

NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee meeting minutes

Friday, March 10, 2023

- Welcome
 - In attendance: Judith Pissano, Kate McGivern, Carol Phillips, Leah Kloc
- Old Business
 - Minutes from March meeting
 - Judith approved, Carol seconded.
- NJLA Honors & Awards nominations
 - IF award – nominating the two educators from Washington Township. Everyone in attendance is in agreement.
- NJLA Conference
 - Table
 - Looking for committee volunteers to sit at the table whenever possible. Also looking for ideas of what to have at the table: meeting room template, tips for frontline staff. Maybe ALA resources as well. Also something “fun” like candy, stickers, or buttons.
 - Proposal accepted for a Friday afternoon program at 2pm. “Book Challenge Toolkit” is the title.
 - Will consist of a lawyer, collection development, and a public library staff member who had a recent book challenge.
 - Committee members are welcome to attend and participate.
- Regional Response Team
 - Statewide coalition with NJASL and EveryLibrary and LibraryLinkNJ. Brett from NJLA and Ralph from LibraryLinkNJ prefer not to partner with EveryLibrary because they would have to share membership data. Still looking for some kind of coalition still though without committing to this three-year commitment. Eileen Palmer recommended ALA One Click Politics. Brett talking to his counterparts in other states to see this (e.g., <https://www.mirighttoread.com/>). Also considering hiring some in the NJLA office to do more of this.
- Garden State Equity and HiTOPS
 - NJASL and Judith met with these two different organizations. Provide support and training regarding LGBT youth. Helpful as many of the targeted books have LGBT content. Might do a presentation at NJASL’s conference in December. Have volunteers who are willing to attend BOE meetings. HiTOPS also has a lending library for youth.
- Grant-funded support group through New York Public Library Association to talk about IF issues. Anyone can attend; Judith was able to pop into one virtually.
 - Can we do something similar here? Or are LibraryLink meetups enough?
- Meeting room policy template
 - Judith still working on this, hopes to have something to proofread/review by the next meeting. Reviewing other policies to see best practices.
- New book challenges received through form. Three were submitted this last month. One for “Gender Queer” and one for a YA fantasy.
- Judith working with Alicia to see why email subscription list isn’t working always.