**NJLA Public Policy Committee Meeting**

**Friday March 3, 2017**

1. Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:05am at the Monroe Township Public Library.

In attendance: Pat Tumulty – NJLA; Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Chris Carbone – South Brunswick Public Library; Jeanne Marie Ryan - Roselle Public Library; Bob Belvin – New Brunswick Public Library; Jennifer Podolsky - East Brunswick Public Library; John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College; Anne Wodnick - Gloucester County Library; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Susan Kaplan – Sayreville Public Library; Kathy Schalk-Greene – LLNJ; Maryann Ralph – Plainsboro Public Library; Leah Wagner - Monroe Township Library; Dave Cubie – West Orange Public Library; Amy Babcock Landry - Livingston Public Library; Mary Romance; and Kristen Matteucci, NJLA Intern

1. Minutes of the February 3rd Meeting: Corrections to the attendance as follows:
	1. Dave Cubie noted that Michael Maziekien represents Kenilworth Public Library, rather than Franklin Township PL.
	2. Maryann Ralph from Plainsboro was present.

 So moved by Susan Kaplan, seconded by Leah Wagner seconded. Four abstentions.

1. **Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Update**
	1. **State Budget**
		1. This is the eighth consecutive year in which there is no increase to library funding
	2. **Readers’ Privacy Bill (A1861)**
		1. Bill was amended again in a way we don’t approve
		2. Pat is hoping to work with the Attorney General’s office to amend it again so that it extends not only law enforcement, but to everyone
	3. **ESSA meetings** - Pat and James K. continue to attend NJDOE meetings
		1. School libraries not mentioned at most recent meeting, but the proposed state plan for implementation does mention digital literacy.
			1. Pat will be writing comments, which are due to NJDOE by March 20th
		2. However, it appears that school librarians are getting more national attention in the press
	4. **Construction Bill**
		1. Currently, we have 5 Senate sponsors and 16 Assembly sponsors, but only two Republicans
		2. Assemblyman Kennedy from Rahway signed on since our last meeting.
		3. If your library would like to utilize this money, send in resolutions from Library Board and/or Township.
			1. Susan K. (Sayreville), Chris C. (South Brunswick), Ann W. (Gloucester County) indicated that they have resolutions from their Board and/or Township to add to the list
			2. Pat and Jeanne Marie are planning two other Breakfasts:
				1. March 30th in Hasbrouck Heights for Bergen County
				2. March 31st in Parsippany for Morris County
		4. Pat and Jeanne Marie met union leaders on the Chamber of Commerce Walk to Washington and are discussing how to involve them
			1. Susan K. suggested finding out how many jobs the bill might create; perhaps unions have formulas to create estimates?
		5. Pat will be meeting with the Assembly Speaker Prieto – to strategize how to move the bill forward
		6. We have 4 months left to get this bill passed for a Nov. referendum
	5. **Johnson legislation**
		1. Pat thinks we can get it through both houses, but likely that the Governor would not sign it
		2. Chief Counsel, etc. keep moving positions, making it more difficult
	6. **Discussion** on better tracking and engaging our legislators
		1. Jeanne Marie: We need to be better at knowing who is on Library Boards, etc. and telling Pat where the political connections are. “All politics are local” as Tip O’Neill said
			1. Bob Belvin: Pay attention to staff, assistants, gatekeepers, etc.
		2. Mary Romance: How do we connect legislators’ ephemeral “like” to concrete support?
			1. Susan K. stated that we need to connect our goals to what *they* care about (e.g. jobs, addiction, etc.)
			2. Chris C. highlighted the work of the task force that is working on getting letters of support from social workers, school boards, unions, etc.
			3. Jennifer P: People come to librarians as trusted resources within community, asking for help with addiction, etc.
				1. NARCAN trainings,
				2. Mental Health 1st Aid - John Wallace pointed out that these trainers should have lists of librarians who are now certified. Use this to show the numbers/tell the story.
			4. Legislators, etc. want numbers; We need to improve our tracking.
		3. Small work group will form to talk about gathering stories
			1. Leah, Jen, John, Pat, Eileen, Jeanne Marie
	7. **Hearings on public budget** will be in March. Pat is determining her approach.
	8. **Engage software** – Encourage people to contact their legislators on our bills, focusing on one issue a month.
		1. Eileen needs copy (including the “ask”) for each issue
			1. March issue will be Construction Bill
			2. April – focus on budget (Pat to create content)
			3. May – schools (James K. to create content)
			4. June – if Johnson legislation passes a senate by this time, June would be a good time to have the public reach out to the Gov.
		2. Simultaneously, post on Facebook
			1. Friends group may be able to boost the post
		3. PR committee will also be creating special issue featuring all 4 bills.
2. **Current Projects**
	1. **Advocacy Fortnight**
		1. Training webinar took place last week.
		2. Link will be posted on website for further viewing; James sent the link to the Advocacy Captains.
		3. Almost set on Captains – working to lock in advocates in the South.
			1. Captains should start setting up appointments now
	2. **ALA Legislative Day**
		1. Need people to sign up – only have 3 people from NJ right now, none from PPC
		2. HB610? – will know more about budget process…
		3. Net Neutrality – relative lack of action from ALA
		4. Copyright may be an issue we need to talk about
			1. Tension between creators of content and consumers’ access to content
			2. Previous Registrar of Copyrights was from the content realm. Was trying to push for that office to be moved out of the LoC.
				1. Carla Hayden reassigned Registrar from that post; Registrar later quit
			3. Amy Babcock-Landry: For more information on copyright – see Electronic Frontier Foundation: <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2017/02/we-want-copyright-office-serves-public>
		5. ALA reached out to try to set up a meeting with U.S. Congressman Frelinghuysen to talk about library funding, but we couldn’t get on his calendar despite a concerted effort
			1. Frelinghuysen is chair of Federal Appropriations Committee.
	3. **Conference Program Promotion**
		1. Maryann and Chris will help Kathy with pre-conference promotion
			1. Approved contingent upon enough people signing up early
			2. LLNJ is generously underwriting the program with funds for CEs
		2. Amy promoting IF program
		3. Eileen will promote Public Policy Update
3. **Intellectual Freedom Committee Report**
	1. At last meeting, IFC reviewed Statement of Inclusion
		1. James L. asked if the Diversity section was involved creating statement. Although members of the Exec Board are involved with the Diversity section, the section was not asked to review the statement. Amy confirmed that President Elect of the Diversity & Outreach section was present for both discussions
		2. Amy: We learned that we need to encourage members to be involved with committees that set policy, with the Board, etc. Ask members to talk to us, call us with comments and concerns.
			1. Eileen noted that policy tends to be created in committees; Board reaches out to committees for input, content, etc.
			2. Committees should reach out to sections for input as well
	2. IFC worked to support Pat on Readers’ Privacy Bill
	3. Reviewing two bills for potential NJLA endorsement
		1. S2506 – concerning the rights of student journalists at public schools and institutions of higher education
		2. A1272 Student Digital Privacy and Parental Rights Act
		3. Supported Northfield library after backlash on Facebook regarding a library-sponsored program. Incident highlighted the importance of having a policy that determines how and why you make programming decisions
	4. ALA has posted three interpretation drafts to the Library Bill of Rights on ALA Connect, which IFC will review
4. **State Library Report – Highlights/New Items:**
	1. New grant opportunity – Fade to Books
		1. The State Library, Long Branch PL, and the Bridge of Books Foundation announce this opportunity for public libraries who join with their local barbershops in an effort to promote youth literacy in their communities.
		2. Deadline to apply is May 5th
	2. LEAP trainings - on how to use assistive technology - for folks 55+ with vision issues will take place around the state
	3. The Talking Book and Braille Center has discontinued its Audiovision service. Local news will be available through the Newsline service.
	4. LSTA evaluation almost complete (due to IMLS by March 31st)
	5. Annual Public Library Survey is due in less than 2 weeks, on March 15th
	6. NJSL is assembling a Per Capita State Aid Committee to review PCSA minimum standards in *NJAC 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants*
		1. 18 – 20 people participating
		2. Regulations can be changed at any time, just takes time to do so
			1. They must be readopted or they sunset every 7 years
		3. Will still be open for public comment
	7. Eileen asked if State Library can provide a list that breaks out how LSTA allocations are broken down/what they are used for so that we can show legislators how LSTA impacts NJ
		1. James referred to a link he had previously provided: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/grants-state/state-profiles/new-jersey>
			1. Eileen thought detail that went beyond IMLS data would be helpful
5. **LibraryLinkNJ** – Kathy –
	1. LLNJ has held 6 of 7 Community Engagement Workshops to help with the strategic planning process
		1. Over 40 school librarians are scheduled to attend a session on Saturday
	2. Funding opportunity
		1. Powering Up: Library Charging Stations - secures devices while they are charging.
		2. Details on website and recent email blast
		3. Deadline is Friday, April 28, 2017
6. **Other**
	1. Chris – Executive Board members will be visiting libraries to talk about the value of institutional membership
		1. Many consortia do their own trainings, etc., but they can help get bills passed
	2. Jennifer P - Asked for guidance regarding a legal issue at East Brunswick regarding political activity (re: gubernatorial campaign) on sidewalks that lead to the library. Both the Township attorney and Library attorney are looking into it.

**\*\*\*Motion\*\*\***

Motion to request a written legal opinion from an attorney regarding political activity in and around libraries (including municipal ordinances on political activity). Moved by Chris Carbone, seconded by Jeanne Marie Ryan. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59am on motion by Dave Cubie and seconded by Bob Belvin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

PPC Intern