

NJLA Intellectual Freedom Subcommittee  
Friday, October 14, 2022  
Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

- a. in attendance: Judith Pissano, Jen Fitzgerald, Chip McAuley, Carol Phillips, Kate McGivern

2. Old Business

- a. Approve minutes from September meeting
  - i. Motion to approve by Carol, seconded by Chip
- b. Judith is still actively working with EveryLibrary and NJASL on project for a “Right to Read” landing page. There is a cost involved, which would be split between the three groups.
- c. Regional Response Team
  - i. Don’t want to feel behind so trying to be ahead of the challenges.

3. Public Policy update

- a. First Amendment Audits; Cindy Czesak and Danielle Cesena are looking to provide a training. This would be before the NJLA conference.
- b. Information Literacy Legislation – referred to the Assembly Education Committee.
  - i. Requires information literacy instruction/curriculum in K – 12.
  - ii. Judith will have more information, hopefully by next month’s meeting.
- c. Public Policy minutes are on the NJLA website if ever want to view them for more information.

4. Executive Board update

- a. Judith is on Executive Board this term.
- b. Hired Bradly Miller to assist in hiring of the next NJLA Executive Director. Want to take their time, but hoping to have a person by March. If the person hired through Bradly Miller leaves within a year, can use Bradly Miller again within paying a second fee.
- c. Cindy is interim until new person is hired.

5. New Business

- a. Teen Toolbox – invited to participate in a panel discussion / training virtually on December 16th @ 10:00 for the YASS; Katie Salerno Youth Services Section President.
  - i. A teen librarian, a YS department head, and Judith are all on the panel. Will talk about handling challenges.
  - ii. Once Judith has the link to the event, she will share. Anyone on our committee can join in. It’s also open to all YA/YS librarians.
- b. Technical Services and Collection Development Section – invited us to partner with them on a conference program – Life Cycle of a Book Challenge. Ideas have not been finalized. Does anyone want to participate? Let Judith know if so.
- c. Michael Giglio, NJEA Associate Director reached out to open a dialogue regarding “shenanigans” going on in public libraries. Discuss his work at NJEA through the Center for Honesty in Education. Look for ways to partner to fight censorship.
  - i. Judith is going to set up a meeting with him. Anyone else interested? Let Judith know.
  - ii. NJASL is also involved.
- d. LibraryLink’s Intellectual Freedom Fighters meet-up on 10/13:
  - i. Request for a “script” with how to respond to challenges. Perhaps inclusion of collection development policies/procedures so folks understand how books are selected.

- ii. Request for an event with scenarios to practice how to respond (e.g., someone pretending to be an angry parent about a book). Would prefer it be before annual conference as concerns that there will be more challenges between now and then. Could be something through or in association with LibraryLink.
- iii. Liaise with [lyu@librarylinknj.org](mailto:lyu@librarylinknj.org) and [darby@librarylinknj.org](mailto:darby@librarylinknj.org) to share resources.

## 6. Projects

- a. NJLA conference proposals/ideas
  - i. Cohorts (e.g., Commission, Board) information session - Richard is looking into this; others can join in helping him.
  - ii. The partnered one with TS/CD section.
  - iii. Carol and Eileen worked on proposals last year, including a preconference one.
  - iv. Pat finally got paid this week for being a speaker at the conference!
  - v. Any ideas for other proposals?
    - 1. Judith will start a brainstorming document. Wants to at least submit proposals.
    - 2. Carol: dealing with misinformation? What do I say to my boss if there hasn't been a challenge but you want to be prepared? Rather than de-bunking something, want to pre-bunk it. Want to be proactive rather than reactive.
    - 3. Kate: pre-covid, something was planned around Drag Queen Story Hour. But conference was canceled that year. Was going to have a panel with someone from Cherry Hill, someone from drag queen organization.
    - 4. Conference proposals are due November 30. They usually extend the deadline but don't want to bank on that.
- b. Meeting room policy
  - i. Kate mentioned this is something that has been pending for a while, but not sure if even a draft exists.
  - ii. Judith will start a document and share with all of us so we can work on it together. Sure that many libraries have their own but want a template that libraries can use as a guide.
- c. Tips & Tools for frontline staff
  - i. Similar to privacy one:
    - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pn4Neex2hQZSAh7nDjVhuteF1F4mrBn83th\\_IxgwzJg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pn4Neex2hQZSAh7nDjVhuteF1F4mrBn83th_IxgwzJg/edit?usp=sharing)
  - ii. But for this, want something even shorter (bullet point list, small like a bookmark so can keep on your person/badge/etc.) on handling book challenges, e.g., remain calm, listen, offer alternatives, where to get support, etc.
  - iii. Judith will start a document and share with all of us so we can work on it together.
- d. Reconsideration of Library material template
  - i. Judith will start a document and share with all of us so we can work on it together. Sure that many libraries have their own but want a template that libraries can use as a guide.

Next meeting:

Friday, November 18 at 11am

Judith will send a reminder ahead of time.