



**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library**  
Board Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2018

**Board members present:** Sandy Bradley, Carol Pearson, Vicki Siegel, Peggy Johnson, Roy Parris, Janice Norcross (acting) and Barbara Lupei. **Library Administrator:** Charissa Wagner. **Guests:** Nani Banks, Patricia Walters, Flo Eichenberg, Don Stapleton, Terri Middlemiss, and John Anderson.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. The agenda was amended and approved. The minutes of the November, 2017 meeting were approved.

**Librarian's Report:** Charissa Wagner reported

- In honor of National Crockpot Month, the library will host a demonstration on crockpot use, with recipes provided, on January 20th at 12:30 p.m. Those who attend can come back at 4:30 p.m. to taste the results.
- A Financial Wellness talk is scheduled for February 17th at 2:00 p.m.
- She will have a table at the Community Yard Sale on February 24th. She has reserved the adjacent table for the FRBL if we would like to sell some books.
- On January 26th she will attend the Summer Reading Program meeting in Bakersfield.
- Personal computer coaches are still available 4 times a week to help patrons learn to use their electronic devices and applications. A coach will be available for a few hours on Tuesdays through Fridays or by appointment.
- More computer basics classes are coming in April or May on subjects like MSWord (including a more advanced Word class), Facebook, using the Internet, and Basic Computers.
- The staff member who was out for medical reasons is now back to her normal schedule. The extra-help staff member will be available to fill in for the other staff members who request time off.
- She passed around a prioritized wish list featuring items that do not require General Services. It included a method of mounting the TV that would not require General Services, which could help complete that project sooner and at less cost. Roy stated that she can "think bigger" on the wish list because we have funds.
- She also announced that the Kern County Library System only has one person in their IT department to cover all 24 branches and 2 bookmobiles.

**President's Report:** Sandy Bradley reported

- The Little Free Library (LFL) in Inyokern was installed on January 11th. The grand opening ceremony took place on the 13th with 12 to 14 people attending. Both newspapers sent representatives. A photo and article have already appeared in the *Daily Independent*. Patricia's sorority will steward this LFL. Janice agreed to keep crates/boxes in the back room of the library filled with books intended for the LFLs so the stewards will not have to go to the annex to pick them up.
- The LFL for Upjohn Park has also been installed and is already being used. Janice volunteered to be the steward for this one and Peggy offered to be her back-up. The grand opening is scheduled for February 2nd at 10:00 a.m. The manager from Walmart will be there to cut the ribbon and refreshments will be served.
- Funds earmarked for another LFL have been donated by Roger Peck and Terry Mitchell. The LFL has been ordered. Locations for this LFL were discussed and Vicki stated that she believed LFLs should be capped at 3 because they would cut into the stats of the library. Others commented that different people will use the LFLs than those who use the library.

The possibility of vandalism was brought up but most felt that we could solve those problems if they occur.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandy reported as acting Treasurer

- The special sale in December brought in \$1,118.15. About a third of that was from the collectibles.
- The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is now charging organizations \$355.00 to register. It is also harder to register through their new site. We barely raised more than that last year. It was decided not to participate this year, though we could consider it again if they decide to pro-rate the fees depending on the size of the organization. Nani suggested a note in the newsletter to let the membership know.
- The year-end report and proposed budget will be presented at the February meeting as the statements needed were not available in time from Alta One Credit Union.

**Vice-President, Membership Report:** Carol Pearson reported

- Since our last meeting there have been 5 new members and 9 renewals. She will be sending out reminders to people whose memberships are expiring.
- Nancy George's son said we could add her name to our supporters list in gratitude for the \$20K donated upon her death. Carol suggested we list it as "Nancy George Estate".
- Charissa also mentioned that she received a letter from a lawyer stating that Elizabeth Starr, sister of John Starr, left a portion of her estate to the Ridgecrest Branch Library. She will keep us posted as she gets more information. John was a dedicated and active member of the FRBL for many years. He last served as Treasurer.

**Vice-President, Book Sales Report:** Acting V.P. Janice Norcross reported

- The spring sale, April 7th and 14th, will emphasize literature and paperback fiction with more space allotted to these items. There is a large back-log of these books taking up space. The sale dates have been approved by SSUSD.
- Volunteer badges have been suggested for use during the sales. Some attendees said they had badges they could donate.
- Three 10 ft tall bookcases have been donated for use at the annex.
- Shopper incentives have been discussed among sale volunteers. Some ideas were: raffle every hour for 2 free books or perhaps a \$5.00 Amazon gift certificate; and a t-shirt special, buy three get one free. The board left the decisions up to Janice as the sale manager.
- The frequency of culling of the salesroom was discussed. It was decided that every other week would be sufficient. It was noted that fewer thrift shops will take the culled book so they are harder to get rid of. Brian Wall is now helping with Monday stocking.
- Two more volunteers are pricing on Wednesdays.
- Little Free Libraries - More children's books are needed. A post to Facebook was suggested to let people know what we need.

**Newsletter:** Deadline for next newsletter - January 26, 2018. Other articles planned include the results of the special sale, upcoming sale dates, the CFC decision, and the LFLs.

**Old Business:**

- Changes to the board take effect at the end of this meeting.
  - President: Sandy Bradley
  - Treasurer: Nani Banks
  - Secretary: Barbara Lupei
  - VP Book Sales: Janice Norcross
  - VP Membership: Carol Pearson
  - Members-at-Large: Vicki Siegel, Peggy Johnson, and Patricia Walters

**New Business:**

- The family of Bill Eichenberg named the FRBL as one of the charities they would like his friends to donate to *in memorium*. More than \$2,000.00 was collected. Flo looked over the wish list provided by Charissa and chose 1.) Free-standing magazine racks for donated magazines, and 2.) Magazine covers.
- John Anderson is retiring from selling Special Books (pre-1949) online. He has had that job for 4 years. He will continue to sell the inventory of 320 books he has listed now.
- The FRBL has a book by Ivan Pavlov, the Russian physiologist known for his theory of conditioned response, published in 1928. The book is signed by the author and translators. This book could be valuable if the author's signature is authenticated. This process would cost approximately \$300.00. The board approved the expenditure.
- The date of the November 2018 meeting falls on the day before Thanksgiving. The board agreed to change the date to November 14th. Nani will notify Pizza Factory/Beansters.
- Peggy congratulated Vicki on getting the word out that volunteers were needed. Vicki has trained 7 new people to work in the salesroom, including Loralynn Chrostowski who was able to attend the meeting.
- This was Roy's last meeting as a board member and he offered some advice. First, come up with a plan for the \$20K. He believes we could raise up to \$80K for an addition to the library. Second, remember that data is important for fighting budget cuts. Measure the things that make sense.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Members were encouraged to eat lunch at Pizza Factory or Beansters to support the fundraiser.

The next Board meeting will be **Wednesday, February 21** at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Library Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Lupei, Secretary