**Diversity and Outreach Section minutes**

**Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 10:00am**

**Bloomfield Public Library/ Adobe Connect**

**Attendees**: Nola Romano (Montclair PL), Lawrence Lane (MLIS student), Selwa Shamy (North Plainfield - Somerset County Library System), Claudine Pascale (Fairview PL), Beth Bliss (Brigantine Branch - Atlantic County Library System), Mimi Lee (New Jersey State Library), Adele Puccio (Bloomfield Public Library), Janet Torsney (Bradley Beach), Keisha M. Miller (South Orange PL), Jill D’Amico (East Brunswick PL), Adobe Connect: Kate Baker (Piscataway PL), Mi-Sun Liu (LibraryLinkNJ), Mary Beth Fine (Mays Landing - Atlantic County Library System), James Keehbler (Piscataway PL), Jen Schureman (Gloucester County Library System)

**Introductions**

Since we had some new faces join us for this meeting, we did introductions.

**Minutes**

The minutes from September 11 meeting were approved

**Co-Chair report**

Nola encouraged members to take the NJLA strategic plan short survey that is circulating among members and went out on the listserve. She also shared that Drupal migration form the Wiki would be going forward and Mi-Sun is ready to create our site on this new platform.

**Diversity Resource Page update**

Mi-Sun shared with us the latest on her implementation of the D&O resources page. She indexed and organized topics and included the information Adele recently provided about polyamory. We agreed this would go under the “other” section of the page. Her plan is to finish it by the end of the month and do a soft launch in late November, please send any feedback to her.

**State Library update**

The ESRT group of NYLA discussed the possibility of a co-meeting with us, and it sounds like it will happen in spring. We communicated that late April and early June will not work due to conflicts. We will hear more soon.

The details of the diversity conference is currently being discussed among NJSL and its partners. There is no date yet.

Mimi and winners of the NJSL Multicultural Program Award will be presenting at the Adult Services Forum; the topic is “Multicultural Programming Showcase”, which will be during session 1.

**Youth Services Forum update**

The forum had a record attendance overall and our section’s program on LGBT Homelessness with Jama Shelton was well attended.

**2015 NJLA Conference**Jill and Andy attended the conference planning/orientation meeting on September 23rd. The conference committee chairs went over attendee feedback, which included ideas for new sessions, and the proposal process. They encouraged proposals from all sections and interests and to direct them through one person in each section to avoid confusion. They also encouraged co-sponsorship wherever possible, and for facilitators to really “sell” them on the proposals, especially for topics that are more focused and have a specific appeal the committee may be unaware of.

**Pre-conference**

Jill and Andy are working on a pre-conference proposal on ESL services and libraries. We are pursuing co-sponsorship with Reference, Urban Libraries and the College and University sections. The idea would be to frame the current landscape for ESL services, the need for it in every town, and innovative ideas and approaches to establishing or expanding services, including partnerships, DIY approaches, and how to understand the need in your communities. Ideally we would leave time at the end for attendees to break into groups and work on specific issues that will come up during the course of the discussion.

Mimi shared that the reference section would be submitting a more general literacy/GED program for regular session, but the two programs appear have a different focus.

**Regular sessions**

We had a lot of good feedback after putting out a call to the D&O membership, and the bulk of the meeting was to discuss some ideas.

Beth proposed she build off the momentum from the mental health push that is happening right now with a program on mental health that would include a panel of librarians who have done the Mental Health First Aid training, and perhaps some exploration of a mental health toolkit. She will reach out to her contacts and move forward.

Jen suggested doing something based off of a conference she recently went to on “Becoming Visible,” for LGBT teens in crisis done with Garden State Equality. She has a contact there from and will put something together. She is also working with Allen McGinley on a proposal for diversity in collection development.

Jill and Kate are proposing Kate’s successful conversation starter on serving diverse communities that she did at PLA. We will focus on the “conversation” aspect, and this approach would allow for collaboration and idea sharing.

Karla Ivarson proposed “Find your partner, find your program,” which will highlight innovative, thoughtful programming done for public and library staff in conjunction with local organizations on diverse topics.

Mimi is working on a prison outreach session and is seeking partners. She was able to get some feedback and leads from the listserve.

Nola is in touch with Joel Nichols from the Free Library of Philadelphia and he agreed to do one session on gender-free storytime. He is also able to do a second program if needed entitled “Out of the Stacks,” on LGBT literature for teens.

Nola and Janet are working on a bookmobile/mobile library service program that would identify different kinds of outreach services across the state, including book bikes, a mall kiosk and homebound service. This will be a panel discussion, and they have good contacts to move forward.

Saleena Davidson is interested in doing a “diversity in comics” program geared towards teen and adult audiences.

Jill will share the submission information with the section an internal deadline of **November 10th** was established for D&O membersto get proposal info to Nola, Allan, herself and Andy so it can be vetted and submitted in time for the November 21st deadline. Jill will be responsible for the section’s submissions directly to the conference committee.

**Good of the Order**

None

**Reminders**

* Adult Services Forum is Monday, October 27th and registration is open until October 20th. Our section is sponsoring a session on Mental Health First Aid [**http://njla.org/content/adult-services-forum-0**](http://njla.org/content/adult-services-forum-0)
* The listserv is open to all members – to post send an email to: njla-sect-div@njla.org

**Next meeting**will be on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Willingboro Public Library located at 220 Willingboro Square Condos, Willingboro, NJ 08046.