



Member Day 2025

Sarah Taylor, Membership Service Assistant

Board Meeting, March 25, 2025



ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
MEMBER DAY • FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Imagining Tomorrow – Delivering Possibilities Today!

Why is Member Day a virtual conference?



COVID-19

During COVID-19, we switched to a virtual conference platform



Accessible

More libraries can attend a virtual event
More types of library staff can attend virtually
Can make the event available to ALL Illinois libraries



Higher Attendance

Registration count for Member Day since going virtual: 300-400 members
Attendee count for 2019 in-person event: ~100



Low Cost

FREE to all IHLS Member Libraries!
\$15 for RAILS/CPL member libraries

What happened during Member Day?

Member Day 2025 was February 12, 2025!

Exhibit Hall opened at 8:30 a.m.

The opening session kicked off at 9 a.m.!

Opening keynote: R. David Lankes – *Librarianship and Joy*

Closing keynote: Beth Wahler – *Boundaries for Library Staff*

11 total sessions

Exhibitor Showcase for gold level sponsors

Games & prizes

PDH for school librarians!

Chances to interact with the many sponsors of Member Day



Registration/Participation

Type	#
Academic Libraries	5
Public Libraries	268
School Libraries	86
Special Libraries	8
RAILS/CPL	3
IHLS/ISL Staff	48
Speakers	22
Sponsors/Partners	19

Unique event data

- 256 unique attendees – number of people who attended at least one session
 - Last year was 300
 - Inclement weather on Member Day could be a contributing factor to this number

Sponsorship

Sponsorship Type	#
Gold-level sponsor	2
Silver-level sponsor	10
Bronze-level sponsor	1
Partners	6
1 Trivia sponsor	
1 gold-level sponsor upgrade	
Total cash-in: \$4,550.00	

188 people viewed the Exhibit Hall on Member Day!

How do we plan for this?

- Team-focused project planning.
- Breaking down the project into 4 sprints. Typically, each sprint lasts roughly 3 months, except the last sprint, which is only 1 month.

How the team is broken down

Project Planning – create project plan, project schedule, task breakdown, team building, budget analysis

Marketing/Communications – graphics, emails, newsletter communication, event website development

Programming – finding speakers, event schedule development, speaker dry runs for Zoom

Sponsorships – creation of sponsorship levels, networking with vendors and sponsors/partners

Game Development – Trivia, prizes and prize drawing, and other activities as decided

Tech – purchasing Pheedloop, setting up sessions, monitoring event support chat

(This is not an exhaustive list.)



Feedback From Member Day Planning Team

8. What do you think went well during the Member Day planning process?

11 Responses

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Honestly everything. Minor hiccups are expected.
2	anonymous	I liked Loop. I liked the monthly meetings and some of the exercises (like the bad idea brainstorm). I felt my responsibilities and deadlines were clear.
3	anonymous	Deadlines were clearly stated.
4	anonymous	Everything seemed very organized. Even though I joined late, I was able to follow along pretty easily. Loop was great because everything was in one place.
5	anonymous	I think it was great we had the graphics done so early - it really helped us all to be on the same page, for branding to be consistent, etc.
6	anonymous	Loved the implementation of Loop. The planning reminders when deadlines were due were very helpful. I like having group meetings to keep us all on track.
7	anonymous	I appreciated the clear communication/delegation of roles and clear deadlines. I also liked the project adjustment forms, so those changes are tracked.
8	anonymous	Enjoyed the brainstorming and idea sharing among members of the committee.
9	anonymous	The timeline for getting all the tasks done was fabulous. This is the first time I didn't feel super stressed in the final weeks before Member Day.
10	anonymous	Everything!
11	anonymous	I think everyone collaborated really well this year, and we got things going without any major issues. But to be fair I'm not exactly heavily involved so I may have missed something.

How did Member Day Planning go for you?

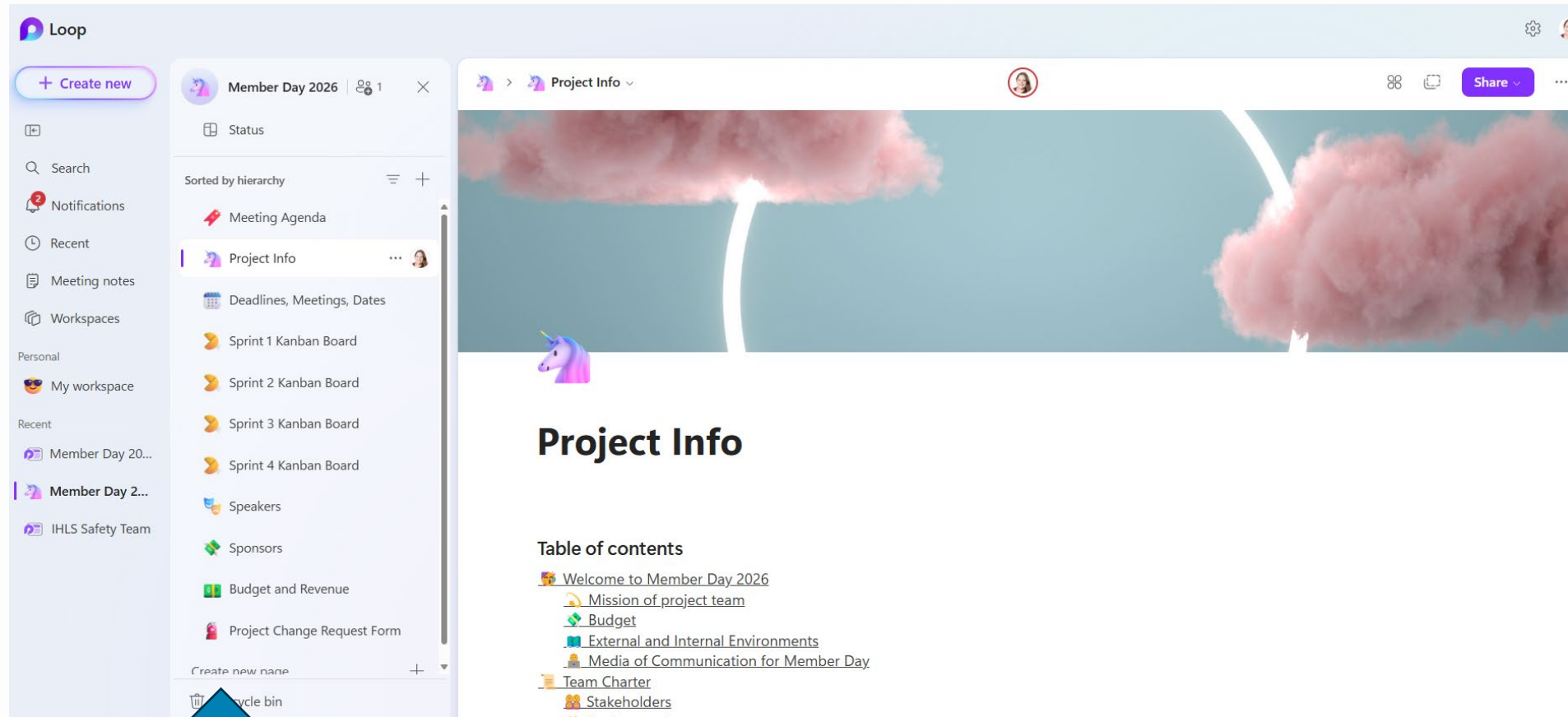
4.82

Average Rating



How do we collaborate?

Loop is a collaborative software that integrates with other Microsoft software in real-time.



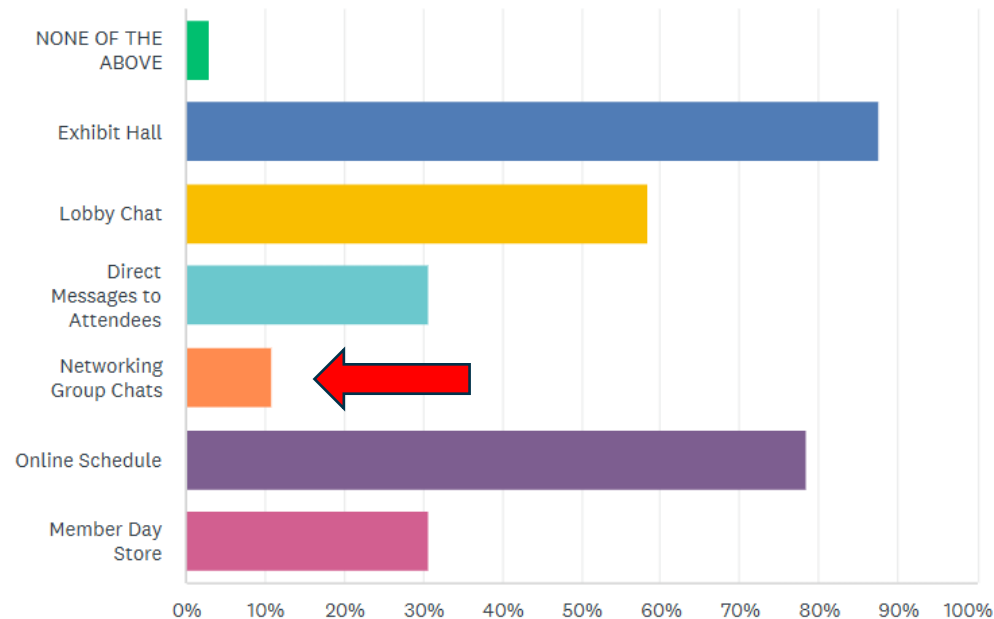
The screenshot displays the Microsoft Loop application interface. On the left, a sidebar contains navigation options: '+ Create new', 'Search', 'Notifications', 'Recent', 'Meeting notes', 'Workspaces', 'Personal', 'My workspace', and 'Recent'. The main workspace is titled 'Member Day 2026' and shows a list of collaboration categories under 'Sorted by hierarchy': 'Meeting Agenda', 'Project Info', 'Deadlines, Meetings, Dates', 'Sprint 1 Kanban Board', 'Sprint 2 Kanban Board', 'Sprint 3 Kanban Board', 'Sprint 4 Kanban Board', 'Speakers', 'Sponsors', 'Budget and Revenue', and 'Project Change Request Form'. A blue arrow points to the 'Project Info' category. The right pane shows the 'Project Info' page with a header image of pink clouds and a unicorn, a 'Share' button, and a 'Table of contents' section listing items like 'Welcome to Member Day 2026', 'Mission of project team', 'Budget', 'External and Internal Environments', 'Media of Communication for Member Day', 'Team Charter', and 'Stakeholders'.

These are some of the collaboration categories I have started for 2026 planning.

Why we do an attendee survey.

Which of the following virtual conference features did you use? Select all that apply.

Answered: 65 Skipped: 5



We learned that we need to focus more on the types of networking available during Member Day, such as the networking group chats. Since we promote the event as having networking opportunities, we can either utilize this feature and promote it or eliminate it.

Questions I might ask:

- Is there a better solution?
- Is this worth putting in the extra work?
- How will we divide the tasks of setting up networking opportunities?

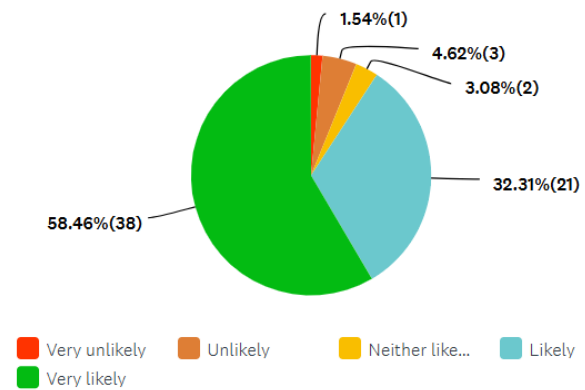
Overall, how would you rate this virtual event?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 5



How likely is it that you would recommend IHLS Member Day virtual event to a friend or colleague?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 5



(This is up from 4.1 in 2024!)



Thank you!

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