabilities	\$15,012.01
Credit Cards	
Other Current Liabilities	\$15,012.01
Total for Current Liabilities	\$15,012.01
Long-term Liabilities	\$0.00
Total for Liabilities	\$15,012.01
Equity	\$126,189.69
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$141,201.70

Statement of Activity

Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library

March 2026

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Book Sales	
Amazon/Ebay/Pango Sales	236.92
Bookstore Sales	758.50
Online Book Sales	272.42
Total for Book Sales	\$1,267.84
Business Partners	250.00
Capital Appeal Donations	110.00
Interest	224.02
Memberships (Households)	3,474.95
Programs	
Books for Babies	77.00
In Honor Of	350.00
Total for Programs	\$427.00
Total for Revenue	\$5,753.81
Gross Profit	\$5,753.81
Expenditures	
Book Sale Expenses	
Book Sales	
Promotions	22.41
Total for Book Sales	\$22.41
Total for Book Sale Expenses	\$22.41
Credit Card Co. Fees	43.27
Newsletter	144.43
Payroll Expenses	
Taxes	196.33
Wages	2,566.42
Total for Payroll Expenses	\$2,762.75
Program Expense	
Books for Babies	
Books	595.08
Supplies	83.96
Total for Books for Babies	\$679.04
In Honor Of	
Library	350.00
Total for In Honor Of	\$350.00
Total for Program Expense	\$1,029.04
Subscriptions/Org. Membership	197.99
Total for Expenditures	\$4,199.89
Net Operating Revenue	\$1,553.92
Net Other Revenue	
Net Revenue	\$1,553.92

Statement of Activity by Month

Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library

July 1, 2025-March 31, 2026

	JUL 2025	AUG 2025	SEP 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025
Revenue					
Book Sales					
Amazon/Ebay/Pango Sales	481.45	627.07	311.97	613.86	669.94
Bookstore Sales	1,085.58	1,355.79	1,266.91	2,510.83	828.36
Online Book Sales	842.83	621.77	337.69	2,965.49	-1,713.06
Total for Book Sales	2,409.86	2,604.63	1,916.57	6,090.18	-214.76
Business Partners					
Capital Appeal Donations	400.00				100.00
Corporate Memberships/Sponsorships	250.00	250.00	250.00	500.00	3,000.00
Event Income					35.00
Interest	116.43	370.58	116.33	237.33	241.34
Memberships (Households)	678.92	161.74	188.38	158.63	648.92
Miscellaneous Income		450.00		400.00	
Monies Received from Library					5,250.00
Programs					
Books for Babies					
Give-a-Kid-a-Book			1,595.00	50.00	12,310.00
In Honor Of	450.00	100.00	100.00		
Total for Programs	450.00	100.00	1,695.00	50.00	12,310.00
Total for Revenue	4,305.21	3,936.95	4,166.28	7,436.14	21,370.50
Cost of Goods Sold					
Gross Profit	4,305.21	3,936.95	4,166.28	7,436.14	21,370.50
Expenditures					
Book Sale Expenses					
Book Sales					
Promotions	9.98	9.92	17.78	2.45	12.50
Supplies			407.25		
Total for Book Sales	9.98	9.92	425.03	2.45	12.50
Online Book Sales	20.00				
Postage	289.19	49.65	30.90	61.80	424.89
Supplies	76.24		67.24	19.37	84.18
Total for Online Book Sales	385.43	49.65	98.14	81.17	509.07
Total for Book Sale Expenses	395.41	59.57	523.17	83.62	521.57
Credit Card Co. Fees	25.93	25.93	25.93	65.01	27.18
Event Expenses					17.78
Insurance			252.00		
Memberships	59.79				5.89
Miscellaneous Expense		30.00	0.00		
Monies Remitted to Library					5,250.00
Newsletter					148.00
Office Supplies	12.99	-20.00		6.17	

Statement of Activity by Month

Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library

July 1, 2025-March 31, 2026

	JUL 2025	AUG 2025	SEP 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025
Payroll Expenses					
Taxes	213.43	222.74	202.47	218.62	239.98
Wages	2,789.90	2,911.66	2,646.74	2,857.65	3,137.11
Total for Payroll Expenses	3,003.33	3,134.40	2,849.21	3,076.27	3,377.09
Program Expense					
Books for Babies					
Books	590.58	489.39	231.75	476.10	1,218.00
Supplies	10.94	90.07			
Total for Books for Babies	601.52	579.46	231.75	476.10	1,218.00
Give-a-Kid-a-Book					
Books					863.69
Misc. Expenses	4.99				30.53
Total for Give-a-Kid-a-Book	4.99				894.22
In Honor Of					
Library	450.00	100.00	100.00		
Total for In Honor Of	450.00	100.00	100.00		
Total for Program Expense	1,056.51	679.46	331.75	476.10	2,112.22
Subscriptions/Org. Membership	182.99	297.99	227.99	197.99	238.99
Telephone	7.80				16.00
YS Programs and Services (Prizes/Giveaways)		304.28	137.31		6.64
Total for Expenditures	4,744.75	4,511.63	4,347.36	3,905.16	11,721.36
Net Operating Revenue	-439.54	-574.68	-181.08	3,530.98	9,649.14
Other Revenue					
Other Expenditures					
Net Other Revenue					
Net Revenue	-439.54	-574.68	-181.08	3,530.98	9,649.14

Statement of Activity by Month

Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library

July 1, 2025-March 31, 2026

	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	TOTAL
Revenue					
Book Sales					
Amazon/Ebay/Pango Sales	337.20	570.16	438.62	236.92	4,287.19
Bookstore Sales	1,055.45	1,000.33	3,722.39	758.50	13,584.14
Online Book Sales	945.07	652.75	349.01	272.42	5,273.97
Total for Book Sales	2,337.72	2,223.24	4,510.02	1,267.84	\$23,145.30
Business Partners			250.00	250.00	500.00
Capital Appeal Donations	3,550.00	900.00		110.00	5,060.00
Corporate Memberships/Sponsorships					4,250.00
Event Income	4,501.87	317.00			4,853.87
Interest	361.33	118.31	242.10	224.02	2,027.77
Memberships (Households)	11,687.16	5,492.89	2,230.00	3,474.95	24,721.59
Miscellaneous Income					850.00
Monies Received from Library Programs	6,000.00				11,250.00
Books for Babies		1,820.00		77.00	1,897.00
Give-a-Kid-a-Book	1,431.00	1,900.00			17,286.00
In Honor Of				350.00	1,000.00
Total for Programs	1,431.00	3,720.00		427.00	\$20,183.00
Total for Revenue	29,869.08	12,771.44	7,232.12	5,753.81	\$96,841.53
Cost of Goods Sold					
Gross Profit	29,869.08	12,771.44	7,232.12	5,753.81	\$96,841.53
Expenditures					
Book Sale Expenses					
Book Sales					
Promotions			10.11	22.41	85.15
Supplies					407.25
Total for Book Sales			10.11	22.41	\$492.40
Online Book Sales					\$20.00
Postage			518.64		1,375.07
Supplies	35.00				282.03
Total for Online Book Sales	35.00		518.64		\$1,677.10
Total for Book Sale Expenses	35.00		528.75	22.41	\$2,169.50
Credit Card Co. Fees	33.46	158.55	33.58	43.27	438.84
Event Expenses		898.20	-12.99		902.99
Insurance			31.00		283.00
Memberships	66.22		289.34		421.24
Miscellaneous Expense					30.00
Monies Remitted to Library	6,000.00				11,250.00
Newsletter			185.14	144.43	477.57
Office Supplies		12.99	41.86		54.01

Statement of Activity by Month

Friends of the LE Phillips Memorial Public Library

July 1, 2025-March 31, 2026

	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	TOTAL
Payroll Expenses					
Taxes	184.97	234.67	222.98	196.33	1,936.19
Wages	2,417.79	3,067.65	2,914.65	2,566.42	25,309.57
Total for Payroll Expenses	2,602.76	3,302.32	3,137.63	2,762.75	\$27,245.76
Program Expense					
Books for Babies					
Books	1,195.28	683.25	668.32	595.08	6,147.75
Supplies	13.49		10.90	83.96	209.36
Total for Books for Babies	1,208.77	683.25	679.22	679.04	\$6,357.11
Give-a-Kid-a-Book					
Books	606.37				1,470.06
Misc. Expenses			80.66		116.18
Total for Give-a-Kid-a-Book	606.37		80.66		\$1,586.24
In Honor Of					
Library				350.00	1,000.00
Total for In Honor Of				350.00	\$1,000.00
Total for Program Expense	1,815.14	683.25	759.88	1,029.04	\$8,943.35
Subscriptions/Org. Membership	197.99	207.99	197.99	197.99	1,947.91
Telephone			11.89		35.69
YS Programs and Services (Prizes/Giveaways)			20.00		468.23
Total for Expenditures	10,750.57	5,263.30	5,224.07	4,199.89	\$54,668.09
Net Operating Revenue	19,118.51	7,508.14	2,008.05	1,553.92	\$42,173.44
Other Revenue					
Other Expenditures					
Net Other Revenue					
Net Revenue	19,118.51	7,508.14	2,008.05	1,553.92	\$42,173.44

**Friends of the
L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
Budget**

	<u>2025-2026</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>03/31/26</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Remaining</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Budget</u>
Revenue				
Memberships(Households)	20,000	24721.59	(4,722)	123.61%
Corporate Sponsorships	3,750	4250	(500)	113.33%
Corporate Partners	1,000	500	500	50.00%
Bookstore Sale	19,000	13584.14	5,416	71.50%
Online Booksales	14,000	9561.16	4,439	68.29%
Grants	2,000		2,000	0.00%
Give-a-Kid-a-Book	7,500	17286	(9,786)	230.48%
Books for Babies	5,500	1897	3,603	34.49%
Special Event Fundraising	4,000	4853.87	(854)	121.35%
Capital Appeal Donations/Contribution	5,000	5060	(60)	101.20%
In Honor Of	1,000	1000	-	100.00%
Interest	2,000	2027.77	(28)	101.39%
Miscellaneous	500	850	(350)	170.00%
Monies Received for Library	10,000	11250	(1,250)	112.50%
Transfer From Balance	12,900		12,900	0.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 108,150	96841.53	11,308	89.54%
Expenses				
Library Allocations	15000		15,000	0.00%
Capital Appeal Contribution	15000		15,000	0.00%
Special Event Fundraising Expenses	1000	902.99	97	90.30%
Salaries	37600	25309.57	12,290	67.31%
Payroll Taxes	2900	1936.19	964	66.77%
Insurance	300	283	17	94.33%
Memberships Expenses	1000	421.24	579	42.12%
Credit Card Fees	600	438.84	161	73.14%
Annual Meeting	250		250	0.00%
Telephone/General Postage	100	35.69	64	35.69%
Newsletter	800	477.57	322	59.70%
Give-a-Kid-a-Book	3500	1586.24	1,914	45.32%
Books for Babies	6500	6357.11	143	97.80%
In Honor Of	1000	1000	-	100.00%
Booksales: Expense	500	492.4	8	98.48%
Online Booksales: Expenses	4500	1677.1	2,823	37.27%
Volunteer Appreciation	500		500	0.00%
Office Supplies	2500	54.01	2,446	2.16%
Subscriptions/Org. Memberships	3100	1947.91	1,152	62.84%
Miscellaneous	500	30	470	6.00%
Monies Remitted to Library	10000	11250	(1,250)	112.50%
YS Program Prizes	1000	468.23	532	46.82%
Total Expense	\$ 108,150	54668.09	53,482	50.55%

2026 Annual Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library Gift Request

Acknowledgement

For more than 30 years, the Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library have provided the library with generous financial and volunteer support. This critical funding allows the library to meet our strategic plan goals in a way that our taxpayer-supported budget alone cannot. Friends funding has served to spearhead new initiatives, revamp existing offerings, and sustain critical programming. On behalf of the library board of trustees, staff, and the community we serve, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for their continued support.

2026 Request Overview

Request	Amount
Book Display	\$1,000.00
Seed Library	\$750.00
Adult Program Services & Incentives	\$2,100.00
Youth Prizes and Incentives	\$2,500.00
Youth Spaces	\$3,000.00
Teen Book Boxes	\$1,200.00
Gaming System	\$650.00
Program Refreshments	\$3,000.00
Arts West Prize and Refreshments	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$15,000.00

Book Display | Request: \$1,000

This display will replace the paperback spinners in the second floor browsing and display area, allowing us to create thoughtful displays that highlight our collections. The books displayed will be easier for customers to browse and will face a seating area so customers can see and enjoy them.

Seed Library | Request \$750

The Reference Department would like funding to continue our popular Seed Library. In 2025, we distributed more than 3,200 packets of seeds! Seeds are ordered in January, so requests are made for the next calendar year. The Seed Library supports sustainable practices, healthy eating and lifestyles, outdoor exploration, and lifelong learning for all ages. Funding would cover the cost of seeds, as well as the envelopes and labels required for distribution.

Adult Services and Program Incentives | Request \$2,100

The library offers a variety of adult programs and services driven by the love of reading and lifelong learning. Programs and services include the 2027 Reading Challenge, Adult Summer at the Library, Banned Books Week, Spice of the Month Club, passive programming, genealogy programs, Home

Delivery Services' customer and volunteer incentives, and so much more. We would like to offer prizes and giveaways in various ways as part of our programs and services to further support varieties of adult literacy in our community.

Youth Prizes and Incentives | Request: \$2,500

This request is part of an ongoing effort to increase participation in programs, particularly the summer library program. Since 2015, the Friends have provided funding to help buy a book for every child who finishes a reading log. This prize has been a huge hit with parents and a major incentive for kids. We give out approximately 1,500 books each summer to babies, kids, and teens. This year's request for funding will make it possible for us to continue offering books as a final prize for kids who finish their reading log as well as other incentive-based programs throughout the year.

Youth Spaces | Request: \$3,000

In addition to our collections, Youth Services maintains four distinct spaces for children from birth to age 18 and their families to enjoy. This funding request will support the ongoing refreshing and enhancement of these spaces to ensure they continue to meet the developmental and recreational needs of children.

Our Play & Learn area was introduced in 2011 as part of our Strategic Plan, and was expanded during the recent renovation to accommodate the high traffic. This space features toys and activities for children from birth to age five which help to build literacy skills through play. Themes are changed on a quarterly basis. With each change of theme, toys and costumes are rotated in and out and furniture is rearranged. This space has been recognized as a popular destination for families in the Eau Claire area. Many families include a visit to Play & Learn as a part of their weekly routine.

The Tween and Teen Lounges are space that are similar to Play & Learn that's reserved kids in grades 4-12. They feature interactive displays, art projects, board games, and technology all geared toward giving these age groups their own "home" here at the library.

Finally, we use our Youth Program Room for activities and invite families to play there between our formal, scheduled programs. This larger open space serves as an appropriate place for children to do some large motor movement, which is especially helpful during winter months.

Teen Book Boxes | Request: \$1,200

In 2021, the Youth Services Department launched a monthly incentive-based program for teens with support from the Friends of the Library. Teens request a themed monthly box that includes small incentives or gifts and a library book to check out. The Teen BookBox program has continued to be incredibly popular over the last few years, with an average of 24 teens served per month. It resonates with a wide variety of ages and interests and attracts both teens who are regular library users and those who don't otherwise engage with library programming.

Teens these days are busy. Providing these coordinated book boxes allows teens to participate in the reading and discussion portion of the book club by making the logistics easier. Many parents stop in to grab them while their teens are otherwise engaged in extracurricular activities. Providing this service keeps teens engaged with the library at a time when their peers may not be regular visitors. Having the attractive boxes and library "swag" on their desks also provides an opportunity for friends and visitors to inquire about the program and the library.

Gaming System | Request \$650

Group gaming is a very popular social activity for youth. This updated Nintendo Switch 2 video game system would be used to provide programming opportunities for elementary-aged kids, teens, and their families. Gaming together at the library is a positive experience that helps build new friendships in a neutral environment. The Nintendo platform offers the most family-friendly games and is highly appealing to a wide variety of ages. Updating the library's video game console will help keep youth engaged in library offerings.

Program Refreshments | Request: \$3,000

When asking any event planner for advice on how to get people to attend an event, the answer nearly always includes providing some form of refreshment. Since changing the standard evening program start time to 6 p.m. (to accommodate closing at 8 p.m.), refreshments have been especially appreciated by those attendees coming straight from work without a chance to grab dinner. For that reason, refreshments are a standard offering for most adult programs and several special events for audiences of all ages throughout the year. Removing the meal barrier allows more participation, especially from working adults. For kids and family events, providing snacks (especially for longer events) reduces the number of kids who may otherwise have had to leave for a light snack.

ArtsWest Prize & Refreshments | Request: \$800

For over two decades, the Friends have sponsored the cash prizes and reception refreshments for the Wisconsin ArtsWest juried art exhibit. Now in its 46th year, ArtsWest attracts artists from every corner of the state and is one of the most prestigious and longest-running annual juried exhibits in the state. The increase in requested funds will allow for a slight increase in each of the cash prizes, which haven't increased in over two decades.

While formal art galleries and museums can feel inaccessible or unaffordable, anyone can enjoy art at the public library without needing to pay a fee or feeling insecure because they don't "know enough" about art. Offering a small honorarium to encourage entrants has yielded an excellent pool of submissions and a competitive jurying process, with only roughly 15% of submissions being accepted for the show.

Children's BOOK DRIVE

April 6–20

Your donation will support free access to great children's books through Books for Babies, Eau Claire Laundromat Libraries, and Chippewa Valley Little Libraries—three literacy-building programs that provide more than 7,500 free books to families in our community each year.

Ways to Help

CONTRIBUTE MONETARILY:



Every \$5.00 donation gets a book into a child's hands.

PURCHASE FROM OUR WISH LIST:



You do the online shopping.
The books get shipped to us.

DONATE NEW OR UNUSED BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-8

Drop off donations at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library:

- Friends of the Library Bookstore (Level 0)
- Headwaters Table (Level 1)

CHEERS

For Our
Amazing

Volunteers!



Please join us for our 4th Annual
Volunteer Appreciation Party

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 5 p.m.
L.E.Phillips Memorial Public Library, Riverview Room

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Event Highlights

- A Light Meal
 - 2025 Volunteer Highlights
 - Trivia
- 