**NJLA Children’s Services Section**

**Meeting Minutes--October 30, 2015 @10:00 am**

**Meeting held at the North Plainfield Public Library**

**In attendance:**

Colleen Affrime, President, Jackson Branch, Ocean County Library

Candace Worrell, Vice President, Cherry Hill Public Library

Jennifer Schillig, Second Vice President, Monroe Township Library, Gloucester

Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library

Carol Simon Levin, Bridgewater Library, Somerset County, Books for Kids

Holly Belli Essex County Library, Bloomfield Public Library

Claudia Flores, Plainfield Public Library

**Agenda:**

Welcome/Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Olds Business

New Business

Location for January meeting

NJLA Executive Board

Vote on the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

Reports from subcommittees

Summer Reading Committee

State Library

Garden State Book Awards

NJLA Executive Board

Books for Kids

Public Policy

Performer’s Showcase

Good of the Order

Adjournment

**Call to Order:**

Colleen Affrime called the meeting to order at 10:15am

**Minutes:**

Our last meeting was held in Cherry Hill. Minutes were approved

**Welcome:**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Old Business:**

none

**New Business:**

January 22, meeting is in flux. Talking book and braille center a possibility; Sharon will check.

**NJLA Executive Board:** The NJLA executive board meeting was cancelled; Colleen did not get to make her report. Suggested that executive board email list should include the chairs of committees so that chairs are aware when meetings are cancelled. Colleen will email and suggest that change.

**Vote on Constitution and Bylaws**: Conditionally approved pending the approval of the majority membership. Colleen will set up an online vote via Survey Monkey.

Sharon made a motion to change the wording of her position within the bylaws. It was changed to Youth Services Specialist to reflect her current title.

**Toolbox**: CSS is responsible for the Toolbox this year.

Conference is in May-when should toolbox be held to prevent conflicts?

Possible Topic: “Librarians as event planners: it’s not that daunting”

This would touch upon the expectations between libraries and performers.

New Jersey Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators guest speakers

Carol suggested that Teens, CSS, and Adults compile a database of performers with comments and ratings, price searchable.

Holly suggested using WIX as a tool to design the website.

Set up with a data entry form so that any library or school user can expand upon it.

Propose an ad hoc committee to do this made up of adult and children librarians; perhaps hire an intern to develop the database. Colleen will handle contacting and proposing this idea. Recruit people from the Toolbox to join the ad hoc committee?

Reports from subcommittees:

**Summer Reading Committee**: Sharon Rawlins reported.

**Statewide Summer Reading Program:**

Four locations for the spring workshops are being determined. The 2016 Summer Reading manuals will be packed and shipped to all public libraries via the statewide delivery service the week of November 2nd – 6th. Statistics from the 2015 Summer Reading Program have been compiled and will be posted very soon on the NJ State Library website.

**State Library Report:** Sharon Rawlins reported.

**The 25th Youth Services Forum**

This event held on October 7th at the Monroe Public Library was a great success, with 157 registered attendees. Marc Aronson, award-winning author, professor and historian was an excellent keynote speaker and all of the other nine presentations were packed. As one attendee said, "It was one of the best, the presenters were well prepared, articulate, lively and the topics timely." There were balloons and cake in hand as everyone enjoyed the workshops. The NJLA Store was also there selling lots of the literary goodies. James Keehbler, NJLA President, Janet Clark, NJASL President and Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, NJSL gave brief updates about their organizations to the attendees.

**Mental Health First Aid Training for Youth Services Librarians & Staff Very Successful**

The State Library offered Youth Mental Health First Aid Training to librarians or staff working with young people in public libraries and all the sessions filled up almost immediately. If a space was available it was soon filled by another applicant. The State Library received a grant from the National Network/Libraries of Medicine-Middle Atlantic Region to offer these trainings that were designed to provide instruction on how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis.

The eight-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid certification course was offered in two four-hour sessions in the following locations: .

· Bernardsville Public Library- Tuesday August 4th & August 11th 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

· Mays Landing Branch- Monday August 10th & August 17th 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

· Fairfield Free Public Library – Wednesday October 14th & 21st 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

· Monroe Township Public Library- Thursday October 15th & 22nd 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

The trainings were offered to all library types and for all library staff. Multi-type libraries were encouraged to participate. The trainings were provided by the Mental Health Association in New Jersey: http://www.mhanj.org/. The Mental Health Association in New Jersey strives for mental health for children and adults through advocacy, education, training, and services. The vision of the MHANJ is a statewide community in which people with mental illnesses can achieve full potential, free from stigma and other barriers to care and recovery. For more information, please contact: Sharon Rawlins at srawlins@njstatelib.org or 609-278-2640 ext. 116

**NJASL 2015 Conference**

Liz Burns, Head of Youth Services at the NJ State Library’s Talking Book and Braille Center and Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist, at the State Library will present a program at the NJASL Fall Conference being held in Long Branch, November 15 -17, entitled “Thumbs Up or Down? Best New Books for Young Adults.” Join Liz and Sharon for a lively and opinioned discussion á la Siskel & Ebert as they discuss the best YA books, based on those selected by YALSA’s 2015 book award and selection committees, along with their own new personal favorites. This session is geared for grades 7 – 12.

**NJ Center for the Book**

Sharon Rawlins is working on a subcommittee of the NJ Center for the Book to oversee the development of an online serialized storybook “Jersey Trackers (the JTs) and the Imagination Tree” to be launched in 2016. Each of 8 chapters will be written and illustrated by prominent NJ children’s authors and illustrators, the focus of which is to take young readers and their characters to various literary landmarks across the state. The inaugural chapter will begin in March 2016 and will conclude at the Letters About Literature Celebration in May 2016. The target audience will be a state-wide website exposure for NJCFB in Partnership with the NJ State Library. We will be posting the link for kids to read the story on various websites and listservs.

**NJSL Innovation & Strategic Partnerships:**

The MentorNJ program, sponsored by the NJ State Library, LLNJ and NJLA, is thriving, with more than 70 people from all types of libraries signed up who are ready, willing and able to act as mentors. MentorNJ has a very successful get together at the Monroe Public Library on October 2. Attendees had the opportunity to hear a panel discussion on the importance of joining professional organizations, presented by Mary Chute, Cheryl O’Connor and Chris Carbone. They also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of public library directors, and school and academic librarians (including LaDawna Harrington) about what they look for when hiring a professional librarian. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in mock interviews or have a professional photo taken. Everyone spent time networking and the trivia game everyone was invited to play was a lot of fun. They are always looking for more people to sign up as mentors. MentorNJ makes it easy to connect to a professional who can provide relevant, useful information to help as you grow in your career. To search for a mentor in your area of interest, simply peruse the Mentors’ Directory and reach out to one of our many mentors, at http://librarylinknj.org/mentornj

**Library Support Services:**

The Local Library Support Fund will be available on 2015 New Jersey State Income Tax forms as one of many options for charitable donations. Funds donated will be distributed according to the same process used for Per Capita State Aid. CMO will help publicize the new program, including possibly providing materials for local libraries to help get the word out.

**Items of Interest:**

County of Union Awards Grants to 20 Public Libraries: Over $73,000 in total grant funding awarded for projects

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce the 2015 Union County Library Grant awards to 20 public libraries in Union County for children’s programming and materials. The new grant opportunity seeks to expand, create, and enhance programming offered to children by libraries within Union County. Administered through a Trust Fund established with non-tax dollars, the grant opportunity made available over $73,000 to support 20 Union County public libraries. Examples of projects eligible for funding through this grant opportunity include: technology upgrades; educational programming; purchase of books, videos, and audio tapes; creation or expansion of summer and fall programming; and planning documents. For the list of libraries receiving grant awards see this link: http://ucnj.org/press-releases/public-info/2015/08/21/county-of-union-awards-grants-to-20-public-libraries/

**Garden State Book Awards Report:** Emailed in by Ellen Pozzi, Chair

We had our first meeting in September, and have begun the process of selecting the next ballot. Our next meeting will be January 15th with a snow date of January 22nd. Our final meeting of the year will be on Feb. 19th with a snow date of Feb. 26th.

Votes are due January 4th. Please encourage everyone to vote.

Also, I still need a password for the website so I can update the GSCBA information.

**GSCBA LUNCHEON**

Rita Williams-Garcia is available and willing to speak at the luncheon. Her fee is $2000. I realize this is a bit steep, but I think we should approach the conference committee with this request and let them decide. The budget for this speaker should be outside of the CSS budget—and we share the luncheon with teens also. I think a case can be made for the fact that she would be a draw because she is a well-known author, and that she is a multi-award winner who books are for a range of ages. The balance of interest for teen and children's librarians has been important in the past. She lives in Queens, so her travel expenses would be minimal.

**Conference:**

Summary of proposals reported by Candace.

Holly discussed on Special Olympics proposals

**Books for Kids:**

Carol reported. Packets were distributed to participants.

Clarification was provided on distribution of books. Individual libraries determine how the books are distributed, be that directly to an individual or by partnering with organizations. Books for Kids does not directly partner with organizations.

**Public Policy:**

no report

**Performers Showcase:**

no report

**Good of the Order:**

no additional

Adjourned at 12:20pm.