Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2019 4:30 pm

Redeemer Church—Room 110

Members enjoyed a pizza and salad dinner provided by BJ’s Brewhouse.

Janice Lievens began the formal meeting at 5:10 pm.

Janice thanked BJ’s again for the food and reminded everyone again to sign up to receive BJ’s Awesome

Achievement certificates for their students. She had certificates available for members to take to use with

their students.

The link is <https://www.bjsrestaurants.com/community/kids-and-families/awesome-achievement>.

She has simplified directions printed out for anyone who needs them.

She reminded everyone that we will celebrate our 22 Forsyth County Young Authors winners with their

teachers and families with a reception at the beginning of our next meeting on Thursday, April 11 **(later changed to Thursday, April 25)**

* Students will have the chance to read their submissions aloud.
* We will have cookies for the students, their families, and teachers. FCRA members are asked to contribute cookies for this celebration. Those bringing cookies will need to have them there by 4:15 pm.
* Volunteers are also needed to decorate according to the theme “What Lifts My Heart Up”. Ideas include hearts, butterflies, and balloons.
* The state reception for NC Young Authors will be in Raleigh on March 30.

Jeannie Evans provided the Secretary’s Report from our last meeting. It will be posted on the FCRA webpage.

Cheryl Key provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Our starting balance for March was $975.74. Our ending balance was $906.86 after membership and

other expenses.

Cheryl also talked about our FCRA service project of providing special books for the Ronald McDonald House.

* These books are for the families who stay there to be able to read and possibly take with them and deal with topics pertaining to having a child/sibling with medical issues.
* A SignUp Genius link will be emailed and can be used by FCRA members to sign up to buy specific books and bring them to the April 25 meeting.
* FCRA will use money from our account to purchase the remaining titles.

Cheryl reminded the group that our other service project is sending money to Peruvian Hearts, an organization

that helps make it possible for girls in Peru to attend school. Our chapter is requesting a grant from the NCRA to help with this contribution.

Janice introduced our speaker, Deb Fidali, media coordinator at Flat Rock Middle School, who shared with us

about the North Carolina Book Awards (sponsored by the NC School Library and Media Association) and this year’s nominees in the Children’s, Junior, and Young Adult (co-sponsored by the NC public libraries) categories. Deb has been on the NC Book Award Committee for 13 years and has focused this year on the Junior book nominees.

Much of Deb’s presentation is available at <http://bit.ly/NCSLMAbookawards>. Here are some of the highlights:

* Books are nominated for the NC Book Awards by NC students starting in the fall of the school year, and the list of nominees is finalized in November.
* There are also book trailers that go with the different books to help pique students’ interest in reading them.
* Deb suggested that having students develop commercials to try to get other kids to read their favorite books is a great way to get students excited about reading new material. This can be done individually or in small groups.
* A goal of the NC Book Awards Committee is to provide students with book options that are representative of their diversity.
* They also try to include some sort of poetry in the selection of books.
* Deb shared several books of each age level with us and reminded us that some picture books are actually Junior level books because of their complexity.
* She also shared some possible extension activities that could be done with certain titles. Other activity ideas can be found in the blog for children’s book awards.
* It’s important to remember that reading graphic novels provides some students with their first positive experiences of enjoying books, so provide these types of books to your students.
* Teachers can collaborate with media specialists about how to engage students in interacting with the books.
* If you can’t find NC Book Award books in your school’s library, check the public library and/or use the Cardinal Library Online System to reserve books you’d like to read and have them sent to a specific library branch.
* She encouraged all FCRA members to read some Young Adult (YA) books in order to get a sense of what today’s preteens and teens are experiencing in life and reading.
* Students are currently voting in their schools for this year’s winners. Some schools use actual voting booths to make the experience more authentic and exciting.
* The NCSLMA website will list next year’s nominees for the NC Book Awards once they are finalized in November.

The meeting ended with the distribution of door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, Secretary