

**NJLA Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Friday February 3, 2017**

1. Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:06am at the Monroe Township Public Library.

In attendance: Pat Tumulty – NJLA; Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Chris Carbone - South Brunswick Public Library; Jennifer Podolsky - East Brunswick Public Library; Leah Wagner - Monroe Township Library; Janet Marler – Atlantic Cape Community College; John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College; Jeanne Marie Ryan - Roselle Public Library; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Susan Kaplan – Sayreville Public Library; Marie Coughlin – BCCLS; Sarah Lester – Maplewood Library; Michael Maziekien – Franklin Township Public Library (NJLA Executive Board); Keith McCoy – Somerset County Library System; Melissa Mitchell – Franklin Township Public Library (guest from Children’s Services Section)

1. Minutes of the January 13th Meeting: Moved by Janet Marler and seconded by John Wallace.

Correction to State Library Report, paragraph b, to read: “A draft for the New Jersey LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017 *evaluation* will be ready in February.” [addition italicized]

1. **Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Update**
   1. Johnson Legislation (A1427/S2633).
      1. Sen. Van Drew (D-1) agreed to co-sponsor
         1. Sen. Van Drew is chair of the Community and Urban Affairs Committee where Johnson Legislation currently sits.
      2. Still looking for a bi-partisan sponsorship
   2. Construction Bill (A222/S2171) received new co-sponsors:
      1. Sen. Vitale (D-19), Sen. Cruz-Perez (D-5), Sen. Ruiz (D-29)
   3. Newark Public Library appointed new director yesterday.
      1. Bill still up re civil service designation
   4. School Library Media Specialist Bill (A4500)
      1. Still looking Senate sponsor
      2. Education Committee is currently busy with school funding formula debate
      3. NJLA did not testify on funding formula 🡪 felt time best spent on A4500
   5. 5 Senators not running for re-election
      1. Sen. Diane Allen (R-7)
      2. Sen. Joseph Kyrillos (R-13)
      3. Sen. Jim Whelan (D-2)
      4. Sen. Kevin O’Toole (R-40)
      5. Sen. Raymond Lesniak (D-20)
      6. This can create difficult timeframe to get work done.
   6. Attended Chamber Train Trip with Jeanne Ryan
   7. Readers Privacy Bill (A1861)
      1. Scheduled for vote on 2/25
      2. Bill amended to improve language 🡪 now mirrors our confidentiality concerns.
      3. No indication whether Governor would support.
      4. NJ would be the 2nd state in the nation to pass such as bill.
2. **Surplus Materials Disposition**
   1. Keith McCoy (Somerset County Library System) in attendance.
      1. James Lonergan of NJ State Library created suggested language on disposition to treat it the same way as purchases.
      2. Keith expressed urgency to introduce bill
      3. Keith submitted one page draft explanation of issue to Chris C. & Eileen P. -- looking for collaboration.
   2. Approach
      1. Start by contacting legislators in Somerset county.
      2. Determined legislation shouldn’t specify eBooks specifically and should stay public library focused.
      3. Eileen Palmer offered help of Public Policy Committee to move forward.

**\*\*Motion\*\***

Move forward on proposed Surplus Materials Disposition language developed by James L. So moved, Chris Carbone, Second, Leah Wagner. Motion carried.

1. **Current Projects**
   1. **Update on the Construction Bond Bill** 
      1. Jeanne Marie Ryan: More sponsors from both sides. Resolutions coming in. Want resolutions from library boards and towns.
      2. Another breakfast in the works. Still need a location (one in north & one in south).
      3. Discussion on efficacy of Postcard campaign. Last NJLA Postcard campaign 7 years ago regarding budget cut – a big issue. Suggested that we can’t “go to the well twice” with postcards to voters.
      4. Engage & other electronic methods proposed.
      5. Chris Carbone suggested a one bill per month focus for members to contact their representatives.
      6. Newsletter that explains all bills is in the works.
   2. **Advocacy Week (Fortnight)**
      1. Training Webinar: Tuesday, 2/28, 10:30am
      2. Actively looking for Captains. Going well.
         1. Janet Marler volunteered to help in her district.
   3. **NJLA Statement on Division, Inclusion, and Action**
      1. Updated on progress since last meeting.
         1. Took concerns of Public Policy and Intellectual freedom back to E-Board. Decided to table statement and allow originators of statement to take another stab informed by concerns of PP & IF.
         2. Authoring group reconvened and worked to integrate concerns, moved away from pinning statement to a specific time, but also wanted to balance it to avoid an “everything is OK” type statement.
         3. Since discussion, ALA issued a statement on inclusion. Thus, added “we stand with ALA” language to draft.
      2. Further Discussion on proposed statement
         1. James L. voiced concern over enumerating “races, religions, genders, viewpoints” since it inherently leaves out demographics. “Sexual orientations” and “abilities” were mentioned as omissions.
         2. Michael M. voiced concern about a statement that just says “all” as potentially being an “on the sidelines” document.
         3. Chris C. echoed that enumeration by its very nature leaves people out.
         4. Janet M. mentioned how a laundry list of welcomed peoples could be viewed derisively as “a joke” by some.
         5. Keeping “Viewpoints” was discussed. Determined might be at odds with individual institutions’ policies. We must “walk the walk and talk the talk.”
         6. Determined that “where all are welcome” was clearest and strongest language for first paragraph.
         7. Statement on Inclusion is meant to “pave the way” towards the Core Values Statement. The Core Values Statement will incorporate the Statement on Inclusion.
         8. Final Paragraph, recommended that “please remember and” be replaced with “be reassured” and make timeline for Core Values Statement be “2017/2018”
      3. Eileen P. thanked the E-Board for being responsive to PP concerns and the Committee for their comments.

**\*\*Motion\*\***

Move to Endorse Statement on Inclusion as recommended. So moved, Janet Marler, Second, John Wallace. Motion carried. (Two oppose: Jennifer Podolsky & Susan Kaplan; concerns voiced at January meeting).

* 1. **ALA Legislative Day**
     1. May 1 & 2 (Mon & Tues)
     2. Day 1 is training & Day 2 is visits.
     3. Announcement with link is forthcoming.
  2. **NJ District 11 Meeting**
     1. ALA reached out to NJLA to help set up a meeting with Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ 11th Dist)
     2. ALA interested in developing a relationship.
     3. Rep. Frelinghuysen is a member of Parsippany Library Friends Group; Chair of House Appropriations Committee. Has organized trips to Library of Congress for members of his library.
     4. Awaiting response from his office.

1. **Intellectual Freedom Committee Report**

No report.

1. **State Library Report Highlights**
   1. NJSL still working with consultants on the independent evaluation of the **NJ LSTA 5 Year Plan 2013-2017** due in March. The evaluation will help inform the next 5 Year Plan 2018-2022 due in June.
   2. **NJ Public Library Survey** opened 1/9/17. Collects stats for IMLS Public Library Survey and for determination of Per Capita State Aid. Closes 3/15/17.
   3. **New Directors Orientation** is 2/15/17. New Director of Newark Public Library will attend.
   4. **Local Library Support Fund** is available on 2016 NJ State Income Tax forms as an option for charitable donation. Funds collected will be distributed same way as Per Capita State Aid.
   5. Assembling a Per Capita State Aid Committee to review PCSA miminum standards in **NJAC 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants.** August 2016 proposal on regulations no longer funded or no longer needed due to consolidation did not receive a response from Governor’s office.
   6. Will resubmit proposal no later than September to meet deadline for submission to Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for publication in the *New Jersey Register* and for public comment. NJAC 15:21 & 15:22 expire on 11/12/17.
   7. **Small Business Workshops** confirmed from February to May.
   8. **2017 Best Practices in Early Literacy Awards** – Deadline to apply is 2/20/17.
   9. Registration for the **March 2017 Summer Reading Workshops** Opening Feb. 6, 2017.
   10. **Tutor Training** will be offered in partnership with Literacy New Jersey. Open to anyone. Five three hour training sessions. Free.
   11. **2017 Multicultural Program Awards -** Deadline to apply is February 14, 2017.
   12. **Mid-Atlantic Futures Conference** will be 9/25/17 & 9/26/17 at Borgata in AC. Joint venture by NJ, CT, DE, MD, PA, RI, and WV state libraries (so far).
   13. Discussion about future of IMLS
       1. Nothing official yet from NJSL.
       2. Eileen P. offered that Committee on Legislation has discussed and no one knows yet. Concern about ability to mobilize base to fight for LSTA like in the 80’s & 90’s.
       3. Pat T. stated that people don’t fully realize what gets funded by LSTA. Need to educate where these funds go and librarians need to be reminded what services are paid for by LSTA.
       4. Need to be proactive. Let Boards & Trustees know now.
       5. Need to get rid of notion of “free databases” and replace with “federally funded” instead.
2. **Other**
   1. PP Conference Programs
      1. Need help on pre-conference program PR. Mary Ann Ralph & Chris Carbone volunteered to help.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40pm on motion by Leah Wagner and seconded by John Wallace. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Wallace