

**NJLA Reference Section Meeting  
July 19, 2021,**

Meeting began at 3:05 PM, Monday, July 19, 2021.

**Attendees:**

Kate Russo (host), Theresa Agostinelli, Rich Wiest, Tierney Miller, Jennifer Konopacki, Cynthia Lambert, Karen Vaias, John Beekman, Eric Schwarz, Tony Joachim, John Beekman, Stephen Brunskill, Nathalie Levine, Sherry Johnson, Lorraine Ruiz, Jenny Zbrizher, Deborah Blackwell, Teresa Carlton, Kate Jaggars, Doug Baldwin, James Keebler, and Lisa Bruckman (taking minutes).

June [Minutes](#) approved.  
Executive Board accepted.  
Executive Board

Officers

President: Theresa Agostinelli

Vice President (President-Elect): Kate Russo

Recording Secretary: Lisa Bruckman

Member at large 1: Reginald Blanding

Member at large 2: Chelsea Rizzolo

Member at large 3: Rich Wiest

Member at large 4: Sherry Johnson - thank you to Sherry for filling this empty slot!

Library school representative: No nomination

**Bylaws & Constitution**

We are forming a subcommittee to evaluate the [current Bylaws & Constitution](#).  
Current members are Theresa Agostinelli, Kate Russo, Karen Vaias, and Sherry Johnson.

Request for any other members that would like to work on the Bylaws & Constitution Subcommittee: Stephen Brunskill, Rich Wiest and Lisa Bruckman (self) have also joined.

For those on the Subcommittee:

Plan to send revised bylaws and constitution by Friday, August 26th

Estimated vote on Bylaws and Constitution changes at our September meeting on Monday, September 27th.

(Proposed changes with members at least 30 days before a vote according the current Bylaws & Constitution of the Section - to be considered for alteration and voting by the members at the Sept 27th, 2021.)

**Key proposed changes:**

- name change: Reference & Adult Services Section
- change in wording from our group serving “librarians” to something more inclusive of all library workers.
- Less restrictive job responsibilities for President and Vice-President
- Change number of Members-at-Large from “4” to “2-4”
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- Eric Schwarz raised a question regarding the possibility of members who cannot attend the September 27th meeting to be able to vote by Absentee Ballot?

**Guest presenter:** Kate Jagers, NJLA President and Director of the Highland Park Public Library shared her experiences and wisdoms gained as she developed her Library career, now the President of NJLA: beginning at Clifton Public Library, following Paterson Free Public Library, Piscataway Public Library and now Director of Highland Park Public Library.

**Discussion Topic: Advancing in your career.**

- 1- NJLA participation is a plus: Kate shared the importance of networking and developing relationships with others in the Library field who can augment your own strengths as a Library professional, particularly emphasizing that this is the primary mission of NJLA. Kate added that members of NJLA who become involved in the organization build their network base as well as their knowledge of Library related fields and can find it so much easier to place themselves strategically in positions that best suit what each member might choose as a career goal. Learning about the responsibilities of many Library professions is also among the benefits of the relationships gained through NJLA involvement.
- 2- Always ask for feedback from your colleagues: whether related to your resume or your performance in a job interview and the lost opportunity of not getting chosen as a job candidate/ interviewee.
- 3- Be focused on each job application: do not send same cover letter to two different positions advertised - tailor all efforts to gain another position toward the detailed description of the position, etc - networking for “inside information” with other NJLA members is always a good idea - NJ is a “very small state”.
- 4- Temporary positions is also a way to sample different Libraries and further network: Working for ProLibra can also be a way of networking with other Library employees in different Libraries.

Eric Schwarz suggested there be a NJLA workshop session that addresses an insider's viewpoint as the Interviewer with best practices shares and suggestions for Interviewees.

### **Regarding an Upcoming Event (new to the Section), in lieu of the Adult Services Forum:**

#### [Information Equity Conference](#)

- Registration should open by the end of August
- Registration is free and open to all LibraryLinkNJ members
- Volunteers - scribes for lightning talks and/or moderated roundtable discussions
- To date, the Schedule for the Conference "is almost ready to go".

#### **Discussion**

How is everyone doing? How are things going at your library? What programs/projects are you working on?

- Teresa Carson shared that Gloucester County Library System is going to begin holding indoor storytimes.
- Kate Russon shared that South River Public Library is still holding storytimes under a tent outdoors, as before the pandemic, as well as in a park locally.
- Karen Vaias shared that the MAIN Consortium is attempting to work out a continuation with Hybrid programming in their Libraries.
- Eric Schwarz shared that Hackensack, Union City and other public libraries are also accommodating Hybrid programming for their user populations.
- Sherry Johnson shared the news that Highland Park Public Library is joining LMXAC consortium "on Thursday" (ie, 7/22/21 Thurs).

#### **Announcements**

LibraryLinkNJ Programs:

##### **Share Your Reads: Adult & YA Crossover**

Tuesday, July 27th, 3pm-4pm [Read More](#)

Share details about your latest reads with Library colleagues from around New Jersey. Conversation topics could include books, audiobooks, magazine or journal articles, and more.

##### **Skill-Sharing Conversations**

**Practicing Linguistic Equity: Engaging International Learners Online:** Monday, July 26th, 10:30-11:30am [Read More](#)

**Instagram for Libraries: Reels, Stories, Photos, and More!:** Tuesday, August 10th, 10am-11am [Read More](#)

**Email Newsletters:** Tuesday, August 24th, 10am-11am [Read More](#)

**Curating Library-Created Videos:** Tuesday, September 14th, 10am-11am [Read More](#)

**How to Pivot After a "Fail":** Tuesday, September 28th, 10am-11am [Read More](#)

### **Future Section Meetings**

Volunteers to present or moderate on different topics for a portion of a meeting.

What topics would you like to see addressed?

August 23rd, 3-4pm

September 27, 3-4pm

October: Information Equity Conference

November 22, 3-4pm

December - no meeting

Lisa Bruckman, Recording Secretary, Reference and Adult Services Section; 7/24/21.