

koha-US General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 05, 2025 **Time:** 8:30 a PT / 11:30 a ET

Recording: <https://youtu.be/HSIAh8lwES4>

ATTENDEES

Andrew Fuerste-Henry – President
Wally DesChamps – Treasurer
Kristi Krueger – Secretary
Fred King – MAL (Unsupported)
John Sterbenz – Financial Manager
Christopher Brannon – Administrator
Georgette Rogers
Jason Robb
Heather Hernandez
George Williams

Chip Halvorsen – Vice President
Rhonda Kuiper
Bob Bennhoff
Elizabeth Hoffman
Catrina Berka
Kristen Ortelli
Juliet Heltibridle
Eli Anthony
Kris Becker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Andrew has a serials expert lined up to speak at the next general meeting. Be sure to attend if you'd like to learn more about serials.
- 2024 Development Committee funding update. The committee has officially pledged \$4000 toward including MARC indicators in MARC modification templates. The total cost of the dev is \$8000, so ideally a system out there would be willing to co-sponsor.
- System Administration SIG leadership will be moving to Juliet Heltibridle. Thank you Juliet! The meeting will remain at the same time/day: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11 am US ET.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recap of the developers' forum from February 25th.
 - Jason reported that there were about 40 people attending. Panelists included Paul Derscheid from LMS Cloud (Germany), Martin Renvoize from PTFS (UK), Lisette Scheer from ByWater (US), Owen Leonard from Athens County Public Library (US), and Alex Buckley from Catalyst (New Zealand).
 - Jason noted that from an attendee standpoint, it was worthwhile to hear the developers speak.

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- A video of the event will be posted this week.
- Fred appreciated that some of the developers attended partner onboarding training for user perspectives.
- Kristi thanked Bob for moderating the panel.
- Update from George Williams on Koha Charitable Foundation steering committee
 - The Steering Committee met on 17 February to discuss the mission statement. The mission statement is drafted and Andrew Auld shared the draft on [Mattermost](#).
 - They are still looking for more intercontinental and librarian representation.
- Vote on addition of COI policy to bylaws: Results
 - Kristi has been reviewing and tallying results. This is her first attempt to review a vote for koha-US, so she will be reviewing the final tally with the board at next week's meeting.
 - The vote did pass. Thank you to everyone who cast a vote.
- 2024 Financial reports
 - [Report summary from John Sterbenz](#)
 - [Consolidated 2024 report](#)
 - Per John, we had a good year in that our income exceeded our budgeted income. Our income was \$6814.30.
 - 10% of our income goes to cash reserves.
 - Operational expenses were \$3,188.89 and conference expenses were \$2,236.80.
 - We exceeded membership goals.
 - We exceeded our budget on conference expenses.
 - We spent \$553.90 vs. the \$300 we had budgeted on marketing. Some of this is material we can use in the future, though.
 - From the consolidated report, we ended last year with 120 members. To date for 2025, we have 99 members.
 - There is more to read and learn in the reports linked here, such as breakouts by quarter.
 - John thanked Georgette for her work as treasurer and noted that he is looking forward to working with Wally as our current treasurer.
 - George added that John does a great job as financial manager and thanked him for his efforts and enthusiasm. Wally added John is a good teacher.
 - John added that we are looking into adding some of our funds to a higher interest-earning bank account.

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OPEN DISCUSSION: Bugs, Issues, Etc.

[38748](#) Christopher raised a bug with transfer slips not showing the branch. The patch is there but it is not live yet.

Jason mentioned ByWater's posted 24.11 [bug roundup](#) which was posted in Slack

[39212](#) Kristi mentioned a bug in 24.11 that prevents a booking from being edited. There is a patch that passed QA and is waiting to be added to a version.

Christopher revisited the discussion at the developer forum on a general need to update the code base. Christopher asked how many different versions are currently in use. Andrew provided a link with estimates of Koha implementations by country: <https://hea.koha-community.org/> Christopher asked if every 5 years or so, a release would not have new features, but it would focus on code maintenance and modernization. Could supported partners all contribute toward the cost for this? Andrew noted that there was work done in the last release to tidy code. The Koha Charitable Foundation could be a guiding source for something like this. This might also be a good topic to bring to the Koha Community development meetings. There was discussion about the burden a contribution would mean for different libraries. Christopher closed with saying that the discussion was an example of how the forum was inspiring and it gets people discussing ideas.

Heather added that bringing faces to the developers helped humanize the work that is happening. Andrew hopes that helps make the development process more approachable.

Jason asked about conference planning so attendees can start budgeting. We just got the contract for the venue yesterday. OSL has been working on a list of hotels and restaurants in the area. Fred asked the committee for instructions to the venue and hotel from the Amtrak station in Providence.

CHAT LOGS:

00:09:07 koha-US: Agenda:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1k4_NsJ6iz42A7bu5mtMI1T9E069hFmLo6pHfIORTKkk/edit?usp=sharing

00:09:54 Heather (she/her): We have clouds and light rain, so this delicate Bay Area Flower is staying indoors with a sweater on!:)

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00:14:30 Catrina - Education Team: Heather is excited for all catalogers everywhere

00:14:40 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Heather is excited..." with 

00:14:59 Fred King: Reacted to "Heather is excited f..." with 

00:14:59 Heather (she/her): 'Cause...INDICATORS MATTER!!!
WOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

00:15:09 John Sterbenz: Reacted to "'Cause...INDICATORS ..." with 

00:15:30 Catrina - Education Team: Reacted to
"'Cause...INDICATORS ..." with 

00:15:49 NEKLS Zoom 3 / George Williams: There's a 5:30 a.m.?

00:16:01 Heather (she/her): And some of us who are retiring & still volunteering with the Koha Community are looking forward to being asleep before 7:00am!:))

00:16:02 John Sterbenz: Reacted to "And some of us who a..." with 

00:16:08 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "There's a 5:30 a.m..." with 

00:16:11 Catrina - Education Team: Reacted to "And some of us who a..." with 

00:17:08 Fred King: Replying to "There's a 5:30 a.m.?"

I used to be up at 5:30, but we lost our cat.

00:18:23 Fred King: And don't call me Shirley.

00:18:46 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "And don't call me ..." with 

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00:19:38 Heather (she/her): Feel free to use this photo any time you need some Pearl Clutching!!

<https://flickr.com/photos/ulmerigel/53171528754/>

00:19:38 Jason - SEKLS:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A-iz6gKJtHgs8lBNL-8CWAik65T8T6VH/view>

00:19:46 Andrew Fuerste-Henry: Reacted to "Feel free to use thi..." with 🐱

00:19:50 Jason - SEKLS: Steering group update ^

00:19:53 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "https://drive.goog..." with ❤️

00:20:36 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "I used to be up at..." with ❤️💊

00:20:47 John Sterbenz: Reacted to "And don't call me Sh..." with ❤️

00:20:54 Fred King: Reacted to "Feel free to use thi..." with ❤️

00:21:17 Heather (she/her): Squirrel!!!

00:21:58 Heather (she/her): ::looks forward to supporting the Koha Foundation in the future by buying Koha tshirt and tote bag::

00:25:01 Fred King: Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the vote decide everything.

--Stalin

00:25:15 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Those who vote dec..." with 👍

00:25:57 Heather (she/her): Some of us like spreadsheets--they're data-tastic!

00:27:52 Fred King: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen and six , result happiness.

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Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery"

--Charles Dickens

00:28:07 Heather (she/her): Reacted to ""Annual income tw..." with 

00:29:11 Heather (she/her): "MARC Modification Templates" are the Word of the Day! ::fun screaming a la Pee-Wee Herman::

00:30:12 Heather (she/her): All the Cool Kids are members...

00:30:24 Chip Halvorsen - Westlake, OH: Reacted to ""MARC Modification T..." with 

00:30:31 Heather (she/her): I think the financial reports are more entertaining than RDA...

00:31:15 Heather (she/her): Because John explains clearly and concisely!!

00:33:23 Eli Anthony: Yes!

00:33:39 NEKLS Zoom 3 / George Williams: PNC is the next best thing to bitcoin for us

00:34:12 Heather (she/her): I'm calling them "BIGcoins" from now on!!!

00:34:21 Catrina - Education Team: Gotta leave early but I'll miss the bug discussion ;)

00:34:27 John Sterbenz: Reacted to "PNC is the next best..." with 

00:34:30 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Gotta leave early ..." with 

00:35:11 Heather (she/her): It was super--fun, educational, and community building!!!

00:35:36 John Sterbenz: Reacted to "Because John explain..." with 

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00:35:51 Bob Bennhoff: Martin mentioned to me afterwards that it was just what he needed and invigorated him. I think the developers probably need to be let out and talk to users more.

00:36:04 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Martin mentioned t..." with 

00:36:07 koha-US: Reacted to "Martin mentioned to ..." with 

00:36:09 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Martin mentioned t..." with 

00:36:13 Chip Halvorsen - Westlake, OH: Reacted to "Martin mentioned to ..." with 

00:36:40 Heather (she/her): ::sings:: "Who let the developers out? Code! Code, code, code!!!!"

00:37:20 Fred King: Reacted to "::sings:: "Who let t..." with 

00:39:42 Heather (she/her): Or people who need/benefit from repeat!!! ::looks at self!::

00:40:13 Wally DesChamps - Prosper Community Library: Reacted to "Or people who need/b..." with 

00:40:26 Christopher Brannon:
https://bugs.koha-community.org/bugzilla3/show_bug.cgi?id=38748

00:43:32 Jason - SEKLS: ByWater's 24.11 Bug Roundup:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UXG3iXEnoc7oF7VZ6yYcDF9Ym3_QpBDIx6__I32WqUA/edit?pli=1&gid=0#gid=0

00:43:41 Chip Halvorsen - Westlake, OH: Reacted to "ByWater's 24.11 Bug ..." with 

00:43:58 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "ByWater's 24.11 Bu..." with 

00:47:07 Andrew Fuerste-Henry: <https://hea.koha-community.org/>

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00:47:22 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "https://hea.koha-c..." with 

00:48:37 grogers: sorry, had to leave briefly to help a patron that called before we were open

00:48:46 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "sorry, had to leav..." with 

00:49:21 Heather (she/her): Special "Code Cleanup" fundraiser could be something Koha-US sponsors and then dedicates funds to code-cleanup-bugs?

00:49:37 Wally DesChamps - Prosper Community Library: Reacted to "Special "Code Cleanu..." with 

00:49:37 Fred King: Marshall Breeding reports 4,478 Koha libraries. That's probably very low--it's very popular in India and I don't think many of them get counted.

00:49:49 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Marshall Breeding ..." with 

00:50:57 Heather (she/her): Code cleanup may be as excitable to the average Koha user as indicators...

00:51:53 Heather (she/her): A LOT of Koha libraries don't have \$100.00, let's keep in mind!

00:52:28 Fred King: Our \$100 would come out of my pocket...

00:52:36 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "Our \$100 would com..." with 

00:54:42 Heather (she/her): Or support in other ways, e.g., sharing the fundraiser on social media, testing bugs, documenting, etc.

00:55:58 NEKLS Zoom 3 / George Williams: When you look at Marshall Breeding's report, it's counting all of my libraries as individual Koha users. That's 50 out of the 4478 libraries in

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Marshall's report that don't have any real awareness of what's going on in the Koha community.

00:56:08 Andrew Fuerste-Henry: Reacted to "When you look at Mar..." with 👍

00:56:16 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "When you look at M..." with 👍

00:56:23 NEKLS Zoom 3 / George Williams: I'm sure there are other libraries we're talking about in the same boat.

00:56:33 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "I'm sure there are..." with 👍

00:58:23 NEKLS Zoom 3 / George Williams: That's what the foundation is being created for.

00:58:28 Andrew Fuerste-Henry: Reacted to "That's what the foun..." with 🏆

00:58:29 Heather (she/her): Reacted to "That's what the fo..." with ❤️

00:58:47 Wally DesChamps - Prosper Community Library: Reacted to "That's what the foun..." with 👍

01:03:52 Heather (she/her): There's a Koha-US channel in Mattermost chat, too, for coordinating!