

**OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

MINUTES (Comprehensive)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting Called to Order at: 11:05 am

Present: Ian Hawley, John Hunter, Gail Ament, Bonny Weil, Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau, José Luis Zárate, Carol Ringold, Abraham Torres Fregoso, Ralph Gault

Absent: None

GUESTS: Doug Long, Jim Thompson, Marirose Lescher, Jeff Stewart, Harold Kooden

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF OCT. 16 MINUTES

- Discussion: Ralph will be added to the absent list.
- Motion to approve by: John, seconded by Carol. None opposed

APPROVAL OF OCT.30 MINUTES

Motion to approve by: John, seconded by Jose Luis. None opposed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The annual bazaar has been moved to Dec 21st.

Election Nominating Committee

- The committee has looked at 4 candidates for director at large. Two were chosen. Gail Ament was interviewed for re-nomination as board president last week.

Treasurer search

- John Dumser has resigned as Treasurer
- The president posted an ad in the newsletter.
- Marirose Lescher will stand-in as acting treasurer until a replacement is found.

OLL and Libros para Pueblos

- A job description was created. The search is on for a new volunteer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marirose Lescher

- The amount of money in reserve at the OLLF is \$30,000 usd.
- Unneeded draws were made from the OLLF in September & October. OLL will pay tax on these draws not taken against expenses.
- Contributions are taxed at 16%, as opposed to 33% for donations. Advise all draws be taken from OLLF as contributions.
- OLL operating procedures will be updated to indicate no draws without board approval.
- Motion: Bonny Weil to compile/update an OLL operating procedures manual. Ralph Gault seconded. Discussion: Bonny will interview Ralph and Marirose for information on procedures for treasurer and finance committee to begin. None opposed.

- Excursions operated at a loss this year for Day of the Dead.
- The reconciliation with En Via for previous tours in 2 previous years has been completed. The payment will go forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

OLD BUSINESS

Dialog with Afro-American companions: Jim Thompson

Jim, in Oaxaca since January, is a retired attorney, arbitrator and mediator/negotiator. He has been asked to facilitate between OLL and the community. Four from OLL and four African Americans met about 2 weeks ago.

- The African American community is 100 folks and growing. We need outreach to African Americans and both parties need to make the effort to interact.
- Let's integrate volunteers by recruiting more people from this group
- HBCU historical black colleges and universities want to host groups to come to Oaxaca three to four times per year. How can OLL capture their interest with some kind of program on a continuous basis?
- Should we incorporate inclusion education for our staff and volunteers?
- What do we have in our entrance? What do we have on the walls? What magazines do we have lying around?
- Suggestion for an entry sign that says, "Welcome! Ask us about our collection of books in Spanish, on LGBTQ+ communities, on African Americans, etc.
- This library will do an African history month.
- Gail will liaise with the book committee regarding searchable ethnicities on the OLL computer.
- We're asking folks to consider luminaries representing different ethnicities that can be made into posters.
- Suggestion for an anti-racism training group.
- A report will be coming from Jim. John will send to the board as soon as completed.

Donataria Autorizada Report:

- Testimonials were taken in Spanish, & videos from the Saturday Intercambio, Ninos, and Jovenes, Adelante, & Out and About.
- Two of the videos (the testimonials) can be used for fundraising.
- The lawyers are planning to complete our new you tube site and meet with the Ministry of Culture next week.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Budget: Finance Committee

- Finance has draft budget numbers from several committees and is expecting more reports.
- Income from programs, all of them, the talks, the hikes, etc. is projected to be around \$1,100,000 mxn. The expense side, producing that income, is about \$500,000 mxn. The negative net income for 2026 is projected to be \$1,300,000 mxn.

2026 Salaries:

- In the last 2 years min. wage has gone up 24%.
- Our staff will be invited to the Thanksgiving event. Volunteers will cover the front desk.
- Volunteers should try and cover the front desk more often for the employees.

Social Media:

- It's typical to hand things out during a Calenda. We will give out a bookmark that includes a new QR code. The board reviewed a mock up.
- The bookmark will go out with the books that LPP will donate
- The bookmark will be sent to the board for approval and a vote.

60th Anniversary Celebration: task force or subcommittee?

- A new task force update was handed out. (See attachment)
- Fundraising will coordinate with the task force on activities they think are suitable to include in fundraising efforts
- Keep the 60th celebration as a task force.

Fundraising Status:

- There is no longer a fundraising sub-committee. It completely disbanded when Jeff resigned.
- There are new fundraising notices in the newsletter and on the website
- The committee will work on putting up signs and/or posters in the library
- Currently working on scheduling a musical event each month during 2026
- All donations should be recorded as 60th anniversary fundraising.
- Any remaining board members who have not donated need to do so.
- Fundraising calls are on the agenda for next week.

ADJOURNMENT

We will review additional items we ran out of time for at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by the president at 1:04 pm.

Celebrate 60 Years with the Oaxaca Lending Library and Donate!

The Oaxaca Lending Library is a vibrant hub where cultures meet, friendships form, a multicultural community thrives and has for the past 60 years. Thanks to generous donors and dedicated volunteers like you, we've built something truly special—and we need your help to ensure the OLL flourishes for another 60 years.

Please help us guarantee the continued growth of this wonderful place, a place that welcomes all through its doors, to read, listen, laugh, learn, and share.

Your generosity will help us:

- Expand—develop and enlarge activities for all ages
- Build—partnerships with local organizations
- Evolve—continue to grow and adapt to an ever changing Oaxaca
- Reach—deepen our connections with the local Oaxacan community

Make your gift today:

- **Online:** <https://oaxlibrary.org/donate>
- **By check:** Drop your check at the desk or mail it to: Oaxaca Lending Library Foundation, c/o Umpqua Bank, P.O. Box 1820, Roseburg, OR 97470 (or drop off at the library) Please write "OLL Fundraiser" on the check's memo line and be sure that your name also appears if a third party institution issues the check.

For our US Friends: Please go to the OLL website to look at other giving options such as using your Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA.

- **Planned Giving:** Consider including the OLL in your will or an annuity program.
- **Monthly giving:** Become a sustaining donor with automatic contributions through the OLL website.

Our goal is to raise 1,200,000 pesos.

The future of our community is in your hands. Thank you for being part of our story.

- **By Pesos:** Give ~~your~~ ^a swath of pesos to Lemi (at the front desk) or Adriana (office manager). You will be issued a receipt and the monies will be deposited on the ~~local~~ OLL bank account.