

Minutes
Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee
Friday, July 22, 2022

1. Welcome
 - a. first meeting of a new NJLA “year” (July 1-June 30)
 - b. we are a subcommittee of the Public Policy section
 - c. send Judith your availability/preferences for meetings so can get as many people as possible to attend each meeting: jpissano@gcls.org
2. In Attendance:
 - a. Judith Pissano (chair), Chip McAuley, Leah Kloc, Kiana Kirby, Katherine McGivern, Richard Kearney, Jen Fitzgerald
3. Old Business
 - a. NJLA conference
 - i. 2 sponsored programs: a pre-conference (3 hours) and a conference (1 hour) session. Good speakers, very knowledgeable about IF issues. Presented NHV high school students with IF award at conference.
 - ii. NJLA Executive Board meeting this week: already asking people to think about conference proposals. So we should start bouncing around ideas. Judith will make a shared document in the IF Google Drive that we can use for brainstorming.
 - b. Rapid Response Team
 - i. The idea of the team is to disseminate information very quickly when there’s a book challenge, protest at school board meeting, etc. Need to be ahead instead of behind.

- ii. 13 book challenges in NJ public libraries already this year, which is higher than usual. One using the claim of obscenity law: [Section 2C:34-3 - Obscenity for persons under 18 :: 2013 New Jersey Revised Statutes :: US Codes and Statutes :: US Law :: Justia](#)
 - 1. Question: do we also want to have a presence around curriculum objections (e.g., ‘controversial’ NJ DOE [standards](#) around health and sexuality)? Answer: probably not as much a focus as book challenges (more our purview) but we should do our best to fight any misinformation that is circulating.
- iii. Working with NJASL and others. More volunteers always needed for RRT.
- iv. Judith presented a proposal at NJLA Executive Board meeting to work with EveryLibrary (based out of Illinois) and have an NJ Right to Read portal (a “one-stop shop” landing page with lots of information, providing updates to all librarians to keep them informed).
 - 1. Access would be through NJLA main website, a few of us would have back-end access to update.
 - 2. Would have thousands of folks ready to sign on right away. Monetary cost to this though. Need to have approval from NJLA. (Fyi, NJLA currently operating with an interim director.)
 - 3. Similar example from Michigan: [MI Right to Read](#)

4. New Business

- a. NJLA President asked for all NJLA committees/section to have some Priorities / Goals and identify Partnerships
 - i. Judith will also create a shared document for us to develop some ideas around this. Maybe writing a newsletter item for NJLA? Or writing newspaper articles for a wider audience?
- b. Teen Toolbox
 - i. Subcommittee members invited to speak at Young Adult Services Section training on Friday, December 16 at 10am. (Held at Monroe Library or could possibly be virtual if needed.)
 - 1. Volunteers needed: reach out if interested in being a speaker
- c. Request for book chapter
 - i. short turnaround time with deadline of August 1. Clarification received that it could be just an abstract by then.
 - ii. contact them directly if have any questions.