

DRAFT
Regular Meeting
Nioga Board of Trustees
November 25, 2025
Nioga Headquarters

The regular meeting of the Nioga Library System Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at Nioga Headquarters, Lockport, New York.

Present: Charles Begley, Jeffrey Laub, Dan Haight, Andrea Fetterly, Craig Bacon, Marilyn Zacienski, Howard Balaban and Kristie Miller

Absent: Patty Nagel and Tammam Kinan and Jeanne Tuohey

Staff members present: Thomas Bindeman, Lisa Erickson and Laura Jeffery

OPEN HEARING:

There was no business brought forth in the Open Hearing.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Begley called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Dan Haight led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action: It was moved by Mr. Balaban to accept the minutes from the September 23, 2025 meeting as presented. Mr. Haight seconded and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee:

The Monthly Budget Reports for September and October were included in the Board Packet. Also included were the Monthly Payroll reports for September and October.

Schedule of Payments - September and October 2025

General Fund 2025-09	\$ 968,946.45
LAA Account 2025-09	\$ 3,323.37
General Fund 2025-10	\$ 47,879.03
LAA Account 2025-10	\$ 5,579.73

Mr. Haight reviewed the financial reports with the Board of Trustees.

FY2025 Proposed Budget:

A copy of the Operations Budget was included in the Board Packet.

Action: It was moved by Mr. Haight to accept the proposed FY2026 Operations Budget. Mr. Laub seconded and the motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON BOARD OPENINGS 2026:

Mr. Laub gave an update on board vacancies. Terms are expiring for Representative Andrea Fetterly for the Genesee County Seat and Representative Patty Nagel for the At Large seat. Ms. Fetterly has agreed to run again. Ms. Nagel is eligible to run for a second term. Mr. Laub will contact her to see if she is willing to run again.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Update on Executive Director Evaluation:

Moved to Executive Session.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Update on Trustee Training:

Mr. Begley stated there is one more Trustee Training session on December 3rd 2025.

Member Library Stats:

A monthly report was included in the Board packet.

2026 Proposed Board Meeting Dates:

A list of the proposed 2026 Nioga Board meeting dates was included in the Board packet.

Action: A motion was made by Mr. Bacon to accept the Board Meeting Dates as presented. Ms. Miller seconded and the motion carried.

2026 Holiday Schedule:

A list of the 2026 Nioga Holidays was included in the Board packet.

Action: Ms. Fetterly made a motion to accept the 2026 Holiday Schedule as presented. Mr. Laub seconded and the motion carried.

New Director at Yates Community Library – Heather Rutherford:

Mr. Begley stated Yates Community Library hired Heather Rutherford as the Library's new Director.

Central Library Funding Attachment:

A report was included in the Board packet.

Action: It was moved by Mr. Haight to accept the proposed budget for the Central Library Aid FY2026. Mr. Bacon seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Director Compensation Attachment:

As requested Mr. Bindeman provided a salary history of the executive director.

Charge to Committees:

Mr. Begley charged the Nominating Committee to review Board openings for 2026.

State Budget:

Mr. Bindeman updated the Board on the NYS Budget.

Update on 8th Judicial District Court Access Network:

Thomas Bindeman stated the 8th Judicial District Court would like to set up two remote Access Network stations. One from Sanborn-Pekin Free Library and the 2nd from Lewiston Public Library. This is still in the negation stage. Mr. Bindeman also stated Buffalo and Erie County Library System has an Access Network station up and running.

Trustee Training Delay:

Thomas Bindeman stated there was a delay in the last Trustee Training session, that is now scheduled for December 3, 2025. He stated Trustees need to follow the link emailed out and register for the final session in order to participate.

Nioga Vehicle Accident 9/24/25:

Nioga's 2017 Ford vehicle had been hit by a deer on 9/24/25. The vehicle has been repaired and is back to normal use.

Fundraiser Attendance – Assemblyman Bologna; Assemblyman Conrad; Assemblyman Hawley; Senator Ortt:

Tom Bindeman stated he has attended fundraisers for Assemblyman Bologna, Assemblyman Conrad, Assemblyman Hawley and Senator Ortt.

Advocacy Meeting with Senator Ortt:

Tom met with Senator Ortt to advocate for the library funding.

COMMUNICATIONS, ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

Action: Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the Variance Request for Haxton Memorial Library. Mr. Balaban seconded and the motion carried.

Ralph Wilson Grant:

Lisa Erickson stated there is a New Ralph Wilson Grant available for member libraries. Grant narratives have to demonstrate sustainabilly in order to qualify. More information to follow.

Youth Services Report:

A monthly report from Laura Herold was included in the Board packet.

Extension Services Report:

A monthly report from Sara Taylor was included in the Board packet.

MEMBER LIBRARY DIRECTORS' AND TRUSTEES' COMMENTS, ISSUES AND CONCERNS

None presented

OLD BUSINESS

None presented

NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Action: It was moved by Mr. Haight to go into Executive session to discuss the Executive Directors' evaluation. Mr. Bacon seconded and the motion carried.

The Board went into Executive session at 6:51 PM.

End of Executive Session:

Action: It was moved by Ms. Miller to end the Executive Session at 7:43 PM. Ms. Fetterly seconded and the motion carried.

Action: It was moved by Ms. Miller to adopt the changes to the director's evaluation as noted and send a copy to Laura Jeffery.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Secretary