

July 28, 2022

Flathead County Commissioners



Dear Commissioners,

I would like to be considered for the current vacancy on the Library Board of Trustees. Being selected for this position would be an opportunity to be part of the Library's Board and get a different perspective of how to support the library. I look forward to serving my community in this capacity.

Enclosed is my application for the Imagine If Libraries Board Member position.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Louden".

Maureen Louden

IMAGINEIF LIBRARIES BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

Name: Maureen Louden

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

I saw to opening mentioned on Facebook, contact information for requesting an application packet was provided.

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

I read through the Strategic Plan and the Mission statement: "To provide safe and fair access to information through books, programs, and other media" resonated with me. I believe that the responsibility of the library is to provide every opportunity, to every person, to have access to information. I also saw many references to staff (to me this includes the Board of Trustees) and community leaders and educators working collaboratively to see these goals met. It is my desire to see this accomplished without conflict and controversy.

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

Our Library is a valuable resource for the community. I have been very concerned reading about the various challenges that the Library has been facing. When I saw that there was an opening on the Library Board of Trustees, I felt this would be a wonderful opportunity to be involved and serve my community. I want the Library to be in the news for all the good that it has to offer rather than for controversy.

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

\*I am a retired teacher. When I was working, I served on various committees (Gifted and Talented Program and Negotiations are two examples.)

\*I regularly attended School Board Meetings as a parent and later as a staff member.

\*Before I was teaching, I was a member and officer of the PTA. During that time, I served on the RIF Committee (Reading Is Fundamental) for many years. Our committee was responsible for selecting, ordering, and distributing books for all the students in our K-8 district, during the school year.

\*Since retiring, I became a member of the Flathead Quilters' Guild. I was Quilt Show Chairman in 2012, where I was responsible for working with the Fairgrounds to rent the Expo Building, filling and managing committees, meeting deadlines, following a budget, and reporting to the Guild Executive Board. (The annual Quilt Show is a large two-day event that is well attended and contributes to the community.

\* I also served as a Co-Vice President and Co-President of the Quilt Guild (2017-2019). We presided over monthly meetings, arranged programs, and directed monthly Executive Board Meetings.

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

\*I have experience working with groups, in a leadership capacity as well as a member.

\*I am willing to listen to hear various viewpoints and I believe I can make objective decisions that will benefit the Library and the community.

\*I value our Library and want to see it flourish.

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

Yes, I have been retired for the last twelve years leaving me with a very flexible schedule. I live in the Flathead Valley year-round so I will be available for all meetings.

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](http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/library_development/certification)

Will your schedule allow you to attend trainings?

Absolutely.

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

Name: Rita Kraus Allen

Title: Retired Librarian

Phone:

Email address:

Name: Sally Glutting

Title: Fiber Artist, Retired Teacher

Phone:

Email address:

Name: Coleene Torgerson

Title: Teacher, District 29

Phone: (111) [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]