

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Start: 2:05pm

Attendance: Bonnie Lafazan, Nicole Marconi, Adriana Mamay, Christina Getaz, Eric Schwarz, Katie Kotacska

Absences: Susan Vignuolo, Brandy Walthall, Jane Jiang, Jennifer Sulligan, Kate Mathe, Katy White, Neil Grimes, Matheson Westlake

1. **Acceptance of [February 28th Minutes](#)**

2. **Social Media 101 Program Survey Results- Katie:**
 - a. 39 people came! Was received very positively from those who attended.
 - b. Will be sending out a survey to those who participated to obtain feedback on this program.
 - c. Youtube & LibrarylinkNJ update. Katie will upload the video to youtube after a brief adjustment. Katie will also send the recording of the event for LibraryLinkNJ to post on their website for future viewing.
 - d. Notes for future programs. Katie recommends keeping all future programs recorded via ZOOM in focus mode. Focus mode allows for the presenters only to be recorded, and it hides all other participants from the recording itself. Once focus mode is removed, then others can be recorded on screen. Received a few e-mails before and during the program from participants saying they didn't receive the zoom link. In the future, please check email before the program begins and send the ZOOM link itself in the email reminders. Eric recommended to see if ZOOM will send reminders. Katie will look into this.

3. **New Librarian Series- Katie & Susan:**
 - a. Katie & Susan are working on a New Librarian panel series for NJLA's Youtube Channel.
 - b. Interview backups - Susan & Christina
 - c. The interviews that have been filmed so far are the following:
 - i. Teen & Youth Services- Public Libraries (two)
 - ii. Adult Services Librarians- Public Libraries
 - iii. Cataloging/Metadata (two)
 - iv. School Librarian/ Media Specialist
 - v. Speciality Librarian- Music Outreach & Technology
 - vi. Academic Librarian (two)
 - vii. Archive/Special Collections


NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

- d. New Librarians Panel Interviews still needed to film:
 - i. Law - Susan reached out to the law librarian at Seton Hall and has scheduled an interview date.
 - ii. Health Sciences- Bonnie recommended a possible health science librarian to be interviewed for this project. Katie will reach out to them.
 - iii. Medical- Katie has a lead on a medical librarian. Will follow up.
 - iv. Corporate- Still on the search.
 - e. Corporate Librarian still needed- Bonnie recommended to ask someone from NJSAL. Bonnie sent Katie an email with their contact information. Katie will reach out to them to see if a corporate librarian would be interested in being interviewed for this series.
 - f. Creation of Graphic for Youtube. Will send Canva info to Christina.
- 4. Future Speakers/Programs- Katie:**
- a. Marketing Program Updates:
 - b. Susanne Markgren and Linda Miles (Here is a link to their website: <https://thriveasalibraryprofessional.com/workshops-presentations/>) Susan and Katie had a meeting with Susanne and Linda via ZOOM to discuss the workshop they will be doing for NJLA. Discussed how the workshop would be organized in terms of presentation and breakout sessions. Susanne and Linda will send us the official title and description of the workshop to submit for the grant by May 1st. Grant application is due on May 15th. Notification of acceptance for the grant is on June 15th.
 - i. Discussion of program date. Is there a deadline when we have to use the money given by the mini grant? Ask Katy White. Katie will touch base with Katy to confirm this before program date is decided.
 - c. All about them paraprofessionals- Susan
 - d. Tiktok Program: How to Deal with it in the Library- Legally, etc. Does anyone know a library lawyer that might be interested in doing this program?
 - i. NJLA has a survey going around asking what vendors they use. They might be asking which lawyers they use. Perhaps we can look into this for a program. Survey will be going out the next few weeks just to library directors.
 - ii. Might consider this as a future as a panel of librarians instead of finding a lawyer to do the program for us. Reach out to Darby as a skillsharing? Mentor NJ Open Talks? Katie will send Darby an email.
- 5. NJLA 2024 Conference Updates- Bonnie & Susan**

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

- a. WE ARE APPROVED! Congratulations everyone, and special thanks to Bonnie for putting together the application proposal!
- b. How Did We Get Here? Breaking Down Barriers in Our Library Careers -- Friday, May 31st @ 11:40am-12:30pm
- c.  2024 NJLA Prof Dev. Committee Proposal
- d. Susan and Bonnie will work together on panelist questions.
- e. Panelists are: Christina Getz, Neil Grimes, Nicole Marconi, Susan Vignuolo and Caitlyn Decker?; Bonnie will moderate.

6. Future Surveys: Katie & Susan

- i. Should we create a survey to see what programs NJLA members would like outside the conference, and we can potentially look into speakers? Katie did one a couple years ago geared towards finding out which areas librarians would like to learn more about to provide programming to their library community. This survey would be geared more towards which aspects of Professional Development NJLA members would like outside of the annual conference. Maybe we should schedule this for after the conference?
- ii. If you wanted to see one program from the Professional Development committee, what would it be?

7. Newsletter- Susan

- a. Susan met with Katy White and Erica Deb of the Newsletter Committee. Our content will now be published in both the main NJLA newsletter and the LibraryLink newsletter on a quarterly basis.
- b. Karin Roslund submitted a piece for the March newsletter (How Did I Get Here?) which was sent out to NJLA members on March 22nd.
- c. What will be in the next newsletter?

8. Updates from NJLA Executive Board- Eric & Katie

- a. NJLA Town Hall Meeting Updates- Feb. 22nd
 - i. NJLA Executive Board is looking for other hotels for 2026-2028 for the annual conference. From the NJLA organizational update e-mail: Hard Rock, Harrah's, and Tropicana are the NJLA conference hotel finalists. We are negotiating with the finalists and look forward to the outcome. **NJLA Strategic planning continues.**
 - ii. From Katy White: Brett was testifying at the state Senate budget hearing to try to restore the library network funds that currently have a 20% cut in the governor's proposed budget. Per Capita library funding is flat. That's

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

the big news to report - besides the fact that the conference website is up and ready for registration.

1. From the NJLA Organizational update email (March 21st): Brett met with staff members from the Governor's Office and the Treasury Department, and gave testimony at the Assembly Budget Committee meeting at the Capitol. Soon after, the Governor's Office released [Detailed Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025](#). The budget would keep Per Capita State Aid flat from Fiscal Year 2024 to 2025. While this is less than we had requested – we asked for full funding for Per Capita State Aid – from a library perspective, this counts as “good news”. The bad news is the budget includes a proposed 20% decrease in “Network Funding” (See D-350, which is page 423 in the linked PDF). We are working to restore flat funding for Fiscal Year 2025, because a decrease in Library Network funding would negatively affect every library in New Jersey.
- iii. NJLA's lobbyists, Porzio Government Affairs, helped us focus on [Freedom to Read](#), and we expect the bill to be heard by the Senate Education Committee in May. After training with the American Library Association (ALA) Chapter Relations office, we added a page to the NJLA website where members and other library advocates can contact their elected representatives, and created our first campaign, [opposing censorship and supporting the Freedom to Read bill](#).
- iv. Board meetings are open and we welcome your attendance. Check [njla.org/executive-board-agendas](https://www.njla.org/executive-board-agendas) for dates and meeting links. You can also find Organizational Updates at [//njla.org/organizational-updates](https://www.njla.org/organizational-updates).
- v. Strategic Planning Updates- looking to update mission statements, core values, strategic priorities, goals, measurements of success/metrics, etc. Will be doing focus groups to get feedback on the strategic plan. Draft for the board will occur in April, and a final review will be presented in May. Committees might be contacted for a focus group. (Strategic plans services were sent out- due on March 1st). NJLA is also looking to have two in-person focus groups in North and West Jersey. If you are interested in participating, please click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeApOCirxvWwJRJxozD-XXsYs0yp3TECu0a6zuhIPCRO2fIMw/viewform>
- vi. The NJLA Technical Services and Collection Development section is conducting a **survey about world languages collections in NJ libraries**. The information we collect will be shared with NJ librarians through NJLA. Please complete the survey by **April 30, 2024**. <https://forms.gle/oENK8c6YpMAfB6cp9>

9. LLNJ & other events (other than newsletter)

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes **Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.**

- vii. Bonnie and Adrianna do a program called Wellness Wednesdays (on the first Wednesday of every month)- currently postponed via zoom but will be doing a panel at NJLA Conference.

<https://librarylinknj.org/calendar/mentornj-online-meet-wellness-wednesday-meetup>

- viii. Stephanie Sendaula, Programming and Outreach Specialist LibraryLinkNJ, is presenting at the Reference & Adult Services Section meeting on **Thursday, March 28** at 10:00 am on Zoom. Her topic concerns **neurodivergence and disabilities** in general. [Click for registration info.](#)
- ix. Social Media Strategies To Boost Your Library's Reach & Impact- Thursday, Apr 11, 2024, 1 - 2pm. [Click here for registration info.](#)
- x. Elevating the Library Experience with Creative Programming- Thursday, Apr 18, 2024, 1 - 2pm- In this webinar, our panel of community engagement librarians will share practical tips and examples for connecting with your patrons through library programs. From interactive workshops to local partnerships, these ideas will inspire both beginners and seasoned programmers in all kinds of libraries. Learn how to reach even more of your community with imaginative and interactive events.[Click here for registration info.](#)
- xi. The Importance of Self-Awareness. Thu, Apr 25, 2024, 10am - 12pm. Self-awareness is the keystone to all that we say, all that we do, and all that we strive to be. People think they are self-aware...but are they really? This workshop clearly defines self-awareness and provides strategies to help us all be more aware of how we see ourselves, how others see us and how we fit into the world. [Click here for registration info.](#)
- xii. Other upcoming programs are listed on the [LLNJ calendar](#).

11. Adjournment: 2:59pm

2023-2024 PD Meeting Dates:

December 20th

January 24th - In person meeting at JFK Library in Piscataway

February 28th

March 27th

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

April 24th

May 22nd

June 26th - In person again??

July 24th

August 28th

2023-2024 committee members:

1	Kotacska	Katherine	Middletown Township Public Library	kkotacska@mplmain.mtpl.org	Chair
2	Vignuolo	Susan	Piscataway Public Library	svignuolo@piscatawaylibrary.org	Vice Chair
3	Mamay	Adriana	Middlesex College Library	amamay@middlesexcc.edu	Conference Future Chair
4	Sulligan	Jennifer	Somerset County Library System	jensulligan@live.com	Lead & Edu Chair
6	Getaz	Christina	Caldwell University	cegetaz@gmail.com	Member
7	Grimes	Neil	William Patterson University	grimesn@wpunj.edu	Member
8	Jiang	Yu "Jane"	Union College Library	yu.jiang@ucc.edu	Member
9	Lazafan	Bonnie	Springfield Public Library	blazafan@springfieldpubliclibrary.com	Member
10	Mathe	Kate	Mendham Borough Library	kdonnell@scarletmail.rutgers.edu	Member

NJLA Professional Development Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

11	Marconi	Nicole	Hoboken Public Library	nicole.marconi@hoboken.bccls.org	Member
12	Schwarz	Eric	Clarence Dillon Public Library	eschwarz@dillonlibrary.org	Member
13	Walthall	Brandy	Atlantic City Free Public Library	brandydwalthall@gmail.com	Member
14	Westlake	Matheson	Mercer County Library	mathesonwestlake@gmail.com	Member