North Liberty Community Library Board of Trustees Overview

Mission Statement
Your Library: A place to be, connect, enrich, create, thrive.

The North Liberty Community Library (NLCL) Board of Trustees is an advisory board made up of six voting members, one of whom is a Johnson County resident recommended by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. Officers include a President and a Secretary elected in August. The board reviews policy and provides advice and guidance on library operations and programs. The Library Director provides monthly reports, including operational updates and financial/budget updates.

North Liberty Community Library Board of Trustees meetings are held at 6:30PM on the third Monday of the month in the City of North Liberty’s council chambers, 1 Quail Creek Drive (intersection of Highway 965 & Hawkeye Drive), North Liberty. There is no meeting in February or July.

NLCL Board members represent the community. In order to be familiar with staff and library services and to make informed decisions, board members are encouraged to use the library regularly. Moreover, attending programs and volunteering at library events is advised so that board members can better advocate and knowledgeably discuss the library with community members to further foster the library’s mission.

Taking advantage of free online training on library issues is also a good way to keep abreast of trends and help inform board members regarding library operations and management. All members of the library board must participate in regular training in order for the library to be fully accredited by the State Library of Iowa.

Staff members regularly attend Board meetings to provide updates and offer input regarding policies relevant to respective job positions. There are currently nine full-time staff members and six part-time staff members working between 10-25 hours/week.

About the Library

The North Liberty Community Library first opened in December 1986 in a small room of the building that houses the North Liberty Fire Station. Within a decade, North Liberty’s population outgrew the 1400 square foot library and the city council approved plans for the North Liberty Community Center, which opened in 1997 and included a 6500 square foot library. This Library completed an expansion/renovation in fall 2013 to its current 17,900 square foot space. With other building projects, the Community Center now houses the expanded library, along with three other City departments, including the aquatic center (indoor/outdoor pools), recreation center (gyms, children’s play area, track, weight area, and meeting and conference rooms), and the Communications Department.
As a city department, the Library operates on a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) and receives most of its funding from the City of North Liberty, with a contracted amount of funding from Johnson County for providing services to county residents. The State of Iowa provides a small amount of direct state aid for library services that the library receives through an accreditation program. In addition, a percentage of funding is derived from grants and private donations. Local organizations and businesses also provide monetary and in-kind support periodically. The Library is fortunate to have two volunteer groups that offer financial and other volunteer support: The Friends of the Library and Teen Advocacy Group.

The library staff continually seeks community partners from schools, local organizations, businesses, and other area libraries. North Liberty Community Library staff members are encouraged to be active in professional organizations and take on leadership roles in organizations such as the Iowa Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries. They are further encouraged to serve on local boards that benefit the interests of the library such as the City of Literature; North Liberty Unity Coalition; United Way; One Book Two Book Festival; Lions Club; Optimist Club; Noon Pilot Club and more.