**NJLA County Library Section (CLS) Meeting**

August 17th, 10:30am

Virtual Meeting- Zoom

**Section Charge:** To help promote the interest of County Library staff in NJ and the professional interests of its members in conjunction with the objectives and goals of NJLA. The section operates as a forum of all levels and types of staff to network and exchange ideas on topics that pertain to County Library systems. The section also advocates for County Library interests.

**‘23/’24 Section Board:**

President-Christina Nemphos, Burlington County Library *(cnemphos@bcls.nj.us)*

Vice President-Cassie Collucci, Somerset County Library *(ccollucci@sclibnj.org*

Secretary-Ellen Callanan, Sussex County Library *(callanan@sussexcountylibrary.org)*

Chip McAuley, Member-at-Large, Mercer County Library *(cmcauley@mcl.org)*

***In attendance:*** Christina Nemphos (Burlington County Library—President), Cassie Collucci (Somerset County Library—Vice President), Ellen Callanan (Sussex County Library--Secretary), Will Porter (Sussex County Library—NJLA liaison), Heather Lubchansky (Sussex County Library), Rosy Wagner (Burlington County Library), Alison Naftal (Hunterdon County Library), Judith Pissano (Gloucester County Library), Emily Witkowski (Hunterdon County LIbrary), Sara Branagan (Sussex County Library), Jill Butcher (Warren County Library), Susan Waltner (Sussex County Library), Kate Jaggers (Hunterdon County Library), Julie Knapp (Sussex County Library), David Sastre (Somerset County Library—Hillsborough Branch)

**Agenda**:

**WELCOME:**

Christina welcomed all, and all present introduced themselves. Focus during this Year 3 of the section will be on creating a solid foundation, and revitalizing and strengthening the section after a challenging year.

**2022-23 WRAP UP:**

**Large Libraries and the County Libraries section**

There was discussion last year re adding large libraries in the section and renaming the section accordingly.

* Background from Will: the section became a County Libraries section by default; at the time it was formed, no large libraries *(definition: service population of 50,000 or more people with at least one branch)* expressed interest in joining. Will feels it’s important to include large libraries in the section as they have a lot in common with County libraries.
* Christina noted that the Board has started to discuss incorporating large libraries in the section in the future, but is currently prioritizing getting the section up, active, and running well first before formally expanding further. That being said, anyone interested in attending and contributing to a County Libraries section meeting (even if not in a County library or not currently an NJLA member) is welcome!

**2023 NJLA County Libraries luncheon:**

Pluses: excellent food, excellent emcee (Rosie), nice to see people getting awards (*Christina would like to see expansion of that next year)*. Plan to have luncheon again in 2024.

Suggestions for the 2024 luncheon: more advance planning and a larger committee *(thank you, Rosie for taking on such a large role in that in 2023!).* Look at, and expand, awards. Perhaps have an outside speaker as was done in 2021.

**2023 section meeting topics**:

* Staff training models, recruitment and retention
* EDI
* Book challenges
* Purchasing and contract vendors
* Marketing

**YEAR 3 (July 2023-June 2024) PLANS AT A GLANCE:**

**Section meetings**:

Will typically be the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30, and will be posted on the NJLA calendar.

Goal is to have a mix of Zoom and in-person/hybrid meetings. Please email Christina if you have a reliable hybrid set-up and are willing to host an in-person/hybrid meeting

Like last year, there will be a theme for each meeting. Possible meeting ideas include:

* Basic structure of County systems: roles/positions in each County Library, which responsibilities fall under which role(s)
* Digital divide
* Employee assessment
* Strategic planning
* Joint meeting with NJLA Marketing section
* AI for libraries training *(based on information from LLNJ training session on AI and* libraries): Heather volunteered to do
* Volunteerism in the library, including types of tasks, how volunteer programs are structured, partnerships, volunteering in union vs. non-union environments, etc.
* Grants: how are they handled in County systems?

Please email Christina with any additional suggestions.

Elections for next year will be discussed at the October meeting

**2024 NJLA:**

* County Libraries luncheon: volunteers needed to plan
* NJLA programs sponsored or co-sponsored by County Libraries section: to be discussed at October meeting; ideas and suggestions welcome!

Christina noted that, thanks to a generous bequest, NJLA is offering mini-grants to each section this. Two sections can combine their grants to fund a larger program or speaker.

**OTHER:**

Christina will send a letter to County Library directors asking them to encourage attendance at section meetings.

Bring a buddy to the next section meeting!

**NEXT TWO MEETINGS (MARK YOUR CALENDAR!):**

* ***Thursday September 21, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom*** (Cassie hosting in Christina’s absence)
* ***Thursday October, 19, 10:30am—virtual or in-person/hybrid TBD*** (*in-person/hybrid if a member library volunteers to host at their location—please email Christina if you are willing to do so!)*