

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Board Meeting Minutes, 21 January 2026

Board members present: Jerry Bradley, Carol Pearson, Nani Banks, Julie Gervais, Debbie Pio, John Freeman, Kim Metcalf, RBL Supervisor Charissa Wagner, Deb Fields.

Call to Order:

- Meeting of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (FRBL) Board was called to order at 1:02 pm.
- Agenda approved with revisions.
- November minutes approved.

President's Report

- Welcome from Jerry
- Confirmation that Board members are all members of FRBL (confirmed)
- Thank and honor FRBL volunteers
 - Simple potluck provided by the board, possible dates during the week of April 19 (coincides with National Volunteer Week), location at the Library conference room, include door prizes

RCL Branch Supervisor's Report

- Library closure extended to 24 February
- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Updates include light switches, electrical, cameras, and LED lights
 - There will be some work to continue after 24 February, Grand re-Opening when all improvements complete
- Library continues to offer express walk up services and provide access to library materials
 - November 652, December 445 (compared to October 3525)
- Upcoming programs:
 - Winter Reading Challenge: All ages (Beanstalk for logging)
 - California State Campaign "Every Story Counts"
 - Will track how and why patrons use the library, survey in person and online
 - Ridgecrest Recommends Reading Challenge February - December
 - Local patron favorites for 2025
 - One Book One Coast: Non-fiction topics will March - May
 - March: "They Called Us Enemy" by George Takei, Japanese internment, will look to Friends of Manzanar for ideas and information
 - Plant a Seed Summer reading
 - Look for local connections :Ridgecrest Community Garden, Indigenous, Maturango Museum and ties to the Gardening Club (Bev Hill)

Membership VP Report

- 7 new members 6 renewals were recorded.

Treasurer's Report

- Nani distributed and discussed Financial Reports for November, December and YTD and the Proposed Budget for 2026
- Jerry provided a graph with Store Net Income
- Book Store lease
 - o Discussion if it will need to be canceled (01 May is the 30 day notice), renegotiated, or renewed
 - o Discussion about the store remaining open, the service to the community it provides, the fiduciary duty to FRBL, getting more traffic to the store

Store Manager's Report

- Lights have been replaced, 4 bookcases were donated
- Savage Shakes has opened next door
- Mary Lundstrom spoke with the landlord and determined the book store can make use the shed behind the store (would not replace needed rental type storage)
- Jay Nolan Services is volunteering every Friday shift
- Would like to get more volunteers to sign up for slots
- BOGO puzzles, games, Beanie Babies
- February: Romance books \$1 & Blind Date with a book
- Stamp collection was donated, suggested contacting S&M to see if they have need
- Boxes of "collectibles" 100+ boxes in storage facility

February Fundraiser Dinner 02/21

- o 80 total tickets, 20 will be for sale at the Book Store, other tickets sold at Mediterranean Flavors, via QR code on the flyer , FRBL webpage or via Zeffy link
- o Jerry presented the event flyer; flyer will be posted to FRBL Facebook page, local newspaper DI Press Release, Carol will send it to members, include it in newsletter
- o Should make \$37 per ticket
- o Looking for Auction/Raffle items - Jerry will contact local artists
- o Myrna will present the evening/foods: charcuterie, salad, rice, chicken, variety of desserts, Mediterranean cookbook centerpieces, and there will be wine and beer for sale
- o If the raffle license is not in a silent auction will be held

New Business

- Monthly Pizza Factory fundraiser will continue, Deb will arrange aim for 3rd Wednesday each month 2026 Budget- Motion to approve, Motioned and Seconded, Approved
- Additional store advertising venues
 - o Banner to display at Maturango (or fence line?)
 - o Swap Sheet - Submit, negotiate
 - o Sea van with billboard at Library lot

- o Facebook paid ad/sponsored ad
 - o Yodel (city)
 - o Chamber of Commerce
- Vicki is working to sale the collectible and will begin advertising high value items and another volunteer is selling mechanics focused books
- John/Julie/Mary addressing book storage options
- Ideas for book store special events: February romance, BOGO, Blind Date, Spring Bag sale, Members Only sale, need a date to add to the newsletter
- Ideas for future fundraisers
 - o Kim brought up a \$5000 grant from Kern Valley Health Care
- Deb asked about t-shirts; difficult to do with pre-orders. Charissa mentioned a web seller that prints the shirt on demand for individual sales.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be 1:00 pm Wednesday February 18.