

Interview with Janet Saiers, Chairperson - LAB APLF BOOKISH - August 6, 2025

What is the most pressing issue of the LAB?

Many LAB members are new, with fewer than six months on the Board. We are **building the Board** and creating a "team spirit," learning about each other and our purpose and how we can work together to advocate for the Library system.

The LAB does not have the fundraising purposes of our sister organizations: the Friends and Foundation. Rather LAB's mission by ordinance involves advocacy, communication, and collecting information.

What kind of talent does the LAB need in potential new members?

LAB needs individuals who can commit at least six to eight hours a month to support Library programs and services.

A new member would:

- attend board meetings every other month.
- visit branches & attend programs as their personal time allows.
- build relationship with elected officials.
- gather information about the Library system through informal conversations with friends, family, neighbors.
- advocate for the Library system by in-person attendance at City Council & Bernalillo County Commission. Virtual attendance is an option.

How can community members support the Library Advisory Board and become more involved?

We encourage community members to sign up to receive emails from LAB. Here's the link, <https://abqlibrary.org/advisoryboard>. Input from community members on any topic or program is welcome and can be sent by contacting Library director Kate Alderete at kalderete@cabq.gov.

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The Library system has something for everyone of all ages, needs and interests. Community members can support the Library system by sharing personal experiences and telling others about the Library's great free programs & services. Many local residents still don't know the Library provides over 400 free computers, entry passes to local museums & cultural facilities, cake pans, movies and more from local branches. Branches provide meeting room spaces for organizations.