

Diversity and Outreach Section meeting minutes
Thursday, August 27, 10:00 – 12 noon
Cherry Hill Public Library

Attendance: Andrew Luck (Paterson Free PL), Jill D'Amico (East Brunswick PL), Jen Schureman (Gloucester County Library System), Mimi Lee (NJ State Library), Rich Wiest (Gloucester County Library System), Deena Caswell (Cherry Hill Public Library), Jamie Dunn (Ocean County Library - Barnegat Branch), Laverne Mann (Cherry Hill Public Library), Shazia Zaman (Ocean County Library). **Online:** Enola Romano (Montclair PL), Kyle Craig (Rockaway PL), Selwa Shamy (Somerset County Library System), Doug Baldwin (Piscataway PL)

Meeting called to order at 10:13 a.m.

Introductions

Introductions were made, since we were in the south, and there were some new faces. Hello!

Review of Minutes from July 23, 2015

Jill moved to approve the minutes, Mimi seconded it.

Report from the President

Our membership is growing as new members come into NJLA. The D&O Diversity Resources page will be promoted among membership once new membership slows down. There is an update on the section's nascent social media efforts - Nola met with Ally Blumenfeld and Peggy Cadigan and they discussed logistics. They are considering software to schedule tweets, as this would be the best way to handle time management. They are close to a date to go live. Laverne points out how sometimes just getting started is the best way to find one's way with social media.

Update from the Executive Board

Membership renewals are encouraged - they will be sending personal appeals soon and members will be dropped from the rolls if they are not renewed by October. This is NJLA's 125th anniversary year. They are trying to encourage membership among non-librarians. Also, D&O will be updating the board at their November meeting, and they want to help us with projects any way they can.

Update from the State Library

The Literacy Boot Camp registration will close tomorrow - there are still spots. It is a good opportunity to learn from Plainfield PL, which has been a leader in the field of adult literacy. Youth Mental Health First Aid registration will open Sept. 1.

Pending

D&O idea survey - It's open for suggestions - please share any ideas about programs, initiative, programs, resources, and idea sharing. Andy will remind the section via email. Deena tells of an example that worked - she did a Pride Event at CHPL with the local PFLAG chapter, featuring film screenings, talks, and oral histories.

Joint Meeting - There is talk of a joint meeting with the Urban Libraries section, and all present are enthusiastic about the idea. Andy will follow up with UL president and update us.

Upcoming programs - Program planners orientation is 9/10 (Andy will bring back their feedback); the YS forum 10/7 (all planned); NJ Anti-poverty summit 10/13 (good chance to do outreach beyond library audience - we will share info, and Nola plans on going); Snapshot Day 10/21 (it is going to be big, keep in mind D&O-centric info and photos to share); AS forum 10/26 (we will have a table to promote D&O Resources Website and Allan will give a lunchtime talk); NJLA conference in May.

We segued into a discussion about creating a statewide language contact list for library staff who need translation in a reference setting. We are generally in agreement about this being a good idea - it was floated earlier last year by Mi-Sun as a part of the D&O Resource page website - but logistics (access, privacy, updating, time commitment) confound. Mimi would like to be involved in whatever discussion happens on this.

Strategic Plan

This was modified slightly since the last vote and shared via the listserv. Andy moves to approve it, Jen seconds and all are in favor.

Ideas & Issues

Unconscious Bias Test Program - Stemming from email exchanges earlier this month. Andy encourages everyone to take the tests and see if a conference program idea springs up for anyone.

Other People's Holidays are Holidays Too - We await Allan's feedback on a resolution so that we can put forth something official, but in the meantime we agree to set a good example and not have meetings conflicting with religious and/or cultural holidays in an effort to be mindful. It appears the next D&O meeting conflicts with **Eid** al-Adha, so we agree to move that meeting from Thursday, September 24 to Monday, September 21. Andy will follow up with a confirmation of where this will take place. *(Updated to reflect meeting will take place at Paterson Free Public Library)*

Library Card Signup Month Initiatives - This is another hot-button issue. We are looking to bring workarounds to library card issuance policies to a broad audience in an effort to help prevent limitations on access to information for NJ residents. It is outreach in its truest form, and yes, there are a lot of considerations (technology, staffing, trustees, circulation departments, etc.). Library card applications are only one example. Andy will send an email to the group requesting feedback.

Promotion, Promotion, Promotion

Resources Page - This will be promoted heavily via Twitter and at the AS forum with a table and a lunchtime talk. Mi-Sun suggests doing targeted promotion (asking libraries to submit their ESL program info, for example), ahead of that. It was also suggested that Pat include the page in her next listserv announcement.

Upcoming meetings

Monday, September 21, 2015– TBD

Thursday, October 22, 2015 – Location: NJ State Library Talking Book & Braille Center

Thursday, November 19, 2015 – North Plainfield Public Library (joint meeting with UL?)

Thursday, December 17, 2015 - Mullica Hill HQ/Gloucester County Library System

Thursday, January 28 - Toms River HQ/Ocean County Library System

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.