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

**Thurs. April 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.**

Zoom meeting

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), Will Porter (SCLS), Nancy Fort (BCLS), Crystal Hooper (SCLSNJ), Tuqa Ridha (SCLSNJ), Rosie Wagner (BCLS), Rachel Bohach (SCLSNJ), Heather Lubchansky (SCLS), Kathy Freisinger (SCLS), Jill Butcher (Warren County Library System), Maria Omohundro (Cumberland County Library), Scott Homan (BCLS), Jen Amorese-Berrios (SCLSNJ), Judith Pissano (Gloucester County Library System), Julie Knapp (SCLS), Arielle Mark (SCLS)
2. **Conference Luncheon** *Jen Amorese-Berrios, Somerset County Library System:*

Luncheon plans are progressing well!

* Activities/décor will include a Powerpoint featuring scenes from NJ County libraries (send Jen photos please!), library trivia, ice-breaker cards on tables, awards, and delicious food
* Christina will emcee, and Marianne Sievers will take photos
  + Reminder to Directors to complete and return the award nomination form for your library!
  + If you haven’t yet received form, contact Christina Nemphos or Heather Lubchansky.
  + Current deadline for returning form is April 22, but this may be extended a few more days
* If you are attending NJLA, sign up for the luncheon and be part of the fun (and eat well too!)

1. **Executive Board Update** *Will Porter, NJLA Executive Board Liaison:*

* NJ Executive Board met on April 16
* Audit report for 2022-23 received from auditor; all went well, no red flags
* Spent most of board meeting working on NJLA Strategic Planning process

1. **Elections** *Cassie Collucci,* *Vice-President County Libraries Section:*

* 2024 slate is built and voting is open; thank you to all of those who volunteered to run
* If you haven’t voted yet, please do!
* Should know election results sometime before NJLA Conference

1. **Upcoming Meetings:**

* ***Thursday May 16, 10:30 a.m., in-person at Burlington County Library System (5 Pioneer Blvd., Westhampton, NJ 08060*** [Burlington County Library System](https://www.bcls.lib.nj.us/))
  + - Topic: Employee Engagement
    - Christina to put out a call for mini-presentations
  + ***Thursday June 20, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom:***
    - Welcome and introduction of the 2024-25 County Libraries Section Board, other business TBD
    - No themed discussion planned

1. **Digital Divide Mini Presentations:**
2. **North Plainfield Library Digital Divide Solutions*-- Crystal Hooper, SCLSNJ***

North Plainfield Branch of SCLSNJ has increased digital resources and tech training it provides from what was available pre-Covid.

Digital resources available currently for the public:

* *12 computers, 8 Chromebooks, 1 Microsoft computer*
* *Hotspots: includes “lucky day” hotspots with 10-day loan period as well as reservable hotspots with longer loan period--those with the longer loan period are more desirable*
* *Charging station (charges and sanitizes): free to the public*
* *Charging pucks (can borrow for in-library use)*

Technology training/assistance:

* *One-on-one tech help by appointment (bilingual)*
* *Bring your own device (don’t broadcast these times); drop in tech help in English and Spanish: “pop-up” to the public (although staff doing them plans them into their schedules)—vary times*
* *Assist Senior Center in showing movies*
* *Starting to do Tech demos for staff as “pop-ups” at either morning meetings before branch opens OR twice in one week at different times (to accommodate staff on different shifts)*
* *Increasing programming, including ESL/bilingual*

1. **Digital Literacy & Meeting People Where They Are- *Rosy Wagner, BCLS***

BCLS is using a 3-pronged approach: on-site classes, off-site classes, on-site appointments. Also has some additional offerings outside of these options.

On-site classes:

* *Standardized curricula for consistent experience*
* *Basic and specialized training with instructor*

Off-site classes (Mobile Learning Lab):

* *ARPA funded van with equipment e.g. hotspots, computers*
* *Takes to community spaces with adequate room, tables, chairs, electricity*
* *Looks at County and finds locations that are not covered by physical library or bookmobile stop*
* *Currently goes to over 25 sites*

On-site appointments:

* *Online reservations, either made by the person or by library staff on behalf of person*
  + *Form providing details about what they want to learn must be completed by those requesting an appointment*
  + *Library staff member has a 24+ hour window to prepare for the appointment*
  + *Library staff has discretion, and can turn down a request for one-on-one assistance*

Additional offerings:

* *Community Resource Navigators—drop-in service (started by Social Work intern and a library staff member, currently staffed by a full-time Library Associate)*
* *Learning circles (learning environment on specific topic with instructor facilitation)*
* *On-site laptop lending, circulating hotspots, tablets, and Chromebooks*

Feel free to contact Rosie with any questions at [rwagner@bcls.lib.nj.us](mailto:rwagner@bcls.lib.nj.us--socail)

1. **DigitalLearn-- *Rachel Bohach,* *SCLSNJ***

Rachel was awarded money from AT&T for six laptops which she uses to provide easy public access to DigitalLearn.org. She uses the Digitallearn.org website to assist members of the public in gaining knowledge of technology and software. Rachel also explained its structure and setup.

* *Created by PLA, the DigitalLearn.org website provides information about technology and software through modules and activities that can be used for training, either individual self-paced or instructor-led*
* *Useful (and used) by various people, including seniors, job seekers with few technical skills, and those wanting to develop basic technology skills (although there are also more advance topics available, like posting to eBay)*
* *Can use without creating a logon--no benefit to signing in (even though site has a signin button)*
* *Option to switch website language from English to Spanish (toggle button)*
* *Self-paced training enables library staff to set this up as soon as someone in need of it comes into the building (good substitute for when staff doesn’t have time to do one-on-one training)*
* *Offers lots of different “video chunks”*
  + *Includes activities, length in minutes, skill level*
* *Good way to get someone started in learning technology skills*
* *Helpful for small group instruction*
  + *Easy prep for instructors*
  + *Has Tools and Resources for Trainers section*
  + *Keeps instructor-led training groups small (6-10 people)*
  + *Provides instructor-led training in English and Spanish*

After-presentation discussion: Heather asked if anyone is using Northstar. Judith does, and finds it helpful (she also uses DigitalLearn.org). Rachel learned of Northstar after she had already started using Digitallearn.org so hasn’t explored it as much.

A big THANK YOU to all presenters!

**Next Meeting: *Thursday May 16, 2024, 10:30 a.m., in-person******at Burlington County Library*** *(5 Pioneer Blvd., Westhampton, NJ 08060)*