**Diversity and Outreach Section minutes**

**Thursday, February 26, 10:00 – 12:00 noon**

**Piscataway Public Library**

**Attendance:** Enola Romano (Montclair), Kyle Craig (Rockaway Township PL), Jeff Cupo (Montville/South Plainfield), Allan Kleiman (Montville), Kate Baker (Piscataway), Michael Maziekian (Kenilworth), Mary Kearns-Kaplan (TBBC), Peggy Cadigan (NJSL), Andrew Luck (Paterson), Jill D’Amico (EBPL), Jen Schureman (GCLS), Mimi Lee (NJSL), Beth Bliss (Brigantine/ACLS)

*Meeting called to order at 10:16 a.m.*

**Review of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

**Reports from co-presidents**

Nominations are needed for a slate of executive officers - to prepare for this, Nola shared position descriptions with the group. It was moved and approved that they be adopted.

Those interested in nominating someone or themselves can contact Nola. She still needs nominees for secretary.

The group also recognized Nola and Allan for their effort and service in shepherding the section/sections into its current (awesome) form.

Nola reached out to Ocean County Library to ask about their plans for NJ Pride in Asbury Park (June 7th) this year, as we would like to work together to have a presence there. Allan is looking to reach out to the Pride Center in Highland Park as a stepping stone for further collaborations.

Jen has been working with the director (Andy) from Garden State Equality (who will be speaking at some sessions at the conference), so that is another avenue to pursue. Ideally we will all be able to offer our “expertise” to these organizations, and possibly work together on tools and resources that can be developed for the patrons we serve, and to help us forge a presence outside of the library world.

Allan gave a brief report on the NJLA Emerging Leader’s meeting on February 11th, where he talked about what we do and hope to do, and encouraged them to become active members of the section. Jill and Andy also promoted the conference programs while there.

The Talking Book and Braille Center also is looking to partner with more libraries to offer their services.

**Executive Board Report**

Michael reported that the vote on the strategic plan was postponed because the executive board's February meeting was cancelled. He gave us an overview of the document, which focuses on four points - strengthening membership, adopting a business model, working closely with groups with similar missions and continuing education.

**State Library Report**

Mimi reported that the active shooter training is taking place and almost full. The Diversity Conference is not going to happen in June, but perhaps at a later time.

We discussed a format for the joint NYLA/ESRT-NJLA/D&O meeting in May. Mimi wants there to be a clear takeaway for attendees. It was suggested that we do brief overviews of our section, as well as the challenges NJ faces serving its diverse population, with more casual conversations to follow. Nola and Mimi will work on communicating our ideas to ESRT and will report back.

**Social media**Beth and Peggy met to discuss developing a Twitter account for the section. They asked Sophie Brookover from LibraryLinkNJ to come and talk to us about our concerns and how to best position our presence on social media. It was suggested that she would speak to the group after our usual business meeting in March.

**D&O Strategic Plan**

Jill and Andy shared copies of an updated draft strategic plan for the D&O section, based on a draft that was shared last year. It will be made available to the executive board via Google docs and can be commented on. We discussed keeping the plan broad to it can be applicable across our activities, but still act as a roadmap for the section’s goals.

**Next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26th at 10 am in the Mullica Hill branch of the Gloucester County Library System.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.*