



**State Library Board
Meeting Notes**

Date: January 22, 2026
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Virtual and in-person at 1500 Senate Street

Board Member Attendance:

Ms. Deborah Hyler, Member	Absent
Ms. Anna Claire Dando, Chair	Present
Ms. Loretta Green, Member	Present
Ms. Jennifer Cunningham, Member	Absent
Ms. Andrea Kelly, Vice Chair	Absent
Mr. Mark Herring, Member	Present

Other Attendees: Ms. Leesa Aiken, SCSL; Mr. Carl Coffin, APLA; Ms. Breanne Smith, SCSL; Mr. Chris Yates, SCSL

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

A. Board Business and Approval of Minutes

1. Anna Claire Dando made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2025, Board Meeting; Mark Herring seconded the motion. All board members present were in agreement, but a vote could not be taken due to a lack of a quorum. Ms. Aiken noted that the minutes contained an error regarding SCLENDS: all eight libraries of the Palmetto Consortium will be joining SCLENDS. This error will be corrected and sent out in the next agenda.
2. Leesa Aiken explained that the State Library's Driver's Policy is recommended by the State Fleet Office; there is currently not an agency-specific policy in place. The policy would be in addition to the mandated, eight-hour driver safety course that all state agency employees take at the start of their employment, in addition to the annual four-hour refresher courses they also are required to take. The recommended policy would forbid those who have more than a certain number of points against their license from driving state-owned vehicles. *(A vote was unable to be taken to approve the policy due to a lack of a quorum).*

B. Director Report

Ms. Aiken took a moment to introduce the Board's new APLA representative: Mr. Carl Coffin, the Director of Colleton County Library. (Ms. Faith Line, the previous APLA representative, retired in December 2025.) Mr. Coffin has been with the Colleton County library system for seventeen years.

1. Agency Administration

- a. Ms. Aiken noted that the Kasemake preservation machine arrived successfully, thanks to the coordination of multiple departments within the State Library. The machine will pay for itself in terms of the cost of archival boxes within three to five years. The total cost was \$250,000.
- b. Ms. Aiken drew attention to the latest statistics, as printed in the statewide infographic of public library use in South Carolina. In FY2025, the total number of library visits was approximately 10.8 million (about double the state's population); approximately 25 million items were borrowed; almost 2 million reference questions were asked; and over half of South Carolinians are library-card holders. There were approximately 58,000 programs across the public library systems, with 1.4 million attendees. The infographic was created several years ago to demonstrate some highlights of the 120 different data points that the State Library collects regarding public libraries; information regarding each public library system is also available through the State Library's website.
- c. Ms. Aiken explained that the State Library, in its presentation for the Governor's budget, requested \$300,000 for the agency's system migration to the DTO servers. The State Library also requested \$1.2 million for aid to public libraries, which would raise the funding minimum from \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- d. The House Ways and Means Budget Presentation was on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. The Preservation Team created archival boxes for the House members' packets. The presenting group from the State Library took archival materials in Kasemake-created boxes to showcase the fact that the agency is a federal and state depository and houses many items pertinent to South Carolina history, government, and culture. The presentation appeared to be well received.
- e. Legislation Impacting Libraries
 - i. There is a pre-filed bill in the Senate regarding dropping the MLIS requirement for librarians and chief librarians. Ms. Aiken hopes that this bill will become a non-issue as certain library systems continue to abide by Proviso 27.1.
- f. Ms. Aiken discussed the K-12 Principals meeting that occurred the previous day. The State Library requested \$355,000 for Tutor.com, PebbleGoAnimals, and PebbleGo Science; other agencies also made requests.
- g. The State Library's Read Across America campaign will feature short recordings of people sharing their favorite books and encouraging others to read. So far, the State Library has reached out to several notable South Carolinians, including

Darius Rucker, Stephen Colbert, Henry McMaster, Pamela Evette, Alan Wilson, Cecil Williams, Ellen Weaver, and Daniel Rickenmann.

- h. There has been an increase in SCSL cardholders from the previous year: 2025 saw a total of 23,833, from about 16,000 in 2024. The e-card program has been very successful, and the communications department is doing a great job engaging the public.
2. Partnerships
 - a. The State Library participated in Liberty Day at the State House on January 16, 2026. It was an educational event for 4th graders highlighting the Revolutionary War.
 - b. The State Library will be participating in Douglass Day at the SC State Museum on February 13, 2026. It's an annual event that honors the birth of Frederick Douglass wherein participants transcribe resources pertaining to Black history.
 - c. The State Library will also be partnering with the Commission on Higher Education for their campaign, Be Present SC, to increase student attendance in public schools. Posters and other promotional materials will be placed in public libraries.
 3. Projects/ Programs
 - a. The State Library's Public Library Directors' Summit will be held March 3-5, 2026. It will be held at Hickory Knob State Park, and forty-one directors have confirmed. The agenda will cover finance, hiring practices, library friends' groups, legislation, and other topics covering directors' professional needs and interests. Mr. Coffin added that these summits are especially beneficial to directors of small systems, as well as new directors. Ms. Aiken confirmed that this will be the third annual summit.
 - b. Ms. Aiken explained that there will be a special SC250 page on the State Library's website. The agency has identified about 200 items from the collection specifically related to the American Revolutionary War; the agency is also currently digitizing pertinent documents and identifying helpful federal documents. Relevant, updated Study SC pages will also be highlighted on the SC250 page. There were over 250 battles and scrimmages in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War, and Mr. Aiken emphasized that the State Library is very proud to highlight our state's contributions.
 - c. The Notable State Documents Ceremony is scheduled for March 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. It highlights outstanding state documents that are both engaging and accessible. There will be about twelve state agencies that will be recognized. This awards ceremony allows fellow state employees and their agencies to be honored for their hard work in creating documents and websites that are both easy to use and informative.
 - d. The Talking Book Services Art Gallery Awards Ceremony will be on April 23, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The artwork should be arriving soon, and voting will be available online this year.

4. Personnel

- a. The open position for the SCLENDS Coordinator has been filled; Ms. Faith Line has been hired part-time. Given that so many public library systems will be migrating to SCLENDS in 2026, having Ms. Line on board, who has experience with the SCLENDS migration process, will be an asset for both the State Library and the migrating libraries.
- b. The State Library recently hired Lauren Andrews as the new Talking Book Services Reader Advisor. Mr. Herring inquired about the number of personnel currently employed by the State Library. Ms. Aiken confirmed that that number has been roughly the same for the past twenty years.

5. Events

- a. Recent events have included webinars, but there have been no in-person events due to the window construction. The windows should be completed by February 14, 2026.
- b. Upcoming:
 1. January 28, 2026: SC Plants the Seed Exchange (at the Orangeburg County Public Library)
 2. February 2026: traveling exhibit with the South Carolina State Museum (featured in the lobby of the State Library) – *South Carolina in the American Revolution*. This has been cancelled due to the window construction but there are plans to reschedule later in the year.
 3. Speaker at the Center:
 - a. February 11, 2026: Author Talk with Patricia Brandon, author of *Rise of the Pale Moon*—this has been postponed to later in the year.
 - b. February 20, 2026: Author Talk with Charlie Mewshaw and Michael G. Williams, authors of *Arcane Carolinas, Volumes 2 & 3*—this has been postponed to later in the year.
 - c. March 18, 2026: Author Talk with Mayor Vincent Sheheen, author of *The Concise Guide to South Carolina State Government*.

6. Public Libraries

- a. There is a director vacancy for Chesterfield County.

C. **APLA Report**

APLA is encouraged by the State Aid increase in the Governor's budget. A lot of smaller counties have had budget constraints, so the minimum increase will be of huge help.

Several county libraries will be meeting with their legislators during the month of February, including library directors and local library board members. They will promote their library systems and encourage legislative support for public libraries as a whole.

D. Finance

Ms. Aiken presented the Board with the finance report for the agency. There was nothing of note, and there were no questions. Ms. Aiken will be providing a more detailed spreadsheet that has a more thorough breakdown of categories per Mr. Herring's prior request.

E. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026.