

Minutes for February 8, 2018 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at Elizabeth Public Library, Elizabeth, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM. In attendance were Section officers Tom Ankner and Ken Kaufman. Also in attendance were Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Annamarie Klose Hrubes, Sarah Hull, Sarah Kiefer, Richetta Wilson Lobban, Jessica Myers, Gary Saretzky, and Julia Telonidis .

Introductions were made.

Ken presented the October 11, 2017 minutes for review. Gary motioned and Sarah Hull seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Tom announced the volunteers for serving as officers for the 2018/2019 term. He volunteered to remain as president, and will look into any adjustments to the bylaws for serving beyond one consecutive term. Sarah Hull is on the slate for vice president, Ken for secretary, and Gary, Jessica, Richetta, and Sarah Kiefer as members at large. The election is next month and the new term begins July 1st.

Tom thanked Annamarie for hosting a recent tour of the Special Collections and Archives Room at William Paterson's Cheng Library.

Vice President's Report

Tom updated the latest from Nancy. We had two of our proposed programs accepted by the Conference Committee. They are "Raise Your Voices: Award Winning Authors" on May 31st and "Digitization on a Dime" on June 1st. The group discussed the lower than usual proposals accepted and the inconvenient scheduling of the two accepted programs.

Committee Reports

Professional Development – The genealogy workshop held last November was a success. There are two upcoming programs scheduled: "Archival Basics: Tools for the Unexpected Archivist" at Rutgers University's Alexander Library on March 7th and "Yesterday's News for Today's Technology: Exploring the New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project" at the State Library on April 18th. Registration response for the archivist program has been strong. As a result, classroom capacity was increased to 25 from 20. Program fees yielded \$510 for NJLA. The digital newspaper presentation was among our proposals not accepted for the NJLA conference.

Archives – Activities are stable at the moment with 3 manuscript boxes housed at Monmouth County Archives. However, collection location is subject to change each time a new section archivist is appointed.

Newsletter – Tom relayed Colleen’s thanks to article contributors. The feedback has been positive. Keep them coming and don’t forget to include graphics and photos. Send your submissions anytime to: cgoode@theoceancountylibrary.org. Keep mind that deadlines are the first Thursday of January, April, July, and October.

Awards – Jessica reported for Carolyn that there are sufficient nominees for the Susan Swartzburg Award. The awards ceremony will be held at the NJLA Conference on Thursday night, May 31st. Consider potential nominees for the other NJLA awards.

Announcements

Participants discussed materials acquisitions, projects, exhibits, and events at their organizations. Grants for digitization were a recurring theme. Newark Public received funding from the Carnegie Corporation to digitize its collections of the Great Migration of African Americans and The Latino Immigration Experience. Somerset County will be digitizing the collective memories of its residents through the financial support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Elizabeth Public started digitizing “The Elizabeth Daily Journal” with a project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Rider University Libraries has made progress on digitizing yearbooks and historical short-hand books, as well as audio files from Westminster Choir College.

Union County will be celebrating its six existing or former Carnegie Libraries this summer with a panel discussion, exhibit, and research presentation. Representatives from the five communities (Westfield, Plainfield, Cranford, Summit and Elizabeth) that hosted the six libraries will participate in the panel discussion. All events will be at Elizabeth Public Library.

Digital Library of America (DPLA) – The working groups submitted their sections of the proposal to be integrated into a master proposal.

New Jersey History Day will be held at William Paterson University on May 5th. Event organizers are seeking judges.

Adjournment

Sarah motioned for adjournment with a second from Richetta. Without objections, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

The meeting was followed by an examination of the progress Aimee Fernandez-Puente has made working with the interesting collections at Elizabeth Public Library’s Local History Room. Thank you Aimee!

Next meeting: NJLA Annual Conference in Atlantic City on June 1st.

Submitted by Ken Kaufman