**Meeting Minutes - NJLA Diversity & Outreach Section**

**August 14, 2014**

**Bradley Beach Public Library/Adobe Connect**

**Attendance**: Bob Stewart (Asbury Park), Kathleen Melgar (Asbury Park), Andrew Luck (PFPL), Adele Puccio (Bloomfield), Meagan Toohey (Jackson/OCLS), Janet Torsney (Bradley Beach), Peggy Cadigan (NJLS), Mimi Lee (NJSL), Jill D’Amico (EBPL), Enola Romano (Montclair).

Via Adobe Connect: Kate Baker (Piscataway), James Keehbler (Piscataway), Allan M. Kleiman (Montville), Mi-Sun Lyu (LibraryLink NJ)

**Meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m.**

Meeting opened with quick introductions.

Andrew Luck moved to approve the minutes from the 7/10 meeting, Janet Torsney seconded.

**Reports from Co-Chair**

Nola Romano attended the NJLA leadership meeting, where she reviewed NJLA policies, an organizational flowchart, and new social media guidelines. This could be helpful as we don’t yet have a presence on social media. Nola will scan and post the flowchart to the wiki. Nola provided background on our provisional status.

The planned wiki migration means we can send James Keehbler updates for static information or we can choose to maintain the page ourselves. If there will be frequent updates this would be best. Mi-Sun Lyu will contact James Keehbler to coordinate changing to the Drupal site.

Mimi Lee proposed exploring the possibility of a joint meeting with NYLA’s Ethnic Services Roundtable after a conversation with Fred Gitner of QPL at ALA. He will suggest it to their group in early October and propose it at their annual conference in November. We will have potential dates after that. It should be a productive for idea exchange and valuable for future partnerships.

It was mentioned that the NJLA conference date and location was voted on at the executive board meeting earlier in the week. It is to be held April 20-22 at Ocean Place in Long Branch.

Tyler Rousseau got in touch with Nola to mention is working on a group to form street teams for library outreach and didn’t want to step on our toes in regards to outreach. They plan on direct outreach to organizations.

**State Library report**

Mimi Lee reported that the library trustee institute is planned for 9/13 and registration is open. Additionally, Peggy Cadigan talked about the Dept. of Labor online high school grant and the six libraries that would be participating: Camden County Library System, Elizabeth Public Library, Long Branch Free Public Library, Scotch Plains Public Library, Somerset County Library System and the Trenton Free Public Library.

**Bylaws and Strategic Plan update**

Mi-Sun Lyu provided the section’s executive board with access to both documents. It will move to the wiki. Nola made two changes to streamline the wording: the section on elections was changed to reflect that we would wait for nomination period, and election news would come from NJLA and they will implement a vote.

The strategic plan - the mission statement needs to be fully formed. We will ask for feedback by the next meeting.

**Affordable Care Act Information**

There is a lot of outreach and engagement on this topic, especially for under-reached populations. Jill D’Amico will share training info with the listserve. On October 1 there will be an event for librarians and library staff at the Piscataway Library that will help to prepare us for the upcoming enrollment period.

**Upcoming Programs**

The Youth Services Forum is also scheduled for October 1. D&O is presenting Dr. Jama Shelton of the Forty to None Project to talk about homeless LGBT teenagers and our role in public service.

The Adult Services Forum is on October 27. D&O is presenting Jaime Angelini of the Mental Health Association in Atlantic County and Beth Bliss of the Brigantine Library will be talking about Mental Health First Aid training for librarians.

**Program Explorations**

Planning is going to start soon for the 2015 NJLA Annual Conference. The reference section wanted to partner with D&O and public policy on a preconference hosting Christian Zabriske of Urban Libraries United. He spoke for LibraryLink NJ recently and was well received, but we will share our concerns that the topic reference is proposing might not fit our section. There were also concerns about an entire preconference program with only this speaker.

Possibility of a mental health program focused on YS and YA. This could get involvement from those sections as well.

A separate diversity conference idea was floated - it would be a partnership between NJLA/NJSL/LLNJ. These organizations will discuss further.

D&O book awards- Jen Schureman is working on this. We should have a discussion with the NJLA treasurer to discuss the fundraising aspect.

ESL services - there was assent that this is a topic we should be adressing. Nola shared a statewide guide to ESL services on the D&O listerve. We can implement a local resource page on the project Mi-Sun is working on. We will explore training for librarians in ESL & serving patrons who speak languages other than English. Ocean County uses “Language Line,” a live telephone translation service.

We could try possible off site meetings to focus on ESL. Plainfield was suggested as a location. Allan was talking with someone from Rutgers to have a presentation on diversity recruitment, we will wait for an update on this.

**Good of the order**

Mi-Sun is still looking for feedback for the diversity resource page. She would like photographs of us/librarians to use! She suggested a list of bilingual or multi-lingual library staff that would be a private component of the page, requiring a login. She will add the list of ESL programs. She will need details on how we would promote this resource to the public, and programs to enhance the page. Members are invited to comment on the Google document - she will open access to people who express interest.

The NJ State Cultural Competency conference will be held on 9/12. Registration is open.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for 9/11 at Montville Public Library.**

For future meetings, Adele Puccio offered Bloomfield and Megan Toohey would check for availability in Jackson.

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.**

*Submitted by Jill D’Amico, 9/4/14*

*Revised by Enola Romano, 9/5/14*