Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019 5:00 pm

Redeemer Church Cafeteria

FCRA President Sabrina Secrest called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm.

She shared the following information:

* She introduced the other board members and thanked them for their work:
  + Vice-President: Allison Duncan
  + Treasurer: Cheryl Key
  + Secretary: Jeannie Evans
  + Young Authors’ Chair: Debbie Cranfill
* The board is working on finalizing the spring programming. We have a lot of good speakers to look forward to.
* All FCRA members need to register online through the North Carolina Reading Association this year because that is how we are collecting information.
  + The link for doing so is <https://www.ncreading.org/state-membership>
  + Members may choose to pay online with a 50 cents charge or can bring $30 in cash or check to the first meeting they attend.
* Members earn .2 teacher renewal credit for each meeting attended. Debbie Cranfill will work with Sabrina to make sure those in the school system get their teacher renewal credits processed correctly.
* We will check attendance two ways (Be sure to do both!):
  + Initialing your attendance in the membership notebook on your page
  + Signing an attendance sheet in the middle of the meeting
* The North Carolina Reading Conference will be held March 22-24, 2020 in downtown Winston-Salem.
  + There will be speakers from all over the country and workshop opportunities.
  + We will be awarding $25 scholarships for attending the conference as door prizes throughout the year.
  + One of the speakers will be Donalyn Miller, and her book is one of the door prizes tonight.
* Remember to follow the Facebook page (Forsyth County Reading Association) for important and timely updates on our programs and other information.
* Service Projects this school year:
  + Ronald McDonald House library book donations
  + Kissing Well—sponsoring a student in Uganda so they can attend school
  + Peruvian Hearts—sponsoring a student in Peru so they can attend school

Secretary’s Report from our April 25, 2019 meeting was given by Jeannie Evans.

Cheryl Key provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Our starting balance for April was $871.86. Our ending balance was $666.54 after expenses.

Last year we received a NCRA grant, and that money was used in the following ways:

* $100 given to Peruvian Hearts
* $100 given to help fund a scholarship for a student in Uganda through Kissing Well.
* The remaining $100 given (along with chapter funds) to purchase books requested for Ronald McDonald House that weren’t already brought in by members.

Other expenses included ILA memberships, NCRA Leadership Conference expenses, & supplies.

Sabrina Secrest was our speaker for the meeting, talking about this year’s Young Authors Project contest.

* + The Young Authors Project is sponsored by NCRA, which is comprised by 20-21 regions throughout the state.
  + Entries can be fiction, essays, poetry, and art.
  + Our council can send in 20 student entries plus one council choice entry.
  + We can send as many Young at Heart (adult) entries as we’d like, so Sabrina encouraged all members to participate.
  + Entries are judged in January.
  + Statewide winning writers will have their entries published in a book and will be honored at a special celebration on March 21 at the Benton Convention Center.
  + Our council hopes to print our own book of local entries and will host our own Young Authors Celebration for Forsyth County winners.
  + Sabrina encouraged all teachers to have their students participate because it helps them have a purpose for their writing.
  + Sabrina also explored this year’s theme: The Magical Power of Words
* She had members do word association activities with the words *community, teacher, enough,* and *maybe* to experience one way of having students take one word and explore it by focusing on word meanings and associations.
* Some of the books she shared with us as good resources for prompting thinking about writing about words were Maybe by Kobe Yamada and Gabriella Barouch, I Am Enough by Grace Byers, Because You Were My Teacher by Sherry North, Word by Word by Word by Patricia Maclachan, Out of Wonder by Kwame Alexander, and The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams.
* She emphasized the importance of helping students understand the power of creating connections by writing down our words. Words call forth something that is inside.
  + A good resource to help with guiding students in this is Peter H. Reynolds’ book Start with a Word.
  + Some of the things judges will be looking for in entries are:
* The voice of the student—needs to come out on the paper
* Use of precise words to provide details that create a picture in the mind
* Word choice—using expanded vocabulary and descriptive words
  + Debbie Cranfill is our council’s Young Authors chair and can be reached at [dccranfill@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:dccranfill@wsfcs.k12.nc.us).
  + The link to the NCRA Young Authors page (with guidelines and additional ideas for helping students write according to the theme) is <https://www.ncreading.org/young-authors>

Collaboration Time

Members sat in groupings according to their teaching grade or emphasis.

Allison Duncan led the group in a heart-mapping exercise as a way of helping students brainstorm words and experiences that they associate with particular feelings like anger or happiness.

Participants shared their hearts and ideas about how they could use this activity in their teaching.

Sabrina announced that next month’s speaker will be Lois Huffman, who will be helping us learn how to teach vocabulary in effective and creative ways.

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, Secretary