

**FLATHEAD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WELCOMES APPLICATIONS
FROM PROSPECTIVE LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEES**

We are seeking board members who:

- Are supportive and passionate about the Library's role in the community
- Are willing to be "worker bees" by volunteering on Library Board committees and projects
- Are able to be involved in discussion and decision-making at Board study sessions and regular meetings
- Can work well within a group
- Can be objective and impartial while serving on the Board

Our expectation is that Board Members will participate in all meetings in person, with reasonable exceptions. Board members are appointed for a five year term or to fill an unexpired term. Regularly scheduled Board meetings are currently held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:00am. There is often committee work to be done between Board meetings.

The Library Board of Trustees is a policy-making body. Library trustees' appointment, powers and duties are explained in Montana Code Annotated [22-1-308](#) and [22-1-309](#).

Rewards of Serving on the Board

- You will be playing a direct role in improving the quality of life in the Flathead Valley.
- You will be part of something that will continue to grow, attract more interest, and make a difference.
- You will get to know and work with others who are committed to community development through libraries.

IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES MISSION

The library's historic mission is to provide safe and fair access to information through books, programs, and other media. The complete strategic plan can be found at: [your-library_strategic-plan-2018-2022.pdf \(imagineiflibraries.org\)](#)

IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Jane Ennis Wheeler

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

1. How did you learn about the open position on the Library Board?

I learned about the open position from The Daily Interlake articles and from contact with friends who have closely followed the operations of ImagineIF Library.

2. In what ways do you feel connected to the library's mission?

I am a lifelong library patron who spent countless hours as a child in the stacks of the Carnegie Library in Flathead County. My love of libraries translated into my decision to become a Librarian—a career lasting over 25 years. The mission to provide safe and fair access to information through books, programs and other media is the heart of any library, and should be its guiding policy. I have worked in and directed Public, University, Specialized (science), and school libraries throughout my career. Free, public libraries are the bedrock of vital communities and the ImagineIf library is and should be dedicated to that mission.

3. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

As mentioned above, I have an abiding love of Libraries. They are vital to a thriving community. Serving on the governing board of ImagineIf would be an honor and a responsibility that I feel prepared to take on. I believe that my education, experience, and willingness to dedicate myself to this position are attributes that will help me serve our community well.

4. Do you have any previous leadership or board service experience? Please provide information about current and previous board experience.

Most recently, I served as a school trustee for the West Valley School District (District 1) for 15 years, retiring from that position in 2021. During that time, I served as Chairman for several years. I have served for 18 years on the Grants Committee of a local charitable foundation. For 6 years I served on the Hockaday Museum of Art Board. I held multiple faculty leadership positions while working in the Highland Falls Public schools in Highland Falls, NY. Should I mention Cub Scout leader, soccer coach, Officer Wives Club president, etc.?

5. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer to the Board? How will the organization benefit from your participation?

Educationally, I hold a Master's in Information and Library Science from Long Island University. I have been employed in many kinds of libraries, but the majority of my career has been in school libraries. As a consequence of my husband's 30 year career as an Army officer, we moved frequently and I have had the opportunity to see the working of libraries in many communities. I believe in consensus, and feel that the strength of any governing organization should be its ability to work together. That is a hard job.

6. Will your schedule allow you to regularly attend board meetings? And, participate in committee work between meetings?

Yes, I will be able and eager to attend and actively participate in meetings. I am retired and live year-round in the Flathead Valley.

7. Our trustees are all certified through the Montana State Library and attend trainings both locally and at the State level.

http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification

Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?

I think that trainings are an essential part of holding such an important position, and would prioritize attending trainings. This is a big job and requires a serious commitment. I'm up for it.

Please provide three references who could speak to your ability to serve on the ImagineIF Libraries Board of Trustees:

Name: Cal Ketchum

Title: Superintendent, West Valley School, Kalispell, Montana

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Felicia Ennis

Title: Director, Oro y Plata Foundation

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Name: Linda Engh-Grady

Title: President/CEO Whitefish Community Foundation

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]