

**Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
Board Meeting Minutes, 15 May 2024**

Board Members present: Carol Pearson, John Freeman, Jack Davidson, Jil Richards, Nani Banks, Nancy Saxton. **Library Supervisor:** Charissa Wagner

Carol Pearson, chairing for Jerry, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.
The agenda was approved without amendment.
The minutes from the April 17th meeting were approved.

President's Report. Carol reported for Jerry:

- Nancy was designated Secretary for this month's meeting.

Librarian's Report. Charissa reported:

- Ridgecrest had 232 sign ups and 178 finishers for the **In-N-Out Burger Cover to Cover** Reading club, with 447 rewards claimed. Children 4-12 years old could read 5 books or listen to 300 minutes to earn 1 free sandwich, up to 3 per child. This year there were participants from some of the private schools (Ridgecrest Adventist Elementary lower grades and Immanuel Christian School's K-4th grade, with some 5th and 6th grade participants). More participation is hoped for next year.
- **Spring Into Reading**, the current reading challenge, requires 135 minutes read or listened to in April and May. The color of the month is black, which means that books read or listened to have a primarily black cover.
- **Lunch at the library** is confirmed for June 6 through July 12 and will be served Tuesday -Friday, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, except for 6/19 and 7/4, which are holidays. Free lunch is available to all 18 and under with accompanying adults (who can purchase lunch for \$5 exact change).
- Kickoff for the **Summer Reading Challenge** is June 1 and will feature many programs for children (weekdays when open) as well as some programs for teens and adults. The Summer Reading Challenge is 10 books read or 10 hours listened to. Participants may bring in a list or email to get added to help our finisher numbers. Some big performances will include a puppet show, a magician, a balloon twister, Wild Man Dan, Michael Albert pop artist, and the Butterfly Effect.

Still looking for gift card donors for bonus finishers (Bonus finishers are those who read or listen beyond the minimum and are entered into drawings.)

- Still accepting requests for **Zip Books**, which allows people to request items not available at a Kern County Library to help build a community driven collection. The program allows the library to purchase a book from Amazon and send it to the requestor's house. They then return the book to the library when finished with it, letting the staff know it is a Zip Book. These books are then cataloged for either the Ridgecrest Branch or other

branches in the Kern County Library System. It is uncertain if Kern was accepted for another fiscal year.

- The collection bin for the **Lions Club Plastic Drive** is in the library near the Veteran's table. Bring in clean plastic bags and overwrap. This applies to grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags (shake out crumbs!), plastic overwrap on bottled water, toilet paper or paper towels and similar products, bubble wrap and air pillows, plastic shipping envelopes. Basically, any stretchy plastic. Here is the link to help determine what can be saved: <https://nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1>

When 1,000 pounds of plastic are collected, NexTrex will donate a bench that will be placed near the Veteran's Memorial Park at Pinney Pool. If you know a business owner that uses a lot of plastic bags and overwrap, this might be a good way to help. They should contact the Lions Club for additional information. There are currently over 150 pounds collected. The Plastic Drive goes through the middle of February 2025.

Vice-President, Membership Report. Carol reported:

- Since the last meeting we have received 7 new members and 18 renewals.
- The May newsletter expense was \$123.29 compared to \$112.15 for the January newsletter. Both were well below our prior bulk mail costs.

Treasurer's Report. Nani provided copies of the latest report.

- As of 30 April, income for the month totaled \$3,912.43 and YTD totaled \$8,391.67.
- FRBL 2-day book sale April 21-22, made \$2,395.60, exceeding our goal of \$2,000.
- Account balances are:
 - Checking/cash: \$34,240.06
 - Savings: \$475.05
 - Certificate: \$111,728.28
 - Total \$146,443.39

Vice-President, Book Sales. Jil Richards:

- Jil discussed a proposed collaboration between Frank Johns (Blue Elephant Enterprises) and FRBL in selling FRBL books online via Amazon, with 75% of the net profit going to FRBL and the remaining 25% going to Blue Elephant. Jil put together a proposed contract for our review, which she will email to us for a vote.
- Discussed the Jane's military books and the high value of some of the more recent editions.
- FRBL will be receiving 12 boxes of fiction books bequeathed to FRBL.

Old Business:

- John Freeman discussed making a proposal to the historical society in our bid to obtain the old Ridgecrest Library building for the FRBL bookstore. He mentioned that the Quilt Guild has close ties to the Historical Society, so this may not be so easy to do.
- Fundraisers:
 - The Pizza Factory fundraiser is every third Wednesday of the month. Upcoming summer dates are June 19, July 17, and August 21. They will continue throughout the year.
 - Julie Gervais, former FRBL member-at-large, is spearheading efforts to have the Ridgecrest Cinemas host a fundraiser movie sometime this summer.
 - There is a possibility of working with Rotary on a fundraiser called Totally Tables.
 - We also discussed having the Shaved Ice Shack at future book sales.
- Still no word on when and how many of the 50 boxes of China Lake Museum books might be donated to FRBL

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

The next meeting will be August 21, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Saxton