

**Watchmen Voter Guide for Kootenai Community Library Network**  
**\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \***

	<a href="#"><u>Tom Hanley</u></a>	Regina McCrea	Judy Meyer	<a href="#"><u>Tim Plass</u></a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Tom Hanley. I am running for the position of Community Library Network Trustee. I was invited to a luncheon by my state legislator. A guest gave a detailed presentation revealing the large quantity of obscene/ sexually explicit books in the children's areas of the local libraries. This material is hard pornography, and I learned there are 100's of these books in the CLN, and well over 1,000 after factoring in what is available through associated libraries (via the CIN).	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	Tim Plass. I am running for Trustee of the Community Library Network in Kootenai and a portion of Shoshone County. I am running because I want to implement solutions to the disastrous library policies that are enabling obscene, pornographic books to be displayed and made available to our children.
<b>2.</b> How could the libraries be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	1) The 5-person board needs to change the Book Selection Policy to prevent the continued accumulation of inappropriate books for children. I'm calling this " <u>Child Safety.</u> " 2) <u>Fiscal Responsibility.</u> After being elected, I will carefully analyze all spending to ensure it is in the taxpayer's best interest. Over 92% the library income is derived from the citizen's property taxes. 3) <u>Transparency.</u> I will have the library director post all expenditures on their website, so taxpayers will not only be able to view the budget, but have the ability to see exactly how their money is being spent.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	First, I will immediately help write policies that remove the books with obscene and pornographic material from any areas of the library that are accessible by minors. I will use the definition of obscene and pornographic material listed current Idaho Code 18-1514 & 18-4101 as the reference for this decision. They have to either be removed from the library or at the very least, locked up or put behind the front desk. They will only be accessible when asked for by a patron who has an adult library card. Anyone under 18 will not be allowed to view the books or check them out. Second, I will replace these books with good wholesome, classic books for minors. Over 800 book titles have been identified with sexually explicit material or other harmful content including drug abuse, suicide, the occult and contempt for the police. These 800+ books were only added by removing over 800 older books without this material because they didn't add more shelves. Since there are multiple copies of these books at different CLN libraries, there have been closer to 1800 books removed to make room for these controversial books. I will bring the good traditional books back to fill these new shelf spaces. The current trustees authorized the removal over 1800 books without a policy, so who are the ones that have carrying out book censoring? Third, I will carefully control expenditures and the budget. I will stop the automatic maximum tax increase each year that seems to have been taking place under the current trustees. Most of the tax payers are not getting 3% salary increases each year, so why should the library? I have looked over the library budgets of the last 4 years and they have all increased, even though one year the trustees list it as 0% change from the previous year budget. A closer look shows the budgeted tax increase was 2% over what was listed in the previous year.

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<p><b>3.</b> What is your philosophy of selecting new books for the library and how do you plan to implement that philosophy?</p>	<p>I support a classic, wholesome, and age appropriate book collection. Naturally, newer books which do not conflict with traditional community values are fine, but absolutely none with obscene or sexually explicit material. Again, this can be achieved with sound board policies that the Library Director (and staff) will be obligated to comply with.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>The new book selection process will need a policy written to specify how this is to be done, as there doesn't appear to be one now. There will be no more of leaving it up to the librarians to decide or to follow recommended book lists produced by the Marxist American Library Association. The new policy will not only list all the topics prohibited as described above in the reply to 2), but will use older, traditional recommended book lists created 50 years ago. I expect to obtain a list of all books removed from the libraries in the past 10 years, and that may be an excellent list to call out in the new policy.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> In the past two years, parents have noted objectionable materials in the public libraries and have requested some of these materials be removed. What type of process would you support to review these requests to determine whether or not materials should be removed or relocated?</p>	<p>It is my understanding that "book challenges" are routed to the same staff members who make the original selections, essentially they have the fox guarding the hen house. With a new board promulgating sound book selection policies it will be the Library Director's job to implement procedures to ensure compliance.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>If necessary, we will write a policy to specify the process of taking requests to review objectionable materials and make a determination if the book should be removed from the shelves. I would implement a form to be filled out that request citations of the objectionable pages and a summary of what is found to be objectionable. If the book is already on list of known objectionable books, it would be an easy decision to remove. I would add to the list of objectionable materials anything the advocates suicide, drug abuse, occult, CRT, and contempt for police. These objectionable review forms should be handled by the library staff, but summary reports will be required to be provided the CLN Trustees.</p>

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5. Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not?	It is difficult to obtain a precise, factual definition of CRT. From my general understanding of CRT, I absolutely object to it. I do know it to be a "woke" educational issue, one associated with the schools and for others to resolve. I don't believe it is a library-specific subject.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I absolutely do not support Critical Race Theory and consider it to be false, biased, agenda-driven propaganda used to undermine the younger generation's understanding of the founding principles of the United States of America. Critical Race Theory has no place in our North Idaho public institutions and most certainly should not be allowed in any CLN library material. One example is that it teaches that the United States was founded with slavery as main principle, when In fact, the first version of the Declaration of Independence rejected slavery. Because that document required unanimous approval by the colonies and two of the 13 would not approve it because of that anti-slavery position, the Declaration of Independence was re-written to remove the portion rejecting slavery to obtain approval of all 13 colonies. CRT is absolutely wrong when it teaches that our nation was founded with the promotion of slavery.
6. When thinking about book selection, what does diversity mean to you and why?	It means a book selection consisting of wide and varied genres for a wide range of age ranges for its patrons.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	Book selection diversity simply means the selection of all types of books, but they need to be pertinent to our community. In other words, we should not select books written in a foreign language when we speak English in Idaho. An over-arching requirement is that a community run library should never select books that promote vice and immorality, as that would become an underlying endorsement of that behavior by our government authorities. The library should not select books that promote or glorify stealing, murder, premarital sex, or rape any more that it would provide books documenting how to build nuclear bombs or how to poison people. The harm that could be done to the public with later examples are clear to most people, but the books promoting immorality will be just as damaging as it will lead young adults away from traditional marriage and raising a family. The family is the source of good citizens for the future. Our libraries need to promote that and reject vice and immorality that works against traditional marriage and families.

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7. What does the phrase "free access to ideas" mean to you and why?	The phrase is too vague for me to respond to. It may be contained in one of the CLN's policies, however, I was unable to readily locate it.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	This term sounds like it was taken from the American Library Association website and their description of "Intellectual Freedom." The ALA promotes "Intellectual Freedom" as if it was a legal First Amendment right guaranteed to every citizen of their supposed rights to read and learn about anything they want. The ALA promotes this concept with librarians across the country and makes them think they must provide books to patrons on any topic requested. It is bogus and has not stood up in court. The ALA is trying to equate their "Intellectual Freedom" to be on par with "Academic Freedom", another bogus concept that is used by college professors that enable them teach whatever they want without the fear or threat of termination. Of course college governorship has the right to control what is taught, but these are ongoing court battles. The ALA and their "Intellectual Freedom" policies do not have similar court backing, but the ALA continues to intimate librarians and the public "free access to ideas" is a First Amendment right, but it is not. Public libraries do not provide information on how to build nuclear bombs even though a patron may want that material.
8. How would you select those who provide reading time, materials, speakers, and activities for children? Do you believe the community should be involved in these decisions?	I would expect criminal background checks would be essential. Additionally, several reference checks from varied sources. I'll need to investigate if the providers are volunteers or paid staff. I don't believe it is in the existing policy, but I think in these culturally changing times, there should be consideration to prohibiting "adult entertainment" of any sort in the presence of children. Yes, the community and parents should definitely be involved; it is a parent's responsibility.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe the library board of trustees should issue a policy on this topic. The policy should address the specifics of this question and how this is to be done. I would like to see the proposed policy written and posted on-line, maybe even run in the local papers, and solicit community feedback, both written and with public comment. Concerns could be addressed and used to improve the policy. However, the over-arching requirements for the new book selection policy will apply to this issue as well: vice and immorality will not be permitted as they are a danger to society, just as topics about how to build nuclear bombs and poison people would never be allowed. The only books permitted for reading time must come from the approved books in the library. The speakers should be encouraged to reputable community members as role models of morality and virtue to encourage children.

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<p><b>9.</b> The values of rural Idaho are very different than big cities like Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. How can the library incorporate local community values in new book selection instead of the national values of the American Library Association?</p>	<p>The local community has already been involved. It is outraged by many of the indecent books being promoted to children. This is evidenced by reviewing Public Comments presented at the board over the past 18+ months. I don't know if any library funds are currently used to support organizational or individual memberships in the ALA. If they are, I expect to work with the entire board to terminate these particular expenditures. Staff may use their personal funds to join, or continue memberships with any organization they wish. I will also explore removing policy in support of or obligating the library to adhere to that organization's guidelines. The CLN does not report to the ALA; it reports to the voters!</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>First of all, our library network needs to sever any ties to the American Library Association, as they are a Marxist organization that is publicly promoting "Queering the Library", one of the ALA librarian training programs. The ALA provides recommended book lists as a means of implementing this agenda, and our community should have nothing to do with the ALA book recommendations. Our libraries should start by removing access to any book that violates the very specific descriptions of obscenity and pornographic material called out in existing Idaho Code 18-1514 &amp; 18-4101. This basic step will separate our rural libraries from what is being done in those big city libraries. New book selections need to come from older recommended book lists that do not include any of these newer topics.</p>
<p><b>10.</b> How do you feel about removing historical books and classical literature from libraries?</p>	<p>I am totally opposed to it. Marxists are good at destroying all vestiges of history and culture, then replacing it with anarchy.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>I personally do not want to remove older historical and classic books from our libraries. I believe this has already been done to quite an extent. Many older books must have been removed to make room for over 850 newer objectionable books that have been brought in over the past few years. We know the libraries did not add shelving or floor space for more books, so the librarians must have removed those types of books. Now who are the ones that are censoring books and without using a policy? I believe that all our children should be able to check out and read "Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates," "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and "Little House on the Prairie" and many others like them. If those books are gone, they need to be brought back into our libraries to fill the shelf space made when we remove the objectionable books.</p>
<p><b>11.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?</p>	<p>No. Restroom usage must be aligned with individuals' birth gender. "Gender identification" is utter nonsense. The whole "identification" concept is absurd and defies biology, chemistry and science. Anyone with a speck of logic or common sense should acknowledge it. Anyone who disagrees with their gender should take the issue up with God. I'm certain He made the right decision.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>The Community Library Network should only have bathrooms based on the biological gender a person is born with. The trustees may need to approve a policy on this issue and it should make it clear that any transgender or sexual preference or gender self-identification will not be recognized within the doors of our libraries. Women need to know that they are safe from male sexual predators or peeping toms when they make use of the women's bathrooms. Our libraries need to have a policy that makes this clear and authorizes staff to call in law enforcement.</p>

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12. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	Having completed a 30-year military career, followed by 11 years at a local, large non profit, I have a wide range of experience. Managerial jobs included Personnel, Financial, Logistics, Supply and Facilities. Coupling this with a BBA in Management and an MA in Human Resource Management & Organizational Development, I have plenty of academic qualifications. But, the most important credential I will pack into my Library Trustee briefcase is a conscience.	<b>No Response Received</b>	<b>No Response Received</b>	I have been a resident of Kootenai County for over 26 years. My wife and I have been married over 38 years and raised our ten children in a rural setting in this area. My family used the library and now I have grandchildren who will be using it. I want the libraries to be wholesome place for them and the community. I am qualified by my own professional education and experience. I have an Associate of Science from College of the Siskiyous in Weed, CA, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from UC Davis, and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. I started and ran my own wireless internet business, Velocimax Wireless, for 8 years and sold it to Ptera in 2017. It was the first and only "Family Safe" internet offered in Idaho where porn and sexually objectionable sites were blocked from the network. Hundreds of families in the area sought out service from my company and I have been in their homes for installation. I know that the vast majority of the people in Kootenai County do not want the sexually explicit books available to minors in our libraries.