

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
JANUARY 15, 2026

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Tara Somersall
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, Brandon Neider, Z. Baird, Patricia Ricardo-Ortiz

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

Director Montero chaired the meeting until the election of officers for 2026.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

Director Montero asked Trustee Jannetti to present a slate of nominees for office in 2026. Trustee Jannetti presented the following slate of nominees: Nancy Maron for President, John Daily Jr. for Vice President, and Joseph Puglia for Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections from the floor, those nominees were elected by acclamation. The Board congratulated the elected officers.

Board President Maron proceeded to chair the meeting.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of December 18, 2025.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero opened his report by discussing staff news. Librarians Diane Mignault and Margaret Andracchi were selected to participate in the 2026 NYLA Emerging Leaders conference, with program and travel costs supported by the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library. Riverfront Branch Administrator Sandy Amoyaw was also recognized for his service with the Kwanzaa Book Giveaway, while Silvia Merlo Rosales, Clerk II at Will Library, was recognized for her leadership role in organizing and speaking at the Three Kings Day celebration. Haifa Bint-Kadi also received a Support for Artists grant from NYSCA.

Director Montero announced that YPL has been invited to join the Community Webs New York cohort, which is a program of the Internet Archive assembled in partnership with Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services of New York (DHPSNY). Participation will give YPL access to Archive-It, the Internet Archive's archiving tool and discovery platform, a half-terabyte of storage in its digital preservation system, and collection access to archive.org. Training sessions will be held February - April, followed by cohort project work in May and June and a public showcase in July. The program will allow YPL to preserve digital local history that is otherwise at risk of loss. Mary Robison, Head of the Riverfront Reference department, and the Local History team will lead the project.

Director Montero discussed YPL's 2026 plans for celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to Revolution-themed book lists and book displays, YPL will host several programs and initiatives such as genealogy workshops in collaboration with the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution at Riverfront and Will libraries, a local history lecture on the Fight for Lent's Hill by historian John McMenamin, and an author talk with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stacey Schiff.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that the annual Winter Reading Challenge kicked off on January 1, with an ambitious systemwide goal of 20,026 books. By comparison, last year's goal of 2,500 books resulted in more than 14,000 books, encouraging staff to set a significantly higher goal for 2026. Strategies that proved successful last year are being reused, including improved staff training on Beanstack and simplifying the process for patrons to record their reading either independently or with staff assistance. A key enhancement this year is deeper collaboration with Yonkers Public Schools (YPS), allowing teachers to submit aggregate totals through a simplified form while library staff handle data entry.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed the implementation of LibConnect Pro, a new communications platform designed to deliver more personalized and targeted outreach to library users. The tool integrates with the library's integrated library system (ILS) to segment audiences by factors such as age, home library, and ZIP code, allowing staff to tailor messaging to specific patron interests rather than relying on broad, generic newsletters. Staff are currently beta testing the system, with a planned rollout in the coming weeks and additional training to support broader use across departments.

Trustees responded positively to the management report, with discussion focusing on the library’s expanding role in promoting reading and strengthening partnerships with Yonkers Public Schools. Trustees praised the improved collaboration between public and school librarians, noting that shared planning and regular meetings have helped drive participation in initiatives such as Winter Reading. The Board also reflected on the broader importance of reading for both children and adults, particularly as a counterbalance to digital distraction, and expressed support for management’s intention to refocus on core library services amid anticipated budget constraints.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:20 pm.

Trustees also welcomed YPL’s participation in the Community Webs program, highlighting the long-term value of digital preservation and local history work and commending staff for building the capacity and expertise needed to undertake these initiatives.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Dominick Savarese, President of SEIU Local 704B, delivered the Union Representative’s report. He reported that arbitration between an employee and the library would commence in about six weeks and, although he could not go on the record about details, he encouraged trustees to reach out to him if they were open to resolve it before then. Mr. Savarese also announced that SEIU Local 704A, which represents other employees in City of Yonkers departments and agencies, reached an agreement with the City of Yonkers on a new contract. The contract is still subject to a ratification vote, but he was hopeful that this momentum will carry into negotiations with the Library, which he expected to begin next month.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

- Cosgrove, Benedict; Permanent Librarian II, \$71,525.00/yr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Mignault, Diane; Permanent Librarian II, \$71,525.00/yr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Neto, Jessica; Permanent Librarian II, \$71,525.00/yr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Ospina, Amanda; Permanent Librarian II, \$71,525.00/yr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Revellese, Catherine; Permanent Librarian II (P/T), \$25.35/hr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Wissman, Nancy; Permanent Librarian II (P/T), \$25.35/hr, eff. 12/22/2025
- Polanco, Emmanuel; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$17.00/hr, eff. 1/3/2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Maron introduced the annual appointment of committees for the new year. She asked trustees to volunteer for committee assignments and chair roles and consider the broader purpose, scope and goals of each committee in advancing the long-range overall strategic goals of YPL. She also proposed a special meeting before the next regularly

stated meeting to further discuss committee work and establish the mission and expectations of each committee for the year ahead.

President Maron also proposed a new “Board Development” committee to expand public awareness of trusteeship, volunteer opportunities and library governance. Although no formal action was taken, trustees discussed the potential scope of such a committee, including outreach, recruitment and public engagement, and agreed to treat it as a project to be discussed at the special meeting.

After some discussion, President Maron appointed trustees to the following committees and appointed trustees made the following reports :

Finance, Budget and Planning (standing) - Trustee Puglia (chair)

Policy (standing) - Trustee Sabatino (chair)

Trustee Sabatino reported that he would soon meet with Director Montero and Assistant Director Porteus to discuss policies for review. Director Montero added that New York State recently required that public libraries adopt policies addressing the following, if they do not already have them: the selection of library materials and reconsideration of such material; the usage of library space and meeting rooms; a code of conduct; the confidentiality of library records; consistent staff management and fair employment practices; disaster preparedness; and legal and fiduciary responsibilities that promote fiscal oversight, accountability and sustainable management.

Employee Relations (standing) - Trustee Phelan (chair), Trustee Puglia

Buildings and Grounds (special) - Trustee Daily Jr. (chair)

Vice President Daily reported that one of his goals for the Buildings and Grounds Committee would be to focus on the patron experience in the buildings. Trustees also discussed the possibility of a new fourth library as a goal for the committee.

Outreach (special) - Trustee Jannetti (chair), Trustee Phelan

Trustee Jannetti reported that outreach efforts continue with Kelly Chiarella at the Office of the Aging to develop partnerships focused on engaging seniors and increasing awareness of library services. Previously discussed ideas like library card sign-up pop-ups have evolved into other ideas such as a winter reading recognition program across Yonkers community centers and promotion of library events such as the Senior Prom and National Library Week, as well as discussion of coordination around transportation and incentives. He noted that planning remains exploratory and will provide further updates following additional discussions.

Fundraising & Development (special) - Trustee Daily (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation’s annual appeal recently wrapped up. The appeal combined a mailed solicitation with a coordinated digital campaign and she expressed satisfaction with the appeal, which concluded a strong

fundraising year overall. She also reminded trustees that the annual Foundation gala is scheduled for April 16 and a “save the date” would be coming soon.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Phelan had no report but added the WLS Board of Trustees would meet next week and she expected to have a report next month.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Daily Jr., seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedules #883.

On motion of Trustee Daily Jr., seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board voted to designate Trustee Jannetti to certify claims for payment in the absence of the Treasurer and the President.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Crestwood Branch Administrator Z. Baird reported on behalf of Crestwood Library and the Friends of Crestwood that they met with YPS Superintendent Soler and Director Montero to coordinate Crestwood Library centennial celebration programming and secure support to use YPS facilities and the School 15 auditorium for a series of author programs throughout the year. She also noted that planning for a parade and block celebration in October is ongoing in partnership with Library administration and the Friends, with marketing, permits and event development progressing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:54 pm to discuss the performance and employment history of an employee and asked Director Montero, Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager Presedo to join them.

The Executive Session ended at 8:57 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Riverfront Library

Board Meeting –January 15, 2026

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:58 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary