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Cochise County Library District

"Public programs...personal service"

Minutes of the **October 29, 2025**, meeting of
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting was held at Huachuca City Public Library and called to order at 1:03 pm.

Members and guests present: Sue Burmeister (Tombstone City Library); Stephanie Fulton (Huachuca City Public Library); Diane Hildebrandt (Huachuca City Public Library); Jackie Jacobson (Huachuca City Public Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District); Karly Scarbrough (Sierra Vista Public Library); Abe Villarreal (Douglas Public Library, CLC Chair); Kathy Wozniak (Huachuca City Public Library)

Absent: Benson Public Library, Bisbee's Copper Queen Library, Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library

Attendance note: Karly Scarbrough joined the meeting a few minutes late, so the meeting lacked a quorum when it was called to order. Minutes from the April meeting were accepted at the end.

Member reports:

Tombstone City Library: Sue Burmeister shared updates from Tombstone.

Tombstone had a wonderful summer reading program, with around 20 kids in attendance. The program ran for two weeks and was held at the American Legion Hall. The coordinator did an excellent job, and they had lots of volunteer help. They have already ordered State Library-provided supplies for 2026. 😊

The library has five new computers up and running now. They were purchased with support from the Friends of the Library and the Sons of the Legion.

For Halloween, the Friends will set up a table at the community's Trunk or Treat and give out goodie bags. This event was a success last year, and takes the place of the Friends participating in the town's Christmas program.

The library is still working on bringing in more children and young people, which is tough because of the town's demographics.

Huachuca City Public Library: Steph Fulton shared news from Huachuca City.

Steph will be moving to a new position with the Library District, and her last day with HCPL will be November 14.

The summer reading program was busy and fun, and the juggling show and foam party were especially popular. Those big programs were sponsored by the Friends of the Library (thanks, Friends!!) and the Huachuca Area Republican Women. The color run was also fun although it brought in a smaller crowd and Steph is still finding bits of color on things, months later.

HC received an AARP Community Challenge grant which will provide some permanent equipment in the parks. That project and other grant projects Steph has been handling will be assigned to other staff via the town council.

Speaking of grants:

- The library's LSTA grant for hotspot lending was approved, and four missing hotspots have been returned.
- The library received a quick-response grant from the AZ State Library for Launchpads and Wonderbooks, plus a Dollar General Youth Literacy grant for WhaZoodles (standalone audio players that are Playaway products like Launchpads and Wonderbooks).

Four classes from Huachuca City School have been visiting the library regularly. The library's partnership with a nonprofit from Patagonia has developed into an afterschool club held at the school.

The Friends of the Library did an amazing job with the annual Christmas in July raffle baskets, and Friends book sales are going very well including the small book display inside the library.

The town's Creepy Candy Crawl is coming up on Friday and this year will include a haunted house and a shuttle between locations. There are more big Halloween events in the area this year, which may mean a dip in attendance.

The town will offer a free Thanksgiving meal at the Lions Club the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and the annual holiday cheer caravan is coming up on December 1 (Upper HC) and December 2 (Lower HC).

The annual Polar Express event will be held on December 12, with a reading at the bandstand, and model trains, Santa, silver bells and gift bags at the library, sponsored by the Friends. The parade will follow on Saturday December 13.

Huachuca City will offer a holiday meal at the Activity Center, which will cost \$5 and be catered by the Landmark Café. Thanks to a couple of Friends who are sponsoring the event, advance registration will not be required this year.

The Friends finished painting the book sale Conex, which looks great, and they are still maintaining the very popular book box in Whetstone as well as a little library at the Community Center.

The library's Spotlight on Speakers series continues with upcoming presentations by Canyon Vista Medical Center and Cochise Health & Social Services. The library will also offer Medicare help sessions and VITA tax preparation assistance.

In January, the Friends will sponsor an event with Kerry Grombacher, a western storyteller and singer.

In other Friends news, officers were recently elected or reelected.

Willcox's Elsie S Hogan Library: Michelle Leyvas from Willcox was unable to attend, but sent the following update which was shared by Amadee from the Library District:

We received an LSTA grant called A Spectrum of Learning to finish our autistic room. We have lost our part-time people so some of our programs are no longer taking place. We do however have some volunteers that help with storytime, help with regular library duties, and one that volunteers her time for a program on glass fusing. Our summer reading had a great turnout this year with 15 to 30 people at the programs.

Sierra Vista Public Library: Karly Scarbrough provided an update on behalf of Sierra Vista.

The library vending machines at the mall and on Fort Huachuca remain popular, with each machine circulating +/- 100 items per month. That is impressive considering that each machine holds fewer than 100 items.

At the last CLC meeting, there was a question about whether the library encountered any red tape or challenges around placing a vending machine on the base. Karly asked Emily Duchon, from SVPL, and Emily said that it was simple except in relation to the internet/network connection required for the machine. For security reasons, the machine must connect via its own stand-alone server.

Cookbooks, DVDs, and kids' materials have been especially popular at the Fort Huachuca vending location.

SVPL's budget process was okay, and the library was able to send four staff members to the Arizona Library Association conference. Emily presented a session at the conference.

The Friends of the Library contribute around \$20,000 to the library annually. The Friends still operate a storefront bookstore, and a subset operates the Little Library Bookstore located at the library.

The library will offer a Winter Reading Challenge starting in January.

The library also received a grant for a solar charging station (for ebikes & similar) which will be located outside the library. This is good because this kind of battery can present a fire hazard if charging indoors.

The library will add new self-check machines which also include print release stations and study room reservations. The old machines are about eight years old and no longer supported by the vendor.

Along with representing Sierra Vista on the Citizen Liaison Council, Karly just completed her term as President of the Arizona Library Association.

In that capacity, she noted that AzLA is still going strong in support of libraries across Arizona. The Association's 100th anniversary is coming up in 2026, and the centennial conference will be held in Tucson in October.

Copper Queen Library: Cinda Combs, who represents Bisbee's Copper Queen Library, was not able to attend the meeting but shared library updates in advance (attached).

She highlighted the library's 3-Sentence Horror Story program, the State Library grant providing Launchpads and WhaZoodles, the library's participation in the BRATS (Bisbee Rolling Art Transport Society) Parade, new Early Literacy Kits, and the upcoming Adult/Team Spelling Bee fundraiser for the Friends of CQL.

The Spelling Bee will be held at Central School on Saturday, November 15, and tickets are available via EventBrite.

Douglas Public Library: Margaret White was not able to attend the meeting but sent updates. Abe shared the information. Highlights are below, and the document is attached.

- DPL is partnering with Cochise College again this year to offer tutoring for younger students.
- The library received a \$2,500 grant from the State Library for Launchpads.

- The library is using the new film streaming service from Swank (the film licensing company) for public screenings.
- The library was recognized in two categories (Best Customer Service and best Non-profit/Charity) in the Best of Douglas awards.
- Margaret is being recognized by the City of Douglas as the city's Extra Mile Day honoree. (Congratulations, Margaret!)

Director's Report:

Amadee Ricketts shared updates from the Library District, and a handout with highlights from FY 2024/25. Update topics included:

- FY 2024/25 stats
- Retirements of longtime staff, and welcome to Stephanie Fulton as the new ILL Coordinator
- Arizona State Library – budget uncertainty and Library District goal of maintaining continuity of service
- Partnership conversations between the Library District and Cochise College
- New “you saved...” feature available for library checkout receipts
- Organizations supporting libraries and Friends/Foundations

Minutes from prior meetings: Karly Scarbrough moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 23, 2025. Diane Hildebrandt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

The next meeting date will be in April 2026, and may be a lunch meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts

Citizen Liaison Meeting Notes for Copper Queen Library

October 2025

1. 3-Sentence Horror Story

Autumn has arrived at the Copper Queen Library! For the fourth year, the Copper Queen Library is asking for submissions for our 3-Sentence Horror Story Community Showcase. Submitted stories are showcased at the Main Library in Old Bisbee and online at copperqueenlibrary.com.

2. Launchpads

Thanks to a grant from the Arizona State Library, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Service, the Copper Queen Library received \$5000 to purchase technology devices, including Launchpads. Launchpads are preloaded tablets that make learning engaging. From early literacy and math games for kids to language learning and brain training for teens and adults, Launchpads offer a safe, offline way to explore new skills. No internet or set up required!

3. WhaZoodles

From the same grant, the CQL was able to purchase WhaZoodles for kids. WhaZoodles offer a learning approach that engages children through stories, activities, physical movement, interactive games, guided meditations and immersive nature soundscapes. This device is a screen-free experience.

4. B.R.A.T.S.

The Copper Queen Library will be participating in this year's B.R.A.T.S. (Bisbee Rolling Art Transport Society) Parade. The library is hosting two workshops at the Annex in October for the public to help us get our B.R.A.T. ready for this year. New to this year's Book B.R.A.T. will be Pete the Cat and his surf board.

5. Early Literacy Kits

The Library's Early Literacy Coordinator has been working on the creation of our Early Literacy Kits. Kits include books, letter and number activities, and hand-on tools that build vocabulary, comprehension and fine motor skills. The kits are designed to give parents the confidence and tools to teach their children about letters, numbers, shapes, opposites and colors. The kits include at home activities and board books that are themed to each kit.

6. FREE Narcan from Cochise County Health and Human Services

The Copper Queen Library is participating in the Cochise County Health Department's Overdose Prevention Program by offering FREE Narcan kits to patrons. No ID is required and no questions asked.

7. Internet Hotspot Program Grant - \$4000

The Copper Queen Library received a \$4000 grant from the Arizona State Library with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Service to extend our internet hotspot program. Funds will be used to replace hotspots and pay for monthly contracts. The CQL's Internet Hotspot Program remains very popular and provides free internet to many local community members.

8. Seasonal Offerings

The Copper Queen Library attend Greenway School's Literacy Night in September and plans give away books at the City of Bisbee's Trunk or Treat Halloween Celebration in Vista Park on Friday, October 31, 2025. The Library will also offer their Health & Hygiene Kits in December to Bisbee's most at-risk community members, as well as our holiday-themed Adult/Teen Take & Make Kits. Also in December, the Library will again host their Secret Santa program which allows patrons to purchase children's books for the CQL off an amazon wish list, as well as their FREE holiday book giveaway (with free gift wrapping!) at the Bisbee Community Market on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

9. Friends' Fundraiser : Adult/Team Spelling Bee

The Friends of the Copper Queen Library are hosting a new Spelling Bee fundraiser on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at Central School Project.

The Details :

Pre-Bee Time - Catch the Buzz!

Mingle and enjoy a no host bar in the Bee-stro with wine, beer, a signature cocktail, mocktail and other non alcoholic choices. Appetizers will also be available for purchase. You'll get to compare notes on your favorite teams, plus pick up your ballots to vote for best dressed team and other totally ridiculous prizes. Get there early so you'll be prepared - and appropriately buzzed!

Preliminary Round - Separate the Worker Bees from the Queens (so to speak)

Join our wacky emcee, Miss-Spelling, as she takes you through the rules and puts the teams of contestants through their paces in a speedy single elimination round. Cheer on your favorites, boo the villains and keep it real! Then you can adjourn to the Bee-stro for intermission , food and drink to prepare your Hive Mind for the Final Event...

Killer Bee Round - Which team will hoist the massive Bizz-Bee Trophy?

Miss-Spelling will really put the pressure on - and you can too! The top two teams will have their stingers out on this one - it's cut throat foolishness! Bee there!

DOUGLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY UPDATES

- DPL has resumed its partnership with Cochise College to provide tutoring/homework help for Douglas students in elementary through high school grade levels.
- DPL was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Arizona State Library to purchase launchpads for the children's collection. The launchpads do not require an internet connection and are pre-loaded with educational programs.
- Swank Movie Licensing recently added a streaming option to their annual subscription and DPL has been using the streaming service with positive results for the past few months.
- DPL was recently nominated by Douglas residents for the "Best Customer Service" and "Best Non-Profit/Charity" categories in the annual "Best of Douglas" competition and won first place for "Best Customer Service" and tied for first place with the American Legion Fred Hilburn Post 11 for "Best Non-Profit/Charity."
- Margaret White will be recognized at the City of Douglas' special council meeting on October 29 as the city's "Extra Mile Day" Honoree. The award states, "Your committed dedication, generous spirit, and passion for making a difference distinguish you. Whether leading by example, or offering quiet support behind the scenes, you consistently go above and beyond to uplift others and spark positive change. Your efforts inspire everyone around you to reach higher, give more, and act with purpose. Thank you for demonstrating what it means to go the extra mile." In response, Margaret wrote, "I am honored and humbled to be recognized as this year's Extra Mile Day Honoree. The library's exemplary community service would not be possible without the library's outstanding staff and the City's unwavering support. I am truly grateful to my staff, to the City, and to be part of the excellent City of Douglas team."