

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 15, 2025**

COMPREHENSIVE MINUTES
(Action items for future meetings are in Bold)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL at 11:04 am

Present: Teresa Cokl, Ralph Gault, Ian Hawley, Gail Ament, Jose Luis Zárate, Abraham Torres (Abe), Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau, and Bonny Weil. Not present: Carol Ringold and John Hunter. No one was connected via zoom.

GUESTS

no guests

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

no additions

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

April minutes are approved for the web. Send out the more detailed internal copy as “comprehensive minutes”. Revisions to the comprehensive minutes: Delete John Hunter as the fundraising chair. Under Donataria: Finance committee will set up a meeting w OLLF. Finance has asked Marirose to do the followup.

Change ‘budget approval’ to ‘treasurers report’.

With those revisions, the minutes as amended are approved.

Motion to approve by: Gail, seconded by Teresa. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Tech and printing: Abe, Adriana, and Coni, are now the tech support team.

David Stall art classes – for youngsters at the OLL. David will charge students for material.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion to approve the monthly treasurer’s report by: Ian, seconded by Jose Luis. All were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

none

OLD BUSINESS

Membership:

For last year’s AGAM, the president calculated a total of almost 1500 members from an incorrect list. That list included expired members, so was not accurate. A more accurate membership total for last year would be under 1000. According to the *Active Membership Patron List* we currently have 738 active members. We never have more than around 950 active members in high season. These are the people who renew memberships, check out books, etc. We can conclude from this that current membership numbers are a small problem, not a crisis. There is agreement not to use quick books to calculate membership, as it is inaccurate. In general, we are experiencing a membership decline.

We have a count from Ian of 1044 total members. Last January through July, family memberships brought in \$32,300. The first 4 months of this year have brought in \$29,750. From 2023 to 2024, we experienced a decline in family memberships in the first half of the year of 46%. During the second half we had an increase of 1%. Overall, there was a decrease of 19% for both individual and family memberships. **Lets get feedback from fundraising on this topic.**
Targets question: How many members are using excursions?

Strategic Plan

The finance committee is updating mandates for their committee and for the treasurer. We are expecting this to end up in the new manual. We have a working document that we'll bring to the board when finalized.

Outreach

Both of John's committees (Facilities & Design, and Outreach) have been paying attention to the strategic plan.

Donataria Autorizada

From our lawyer on May 14:

The ministry of Culture agrees to change the letter that was given to us last October.

Thanks to the finance committee for their assistance. **The board is asking Marirose to include Ralph in the loop on this issue.** The lawyer took papers to the ministry of culture, then we had to change the docs for SAT. Adriana sent new paperwork on Monday. Tuesday they gave it to the ministry. The ministry has to stamp it, then our lawyer will take it to SAT. This hasn't taken place yet. SAT may take awhile. The lawyer is giving Marirose updates every two weeks.

Terrace inspection

There's nothing alarming in the Structural Engineer's report. John has asked for a copy.

LPP Signage

After last meeting, John, Adriana, & Jose Luis agreed to have two metal posts with signage fabricated. They're not up yet. **Adriana would like measurements for the sign.** The sign will read: "Silencio Work Area". Jose Luis is happy to share the space, as long as patrons are quiet. Librarians can come up from time to time and ask for quiet. **Let's have two upright stands with signs. One that reads, "Reserved" one that reads, "Silencio Work Area. Libros para Pueblos will also identify their business with a wall sign,** so people understand there's an office there.

Congratulations to Luis who just got married!!

OLL/OLLF

A meeting will take place in June or July between the finance committee and the foundation. This will take place in lieu of the monthly finance committee meeting for that month. Teresa has marked the second Tuesday in July on her calendar. **Ralph will send out invitations next month.**

NEW BUSINESS

1966-2026: OLL's 60th Anniversary! This is a real legacy and responsibility.

Outreach will talk to local reporters so anniversary news can be picked up in local news and the local paper. We are looking for photos, mention of our programs, our large collection of Spanish books, etc. **Gail will speak to our notary Chegoya**, who is also the Mayor. Maybe he can come give us some press coverage. The social committee will be coordinating with fundraising. We can celebrate in many ways. Plan for events to take place in Jan or Feb 2026. The exact date will be up to the social committee. **Abe volunteered to talk to the media. Gail and Abe will work together on this.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Out & About to Xalapa for June is on hold right now. The consensus is to wait until July. Summer months generally don't get a good turnout. Last year's experience was disappointing. There were a lot of cancellations. Most committees are currently taking a rest. The board reviewed Dottie Bellinger's report: *Summary of February 2025 Annual Volunteer Recognition Event, With Suggestions for Future Planning*

OTHER

Gail has started a book circle. They had their first meeting yesterday. Notices are up in the newsletter and in Oaxaca events. The circle will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am. Attendees read whatever they like and compare notes. The ask is to write at least a paragraph about your book, to be compiled and sent out to everyone after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Ralph, seconded by Bonny. All were in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm