



PALOS HEIGHTS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Palos Heights Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
October 15, 2026

Library News

LIMRiCC Updates

Last month, we talked about the proposed merger of our long-time health insurance pool, LIMRiCC, with another library-oriented pool, WIN. This merger will create a new pool approximately twice the size of each individual one, which will give all of us greater leverage in the marketplace. But in order for this merger to happen, member libraries have to approve a new Intergovernmental Agreement and Bylaws that will accommodate the new membership structure. For us as LIMRiCC members, the updates to our existing IGA and Bylaws are minimal. These are the first two agenda items under new business below. Once these have been approved, we can sign the new IGA and continue on with the new pool. Please see agenda items 1-3 below for more information.

Financial Update

We started receiving second-half of FY25 tax distributions in late September, as expected. To date we have received \$272k, which is approximately 28% of second-half receipts. This brings us to about 59% of expected receipts for the FY25 tax year. Of course, these percentages are all estimates based on assumptions about the timing of the distributions. We are still without any of the reports that typically accompany the distributions. These reports identify, to the penny, what tax year each payment comprises. This is the information that we need to truly track the current state of distributions, but we have no reporting since October of last year. We continue to pester the County President's office about the importance of these reports, and they understand the significance. But the Treasurer's Office is currently prioritizing distributing funds and recouping anticipation loans, and reporting has taken a back seat for the time-being. But at least money is flowing.

We currently have cash on hand to get us mid-way through December, so a loan from the City looks like it won't be necessary.

Veterans Day Reception & Novel Idea

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11th, and we're planning on hosting our annual reception at 11:30 am. We'll have coffee, sandwiches, and snacks, and it's a great opportunity to show our appreciation to our local veterans. Then the Friends will be hosting another Novel Idea program at 2pm featuring some staff-picked, Veterans Day themed book talks. Please join us if you're able!

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, October 15th – Building & Grounds Committee Meeting, 6:00pm
- Thursday, October 15th – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, November 11th – Veterans Day Reception, 11:30 am
- Wednesday, November 11th – Novel Idea, 2:00 pm
- Thursday, November 19th – Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm
- Thursday, November 19th – Regular Board Meeting, 6:30pm

Agenda Items

Item 1: LIMRiCC IGA Amendments

The first step in this LIMRiCC merger business is to approve revisions to the Intergovernmental Agreement that authorizes the existence of the pool. There are two documents in this month's packet specifically pertinent to the IGA revisions. The first is the item titled, "LIMRiCC Intergovernmental Agreement Amended December 16, 2026." This is the agreement as revised. For a better look at what specifically has been revised, I refer you to the other document titled, "Resolution No. 20261015-1." The resolution specifically identifies each proposed change in the agreement including old language and proposed new language.

If you look through these proposed changes in detail, I think you will find that there just isn't much of consequence there. There are some minor changes. For example, Section 4 proposes to increase the late payment fee from \$50 to \$100. And there is a fair bit of cleaning up loose language in the old contract. Section 8 proposes adding "Health Insurance" to the list of products provided, if that wasn't already clear from the name of the plan (Purchase of Health Insurance Plan). Section 19 removes language that refers to the Metropolitan Library System, which hasn't existed for over a decade. Going line by line through the proposed changes, I'm hard-pressed to find anything more significant than these examples.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve Resolution 20261015-1 accepting proposed amendments to the LIMRiCC Intergovernmental Agreement.

Item 2: LIMRiCC Bylaws Amendments

Whereas the Intergovernmental Agreement lays out the parameters guiding the establishment of the pool, the Bylaws lay out how the pool will be governed. Similar to the IGA, we have two documents to evaluate here. The first is the revised Bylaws as they would look if approved. The second is the resolution that we need to pass to accept these revisions. As before, we find a line-by-line discussion of all proposed changes to the Bylaws in the body of the resolution.

Also as before, these changes are largely inconsequential and are simply intended to accommodate a larger membership pool and to spell out clearly benefits that former WIN participants are now eligible to receive as a part of LIMRiCC. For example, Sections 6-8 expand the LIMRiCC Board from 5 members to 9 members then back down to 7, a change that will allow for a smooth incorporation of both pools' current leadership ending up in greater representation across a larger body of members. And again, I don't see anything that's any more consequential than that. I believe this is all admirably straightforward.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve Resolution No. 20261015-2 approving amendments to the LIMRiCC Bylaws.

Item 3: New LIMRiCC IGA

Now, having approved the necessary revisions to the IGA and the Bylaws, we have a third resolution that actually authorizes the Library to sign the new IGA and formally enter into this contract with the newly expanded LIMRiCC.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve Resolution 261015-3 authorizing the Library to enter into the newly revised IGA with LIMRiCC.

Item 4: 2026 Library Closing Dates

There are no surprises with regard to next year's closing dates. In addition to the normal holidays, we have our two staff in-service days and the customary early closing days on July 16th and November 25th.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the list of closing dates for 2027.

Item 5: 2027 Board Meeting Dates

I have laid out our schedule of meetings for next year according to our current practice of meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, with the exceptions of July and December. Obviously, this is not set in stone until you approve it, so a new date and time could be chosen if you would like to make a change.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the 2027 board meeting dates.

Item 6: Staff Appreciation Awards

I have calculated the staff appreciation awards for the year, per our policy. That policy is also included in the packet, for your reference. The total amount of the awards for this year is \$4,325, which is within budget.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the annual staff appreciation awards in the total amount of \$4,325.00.

Item 7: Palmer Award

It is that time of year again when we recognize community members or organizations who have had an exceptional impact on the library. You will recall that last year 5-year-old Anna Kolkmeier did a lemonade stand that raised \$150 for the library in addition to funds raised for flooding victims in Texas. Well, as a 6-year-old, she decided to one-up her younger self. She held another lemonade stand fundraiser and raised \$275 for the library this summer. I think this is an extraordinary thing for a child to do, both in terms of ambition and generosity! Rather than thinking about how much candy, games, and toys that money could buy or setting it aside in a college savings account, she wanted this money to come to us to pay for kids' books for her community. As parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, I think we can all appreciate that this is no small feat for a child! That's why Anna stands out to me as a strong potential recipient of this year's Palmer Award.

If you have other nominees in mind, those can certainly be brought up at the meeting.

Recommendation: I recommend that you approve the Palmer Award for Anna Kolkmeier.

Item 8: 2026-2027 Committee Assignments

This year's committee assignment list is in your packet along with a description of each committee's duties.

Recommendation: No action needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Blazek

Library Director