

Annual Joint Library Boards Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 15, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Meeting description: This is a social meeting of the three boards that support Solon Public Library. No official business will be discussed or voted upon at this meeting.

Welcome/Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Solon Public Library

Introductions

Board of Trustees

- Highlights for FY26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
- Upcoming Projects/Goals for FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

Friends of the Library

- Highlights for FY26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
- Upcoming Projects/Goals for FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

Solon Public Library Foundation

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- Upcoming Projects/Goals for FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

Library Director Comments (Written report included)

Vision for the Future of Solon Public Library

Solon Public Library Board of Trustees

Trustees advocate for the Library in the community in many ways, like increasing funding, ensuring the Library is meeting the needs of the community, and planning for the future. Regular meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (except December). These meetings are open to the public.

Trustees are appointed by the Mayor and Johnson County Board of Supervisors. The Board consists of four City and three Rural representatives. 4-year terms, end December of each year.

Sandra Lawrence, President, County resident, term expires 12/31/2027

Bill Christensen, Vice President, County resident, term expires 12/31/2028

Charlene Cosgrove, Secretary, City resident, term expires 12/31/2029

Janet Salathiel, City resident, term expires 12/31/2028

Steve Fisher, County resident, term expires 12/31/2026

Matthew Hanes, City resident, term expires 12/31/2027

Open City Resident (application available at the library and city hall)

Friends of the Solon Public Library

Friends of the Library is a nonprofit advocacy organization established in 1992, which supports the library and helps to provide for activities and materials not covered by the Library's operating budget. Our volunteer members advocate, educate, and raise funds on behalf of the library, its patrons, and the community. Anyone can become a Friend of the Library by paying a small annual membership fee.

Friends of the Library Board (One year terms expire in October, membership meeting and board election is held in October)

Susan Scott, President

Rene Paine, Vice President

Susan Lee, Secretary

John Lamantia, Treasurer

Paul Saupe, Membership Coordinator/Landscaping Committee

Wayne Wurzer

Barb Duncan

Solon Public Library Foundation

The Solon Public Library Foundation, a non-profit organization, was established in 2004 to provide support for library programs and long-range building plans. Since the opening of the new library building in 2001, the growth in use of the facility has exceeded all expectations. To support this growth and maintain a viable community library, the Foundation is organized to solicit donations, accept gifts, and manage these funds carefully to support long-term growth in library service.

Foundation Board Members (3-year terms)

Kris Brown, President

Sandy Phillips, Vice President

Christine Steinbrech, Treasurer

Jennifer Stahle, Secretary

Sue Askeland

Joe Deeney

Solon Public Library Joint Board Meeting Hosting Schedule

We hold a social, joint meeting of all three library boards each year, typically it is held in October and one of the three boards acts as host and provides light refreshments.

October 2027: Board of Trustees

October 2028: SPL Foundation

October 2029: Friends of SPL

October 2030: Board of Trustees

FY26 Solon Public Library Milestones

The Solon Public Library continues to be a vital community resource, providing access to books and digital materials, enriching programs, technology, meeting space, outreach, and opportunities for connection. In FY26, our staff delivered an impressive depth and breadth of services while continuing to strengthen the library as a welcoming space for everyone.

By the Numbers: A Year of Exceptional Service

76,028 — Library visitors

49,627 — Physical materials circulated

18,304 — Digital materials circulated through Libby

471 — Programs offered

10,947 — Program participants

4,302 — Active library patrons

327 — New library accounts

684 — Community Meeting Room uses

\$1,028,326.62 — Estimated savings to patrons through use of library resources

As a Size D library serving a population of 2,500–4,999, Solon Public Library continues to provide a level of service that exceeds many libraries of comparable size. FY25 statistics placed the library at or above the 75th percentile for Size D and Size E libraries in key measures of service, including circulation, programming, and access hours. These accomplishments are a direct reflection of the dedication and productivity of our staff.

Programs That Connect, Educate & Enrich

Library programming reaches all ages and interests throughout the year. Weekly and monthly offerings include Storytime, Switch & Social, BAM POW Early Out Thursdays, Chair Yoga, Coffee & Conversations, DIY Night, Fun For All Night, Book Club, Cookbook Club, Knit LIT, and Tech Talk.

Special events brought hundreds of community members through the library doors. The Summer Reading Kick-Off Party welcomed **450 participants**, while the summer reading program engaged **871 participants**, who collectively read **566,811 minutes** and nearly **21,000 books and picture books**.

Investing in the Library — Without Using Budgeted Funds

FY26 also brought significant improvements to the library through **grants, donations, and estate funds**, allowing the library to enhance its facilities and furnishings without relying on budgeted city funds.

- **New adult furniture** was funded through a Solon Beef Days Committee grant and estate funds.
- **New teen furniture** was funded through a Solon Public Library Foundation grant.
- An **ALA Libraries Transforming Communities Grant** and Solon Beef Days grant, received in FY25, funded the FY26 completion of **ADA-compliant automatic door buttons for both library restrooms** and the **replacement of the Community Meeting Room dividing wall**.

These investments improve accessibility, comfort, flexibility, and the overall experience for library users while demonstrating the community's strong investment in its library.

A Library Connected to the Community

The library's impact extends well beyond its walls. In FY26, staff partnered with local schools, the Solon Retirement Village, Solon Recreation Department, Solon Senior Support, Solon Beef Days, Solon Learning Academy, and numerous community organizations and educational institutions.

Partnerships with organizations including the Iowa Children's Museum, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, University of Iowa programs, Johnson County Department of Health, Johnson County Ambulance Service, American Heart Association, and others brought additional expertise, programs, and resources to Solon residents.

Looking Ahead

The library is continuing its review of the **2023–2027 Strategic Plan** as part of the State Library of Iowa accreditation process. At the same time, continued demand for meeting space is prompting the library to assess future opportunities for additional small meeting rooms and programming space.

FY26 demonstrates what is possible when a dedicated staff, engaged community partners, generous donors, and strong community support come together. **Solon Public Library is not simply providing books and programs—it is providing access, connection, learning, technology, community space, and opportunities for residents of all ages to thrive.**

Thank you

Thank you to our supporting boards and each member. Your time spent supporting and advocating for the library, staff, and our services is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Megan Richardson
Interim Library Director