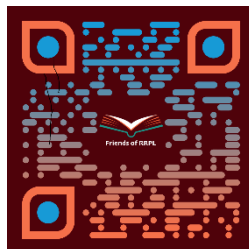




Friends of RRPL Annual Report: July 2025 – June 2026

Friendsrrpl.org



Governing Board:

President – Nancy Ryan Seryak

Vice President – Vid Lutz

Treasurer – Craig Rimlinger

Recording Secretary – Roberta Trutko

Membership Manager – Mary Horvath

Members-at-Large – Jody Hobson, Diane Beer

Committees:

Corporate Sponsorships – Sarah Siebert

Event Support – Jenny Dieringer

Marketing/Media Outreach – Nate Louis

Book Sale Liaison – Hermina Kaczmarek

Library Administration:

Director - Peter Matera

Deputy Director – Trent Ross

Administration Manager – Krista Carte

Mission Statement:

The Friends of the Rocky River Public Library, a nonprofit organization founded in 1971, provides financial support and volunteer services to the library. Through membership dues and fundraising activities, the Friends make possible programs and services, furniture and equipment purchases that the library could not otherwise afford. The Friends enhance the library's ability to serve children, teens, families, seniors and the whole community.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the public. They are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. Each meeting includes the opportunity for all Board and Committee Members, as well as library staff in attendance, to speak about what they are working on at that time. The Annual Meeting with a review of the year's accomplishments and the presentation of the slate of officers is held on the 2nd Tuesday of June at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

President's Report:

Thank you to the Board and library administration for your support and assistance as I served my first term as President.

My initial goals as President included:

- Run efficient and productive board meetings ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to express their opinions.
- Establish a reserve account to plan for future library needs; completed in February 2026 by opening a CD for \$1,500 at First Federal Bank of Lakewood.
- Plan for the library's 100th anniversary; met with Maureen Devito, President of the RRPL Foundation, to discuss how our groups can work together to participate in the celebration.
- Continue to serve on the Scholarship Committee; letters were sent to six local high school guidance counselors informing them of our program; worked with Vid Lutz and Diane Beer to determine the winners.

As the year progressed, further goals were added:

- Implement the change of the fiscal year from July 1 – June 30 to January 1 - December 31.
- Review and update the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures.

Event Chair Jenny Dieringer and Member-at-Large Jody Hobson have informed the Board that they will not be continuing in their roles at the end of their terms expiring 6/30/26. We appreciate their contributions and dedication to Friends and wish them well. Roberta Trutko will be taking on the additional responsibilities of the Event Chair along with her position of Recording Secretary. We are pleased to welcome back Sharon Fruchey who is rejoining the Board as Member-at-Large.

Our officers and committee chairpersons are excellent in their positions. In addition to successfully managing their positions, they initiate and support fundraisers, generously volunteer their time at Friends and library events, and work together very well. I am looking forward to continuing to serve on the Board with such a great team.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ryan Seryak, President

Vice President's Report:

I was honored to serve a second term as Vice President for the Friends of Rocky River Public Library for the 2026 year. As Vice President, I supported the board on internal and external initiatives; below are activities showcasing ones that I was directly involved with.

- Member of the FRRPL Scholarship Selection Committee for 2026. Our work was well received, and additional details are provided by Diane Beer and Nancy Ryan Seryak, accompanying members of the selection committee.
- Sourced donations from local Rocky River patrons for our annual fundraiser.
- Facilitate the monthly meetings when asked.

- Represented our group in the Council of Community and Civic Organization Coalition Meeting – sharing FRRPL’s partnership and mission with the RRPL to the greater group in attendance.
- Organized and led a fundraising event at BW3, raising more than \$390.00.

Best Regards,

Vid Lutz, Vice President

Recording Secretary Report:

I was honored to serve as Secretary for the Friends of RRPL for the 2025-26 year. During this time, I attended all the monthly meetings and took copious minutes, which were then approved by those in attendance. I assisted in various events and activities that Friends sponsored or hosted, such as:

- Serving as the Nominating Committee Chairperson for 2026-27.
- Actively participating at numerous Friends sponsored programs held at the library and acting as an information source to those present.
- Obtaining information on other Friends organizations in the area for use in keeping our Friends vital.
- Assisting Event Support Chairperson, Jenny Dieringer, in purchasing treats, writing thank you notes to the library’s departments, and baking cookies for National Library Workers’ Day.
- Attending and promoting our membership drive at Danny Boy’s restaurant during National Friends of the Library Week. Solicited gift cards from area restaurants and sent a news release to an area publication.
- Attending and promoting membership at a fundraiser at BW3 restaurant in February.

It is with immense pleasure that I look forward to returning as Secretary of Friends for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta L. Trutko, Recording Secretary

Treasurer Report:

The Friends of the Rocky River Public Library had another fantastic year of fundraising, bringing in just under \$20,000 in revenue in FY2025-2026, as of June 1. The generosity of our donors enabled the Friends to provide the library with \$10,000 for its annual contribution as well as some additional funds to support library staff with well-received fleece jackets for the cooler months and upgraded tableware for the staff dining area. Additionally, the Friends have set aside some funds in a certificate of deposit to maximize our revenue.

Many thanks to our wonderful donors for continuously supporting the Friends and, by extension, the library!

Regards,

Craig Rimlinger, Treasurer

Membership Manager Report:

Roles and responsibilities over the past year included:

- Personal thank you letters to donors of \$50 or more
- Participation in the Community Pride Festival at RRPL – August 2025
- Participation in the RRPL library surplus sale – October 2025
- Participation in the Danny Boy's fundraising event – October 2025
- Participation in the FRRPL October Membership Campaign:
 - Letter writing to prospective community businesses soliciting in-kind or gift card donations
 - Emails to prospective members from membership database
 - Collection and tracking of membership donations for gift basket awards
 - Solicited businesses to give in-kind or gift card donations that include Beck Center, Einstein Brothers Bagels, Lake Road Market, Once Upon a Time Toys, Sgt. Clean Car Wash, and Tomorrows, A Salon.
- Participation in appreciation letter writing to RRPL staff – April 2026
- Participation in Kids' Membership Day at Mitchell's Ice Cream – June 2026
- Provide major donor gift information to RRPL for **Inside View** recognition
- Collaborate with FRRPL Corporate Sponsor fundraiser to account for gifts from community businesses

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Horvath, Membership Manager

Corporate Sponsorship Committee:

In 2025, eight local businesses contributed a total of \$2,000 through the Friends of Rocky River Public Library's Corporate Sponsorship Program. Participating sponsors included Aileen Fitzgerald Team Howard Hanna; Canepa Orthodontics; Farah, Roberts & Ganor, Ltd.; G Force Communications; Joe's Deli; The Nest Schools; Northern Title Agency; and River Dental Arts. Corporate sponsors are recognized in Rocky River Public Library's quarterly Inside View newsletter, on the Friends' website, and through a framed certificate displayed at their business. Their support helps fund library programs and events for children, teens, and adults throughout the year, expanding opportunities for learning, enrichment, and community engagement.

Regards,

Sarah Siebert, Corporate Sponsorship Chair

Events Chair:

National Friends of Library Week – October 19 -25 – Friends decorated the library's front display cabinet for National Friends of Library Week. The cabinet displayed raffle gift baskets, membership information and other goodies. Much THANKS to Jody Hobson for all her efforts!



National Library Week Staff Appreciation Day April 21, 2026

Friends Board Members, Jenny Dieringer and Roberta Trutko, provided goodies to Library Staff.

Thank you notes hand-written by Friends Board members were distributed to each of the nine Library Departments.

The staff was grateful for all our efforts and support from the Friends of the Rocky River Public Library.

Planning and discussion began in February with a deadline to drop off Thank You notes by April 14, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Dieringer

Events Chair

Scholarship Committee Report:

This year the scholarship committee consisted of the FRRPL President, Vice President, and one member at large. The online application was updated to add a field for the applicant to enter his or her email address. The application period was January 1, 2026-March 31, 2026.

There was a notice about the scholarship in the “Inside View.” The guidance departments at Rocky River High School, Magnificat High School, Lutheran West High School, St. Joseph Academy, St. Edward High School, and St. Ignatius High School were contacted to promote the scholarship.

The Friends received nine applications from students at six different high schools. Upon reviewing the applications, the committee decide to award two scholarships. Once again, the essay was a deciding factor in who the committee recommended to receive the scholarships. Maeve Costello from Rocky River High School and Autumn Weidus from Lutheran West High School each received one \$500

scholarship. All applicants were emailed to inform them whether they had been awarded a scholarship or not.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Beer, Vid Lutz, and Nancy Ryan Seryak

Scholarship Committee

Member-at-Large Report:

The following images are the projects that I worked on for the Friends of the Library 2025-2026. The primary contribution was the Little Library Book Box, finished and installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Hobson, Member-at-Large



Little Library Installed (Yippee !)
11-12-2025



Because of
strong winds ...



New welded base
by Fred Hobson
4-12-2026



Display Case
Friends Membership Drive



National Library Week
Staff
Appreciation Day
poster



Christmas in July
Pasta Frame Dec.