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## Cochise County Library District

*"Public programs...personal service"*

Minutes of the **April 24, 2024**, meeting of  
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting came to order at 1:08 pm, at the Cochise County Library District in Bisbee.

**Members and guests present:** Cinda Combs (Bisbee's Copper Queen Library); Stephanie Fulton (Huachuca City Public Library); Diane Hildebrandt (Huachuca City Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District), Karly Scarbrough (Sierra Vista Public Library); Abraham Villarreal (Douglas Public Library, CLC Chair); Margaret White (Douglas Public Library)

**Absent:** Benson Public Library, Tombstone City Library, Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library

**Minutes from prior meetings:** Diane Hildebrandt moved to approve the minutes from the Citizen Liaison Council meetings held on April 19 and October 18, 2023.\* Karly Scarbrough seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

*\* There was no quorum on October 18, so minutes from the April meeting were not approved then.*

### Member reports:

**Bisbee's Copper Queen Library:** Cinda Combs shared news and highlights from Bisbee.

The Copper Queen Library is one of 14 finalists for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest award for libraries and museums in the US. The library was nominated by Representative Raul Grijalva; this year's winners will be announced in May.

The library has been very busy and has some great programs coming up, including the annual Ice Cream Social and Early Literacy Fair at the San Jose Annex on May 10, and a concert featuring Gertie and the TO Boys at City Park on June 14.

The library has used grant funds from the University of Arizona Center for Rural Health to put together a Tough Topics collection and related handouts; other grants and partnerships have

allowed the library to add birding backpacks and blood pressure monitors for checkout, along with winter health & hygiene kits which were handed out to residents in need.

Jason Macoviak and Alison Williams from the library staff assisted with judging entries from the Children's Creative Writing Contest offered as part of the Cochise College Creative Writing Celebration.

See attached flyers and handouts for more details on happenings at CQL.

**Huachuca City Library:** Diane Hildebrandt (from the Friends of HCPL) and Stephanie Fulton provided updates from Huachuca City. They had some additional updates later in the meeting, which are included in this section for easy reference.

From the Friends of the Library (Diane Hildebrandt):

The Friends are finally an official 501c3 nonprofit! Securing nonprofit status took quite a while, and they encountered roadblocks along the way, but they are very excited to have completed the process.

Ticket sales for the Friends' annual Christmas in July gift basket raffle starts May 4, with tickets available at CAL Ranch. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Holding this event in the spring/summer has been very successful.

The Friends are also excited about the new book box the Library District provided for Whetstone.

From the library (Stephanie Fulton):

The library has been extremely busy, and has several new and continuing grant projects. These include wi-fi hotspots, improvements to walking paths and parks, and storywalks. The storywalks are off to a great start; in the future, the library hopes to include children's artwork and writing in the displays along with educational panels about the natural environment.

It is budget season, yay.

The library has been working with SEACAP and Chiricahua Community Health Clinics to offer needed services in town; schedules may be adjusted to reflect changes in attendance. The library has been offering a grant-funded diaper bank for area residents. Grant funding has expired, but several organizations contributed additional diapers so the program will continue while they last. One family in Douglas has been able to participate because the diapers and supplemental supplies travel to Douglas via the library courier.

The library is working with partner agency to offer summer meals to kids participating in the Summer Splash program. The library serves children in the Tombstone Unified School District, which includes Huachuca City, as well as kids from the Whetstone area.

The library hosted AARP tax prep volunteers again this year, and the service was very popular.

The Spotlight on Speakers series is going strong, with presenters including local author Diane Hildebrandt and a couple with a big following who do programs about UFOs and related topics.

Library hours at the community center are ongoing. The numbers haven't been great, but the library has added a storytime and craft series to bring families in.

The Friends of the Library continue to offer great support, and this summer they are supporting two paid presenters for the summer reading program: a foam party and a visit from Wildman Phil. Smokey Bear will also be visiting over the summer.

National Night Out and the annual Back to School Backpack giveaway is coming up July 26.

Cox has added broadband service in the area and is supporting projects at the library and/or the school. The company will also sponsor movies in the park.

The library hosted eclipse viewing onsite and at the local school... and Stephanie is struggling to hire enough lifeguards to staff the pool this summer.

The library is working with Healthy Huachuca and the local community garden to establish a seed library.

Cooperative Extension and Chicanos por la Causa will partner with the library to offer a Get Out and Play Day on May 4.

The library is also planning a Summer Splash book club.

**Sierra Vista Public Library:** Along with representing Sierra Vista on the Citizen Liaison Council, Karly is currently President-Elect for the Arizona Library Association. As President, she hopes to visit libraries all over the state, but in the meantime she is working to visit all the libraries in Cochise County. 😊

Karly noted that the Sierra Vista Library Commission was dissolved as part of a reorganization of commissions that had historically had gaps in their rosters. There is a new combined commission that officially includes the library, though the library is not named as part of its title. Karly is no longer part of that commission but has volunteered to continue representing Sierra Vista as part of the CLC.

The Sierra Vista library has added a book vending machine on Fort Huachuca following the success of the book vending machine at the local mall. The machines are funded in part by the Friends of the Library, who also assist the library in purchasing self-check machines and other high-cost items.

The Book Nook Café at the library has been temporarily closed after the previous operators moved on to other projects, but it will reopen soon as a satellite location of Bisbee's Café Cornucopia.

The library continues to offer Hoopla streaming service but has found it too successful (since cost is based on usage), so they are no longer promoting it.

In-house computer use has dropped but hotspot checkouts are very high. The biggest increases in circulation recently have been videogames and pretend-and-play toys. Ebooks and digital audio are also extremely popular with SV patrons.

**Douglas Public Library:** Margaret White shared updates from Douglas.

DPL applied to be part of NASA's Moon Trees program, but is still waiting to hear back.

The library's tutoring program (offered in partnership with Cochise College) is still going strong.

Borderlands Restoration Network has continued to offer help with the library's native plant patio, and hopefully funding will be available for ongoing collaboration.

The library's after school snack program continues to be a big draw. Grant funding for the program has come from various sources, and the snacks have been part of the broader "Healthy Choices @ Your Library" program, which also includes presentations on health topics from partners with UA Cooperative Extension and Cochise Health and Social Services). At the start of the program, the library distributed approximately 400 snack bags per month. Now the number is more like 800 snack bags each month. (Wow!)

The library's Chess Club, presented by Cochise Chess, has been a hit with all ages. Chess events at the library now draw as many as 75-80 people.

The library gave away 500 pairs of eclipse glasses between the October 2023 solar eclipse and the eclipse in April 2024.

Raul Grijalva's staff continues to visit the library each month; the next visit will be May 9.

The library has been working with the Arizona Department of Water Resources to provide resources – including a dedicated computer workstation – for residents filing paperwork related to the new Active Management Area.

Margaret and other Cochise County staff included an excellent training series presented by Law4AZ and the Coconino County Law Library, covering legal resources for residents and how to handle a legal reference interview.

The library is participating in the Cochise County School Superintendent's Read Across Cochise program, and offering a family and caregiver support series presented by SEAGO.

The library hosted a Community FAFSA Night with Cochise College on February 15, and had 45-50 attendees!

The Arizona Memory Project plans to expand its coverage of the digitized Douglas Dispatch, and some of the collection will also be available through the Library of Congress historical newspaper collection.

Chicanos por la Causa offered a program to connect people with electric bill assistance in April.

Hotspots continue to circulate like crazy.

**There was some discussion about hotspots and hotspot vendors** Verizon and T-Mobile's Mobile Beacon. Public libraries must include filtering if hotspots are provided with grant funds; academic libraries cannot use filtering. Mobile Beacon and Verizon both had technical and service challenges, but the libraries using Mobile Beacon seem to be fairly satisfied after a bumpy period last year.

**Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library:** Michelle Leyvas was not able to attend the meeting but shared updates from the library:

We received the ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grant 2nd round for \$10,000. We will be replacing the handicap door. Also going to get some audiobooks. More neurodiverse items for all ages such as memory kits, etc.

Our autism room is almost ready hope to have it done within a month.

We have a Community Sewing Circle that meets every Monday with Lucy Wilson. She was our programs coordinator for several years before she retired.

We have a Community Cooking Class every Friday, along with our exercise classes on Wednesday and Friday mornings for seniors.

### **Director's Report:**

Amadee Ricketts shared highlights from the Library District. See the attached statistics for 2023.

**Call to the public:** No members of the public attended.

**For the good of the order:** Karly Scarbrough mentioned that Cochise College libraries would like to participate in the One Card program, and there was some discussion of logistics. The college libraries also plan to join the countywide Culture Pass program.

Karly also noted that Mychal Threets (best known for promoting "library joy") will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 AzLA conference in October.

**The next meeting date will be in October, 2024.**

The tentative date is October 23 to avoid conflicting with the AzLA conference, and the location will be a Cochise College facility or one of the municipal libraries.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts