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

**January 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m., Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

1. **Welcome and Introductions (*in attendance*):** Christina Nemphos (Burlington County Library System/BCLS), Cassie Collucci (Somerset County Library System/SCLSNJ), Ellen Callanan (Sussex County Library System/SCLS), Heather Lubchansky (SCLS), Deborah Canzano (Warren County Library System/WCLS), Sherri Taliercio (Ocean County Library System/OCL), Bryan Thomson (SCLSNJ), Will Porter (SCLS), Jungwon DeVone (SCLSNJ), Judith Pissano (Gloucester County Library System/GCLS), Jill Butcher (WCLS), Lisa Dunfee (BCLS), Jen Amorese-Berrios (SCLSNJ), Susan Waltner (SCLS), Erin Delucia (OCL), Robin Megow (GCLS), Carol Jablonski (Hunterdon County Library), Jen Sunda (SCLS), Natalie Webber (SCLS), Carolyn Randall (SCLS), Julie Knapp (SCLS)

1. **Conference Session Proposal Updates:**
* *How Did They Get There? Diverse Career Paths in County Libraries*
* *Lifelong Learning: Teaming up against the Digital Divide*
* *Breaking down the Digital Divide: Device Lending Programs for Libraries*
* *County Luncheon Proposal*

Waiting to hear from NJLA Conference Committee as to which program proposals have been accepted. According to Christina, a lot were submitted, which may be the reason for the delay

1. **Executive Board Update**-*Will Porter, NJLA Executive Board Liaison:* short routine meeting held on Tuesday 1/16/2024; no further updates to report
2. **Elections** *Cassie Collucci,* *Vice-President County Libraries Section:* more information and communication about elections in coming weeks. Available positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary (2 yr. term), and Members-at-Large. Section officers do not have to be librarians. A reminder that staff members in libraries with NJLA Institutional memberships, as well as those with NJLA individual memberships, are eligible to run
3. **Upcoming Meetings**
	* **February 15th:** **Virtual (Zoom) joint meeting with the PR and Marketing section** to be run by Cassie; will feature **presentation by Suzanne Fox,** Cherry Hill Public Library, A **“Show and Share”** **segment** will follow the presentation. Let Cassie know if you will would like to “show and share” information about PR and Marketing efforts in your library!
	* **March 21st:** **in-person meeting at the Sussex County Library System’s Louise Childs Branch in Hopatcong**; **Heather Lubchansky will present on** **AI**—what it is, how it’s used, how it applies to libraries, recent developments, etc.
	* **April 18th** **Virtual (Zoom) meeting** on the topic of the **Digital Divide**
	* **May 16th** **In-person meeting at the Burlington County Library System** on the topic of **Employee Engagement**
	* **NJLA Conference is May 29-31**
4. **Mini-Presentations on Volunteer Programs**
	* ***Jungwon DeVone****, Special Populations Supervisor, Somerset County Library, jdevone@sclibnj.org:*
		+ ***STAR (Supported Teens Alternate Route) Volunteer Program:***
		+ Inclusive volunteer program or teens with developmental disabilities
		+ Individualize tasks and goals based on specific skills
		+ Help teens improve interpersonal skills and confidence, prepare for a more typical teen volunteer program, create more inclusive community, feel the satisfaction of knowing they are “needed”
		+ Mechanics of the program include an application, interview (and assessment—can the teen work independently?), assignment of tasks, available staff one-on-one supervision, evaluation, task reassignments every 2-3 months, certificate of recognition
		+ STAR participants volunteer up to one hour per week per person from September-June
		+ SCLSNJ staff receive training in working with STAR participants (Niche Academy, webinars)
		+ *Challenges:* limited work hours, limited tasks, limited staff to supervise, more demand than available opportunities
	* ***Lisa Dunfee,*** *Children’s Services Manager, Burlington County Library:* *ldunfee@bcls.lib.nj.us**;*
		+ ***SLE (Structured Learning Experience) Volunteer Partnership:***
		+ Library partners with two schools on this program
		+ Selected students (work 3-10 hours/week on daily tasks varying in complexity and number. SLE students are older (ages 18-21 or 23)
		+ Point of Contact (POC) or individual library staff oversee students
		+ Process:
			- school contacts Lisa in August re possible students
			- Lisa meets with school to discuss student capabilities and preferences
			- students work from October through May
			- SLE coordinator from school does on-site visits with student
		+ School responsible for:
			- documentation
			- providing a job coach
			- transportation to and from the library
			- sending a monthly student calendar
		+ Library responsible for:
			- training student
			- adding tasks
			- keeping track of student hours through sign-in/out binder
			- giving “support through clarification”
		+ Tasks assigned based on student interest include:
			- pulling a weeding list
			- processing books to be weeded
			- pulling books to come out of new status
			- adding or removing stickers/initials on books
			- shelving and shelf-reading
			- shifting collections
			- cleaning DVDs, CDs/audiobooks, toys (after programs), tablets, keyboards, mice
			- copying and folding book lists
			- cutting crafts
			- copying craft templates
			- putting books on display
		+ Benefits for students:
			- skill building,
			- employment “experience”
			- confidence building
			- sense of community, i.e., inclusivity, socialization, community membership, networking
	* ***Questions & Discussion:***
		+ ***How to separate volunteer tasks from tasks done by library employees, especially union workers?***
			- BCLS lost its Student Assistants after 2020, so SLE students are now taking on jobs that Student Assistants used to do (BCLS does not have Library Pages)
			- At SCLSNJ, STAR students do very simple tasks
		+ ***How are libraries attracting teen volunteers when community service is no longer a school requirement?***
			- SCLSNJ still has community service requirements, so is overwhelmed with teens who wish to volunteer; have transitioned to providing both on-site and virtual volunteer opportunities, including program prep, virtual book reviews, Teen Advisory Board opportunities; one teen worked with the English Conversation group as a translator; some teen volunteers have detangled and organized many miscellaneous cords
			- At SCLS’s Louise Childs Branch, National Honor Society student assist the Youth Services staff member with small tasks, including Winter Reading preparation
5. **Questions/Other:** none

**Next Meeting:** ThursdayFebruary 15, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., virtual (on Zoom)