

NJLA Diversity & Outreach Section Meeting Minutes  
Elizabeth Public Library  
February 28, 2019

**Attendance:** Mimi Lee (NJSL), Ally Blumenfeld (EPL); *Google Hangouts:* Zoe Lopez (SCLS), Selwa Shamy (MPL), Jen Schureman (GCLS), Deena Caswell (CHPL)

**Reports:**

NJLA Executive Board: Jen reports that in March, NJLA will begin using MemberClicks, a membership software that will allow members to check on their membership status and communicate with committees and sections. The NJLA Past Presidents have collectively contributed \$2,500, which NJLA Executive Director Pat Tumulty matched, for a total of \$5,000 to pay for an ALA-sponsored Diversity Training for NJLA Leaders and Members. Ally asked Jen if this replaces the Diversity Consultant initiative, which involved hiring an independent consultant to evaluate NJLA as an organization. Jen will ask for clarification.

State Library/TBBC: Mimi reports that the deadline to apply for the [Multicultural Program Award](#), for a library's work with a community partner on a multicultural program is March 18. The deadline to apply for the [Best Practices in Early Literacy Award](#) is March 8. For both, the award is \$1,000 in cash, acknowledgement as a model program, and recognition during the State Librarian's Breakfast at NJLA. The first New Directors Orientation program happened recently with the second scheduled for March 27. Selwa asked Mimi if registration is closed, and how one could find out about future programs. Mimi said Bob Keith at NJSL is the one to contact for more information. Lastly, the IMLS-funded [Cross-Cultural Communicators in Libraries](#) program is on its way! The call for registration will come in April; the target audience is any library staff person who speaks Spanish and English. The program includes webinars on cultural competency, followed by an in-person training on translation and interpretation skills, which will be offered in four locations around the state. Zoe asked Mimi if registrants must have a certain level of fluency in order to participate. Mimi said that staff with all levels of fluency are welcome.

LibraryLinkNJ: No LLNJ staff present. Jen reports that LLNJ will be funded through next year; however, we are unsure which CE services will continue. The D&O Resource Page, currently hosted by LLNJ, will be migrated to the NJLA website.

**NJLA Conference:**

Conference registration is open. Ally will send out sign-up information for our D&O member engagement table. The table will not need to be staffed the entire time, but we would like some friendly faces present during breaks. The table will provide flyers for our conference offerings, a save the date for the DO-IT conference, and buttons to give away.

Ally will confer with Tanya Finney Estrada and Tina Marie Doody to discuss scheduling for the Donation Drive table, which will need to be staffed from 9-5 on Thursday and 9-1 on

Friday. This year we are collecting books, clothes, gift cards, and monetary donations for Covenant House, a youth shelter in AC, and a school library in Coamo, PR.

We have a total of [9 programs](#) we are either actively planning or co-sponsoring. Ally wrote up a D&O Program Spotlight which will be published on the NJLA Conference Blog on March 5. The Conference Committee has improved the way they schedule programs by making it subject-based rather than sponsor-based, so D&O has some program overlaps. Members are encouraged to ensure that they are not committed to speaking/moderating at two concurrent programs.

### **Board Elections**

Jen has been working on the ballot for 2019-2020 officers. As of now David Perez is running for President (2 year term). We are still seeking a VP (3 year term) and Member-at-Large (1 year term).

### **D&O Newsletter**

Jen is working on our first D&O Newsletter. Kara Brehm sent us a write-up of the Cape May County Library's Bookmobile for the Bookmobile Spotlight. Jen will put out a call for submissions for diversity & outreach highlights from libraries around the state. Mimi mentioned that the H&P Newsletter, which is a robust and regular offering from the section, could be a good example for our newsletter. Jen clarified that the D&O Newsletter will not be a responsibility of Past Presidents, but that she will serve as Editor-in-Chief out of personal interest. Ally suggested we plan for the sustainability of this initiative.

### **DO-IT Conference**

David Perez could not be present at this meeting, so discussion of the next DO-IT Conference was limited. However, members agreed that it may be best to plan for a March 2020 conference. A location has not been determined. The topic is homelessness.

### **Good of the Order**

Selwa recently attended a [PLA training on Social Justice and Public Libraries](#) at which topics included concrete actions libraries can take to examine their institutional biases and create more equitable communities. She suggests that D&O host a workshop on the topic of racial equity in the fall. Members agreed and discussed logistics. Mimi will look into finding a speaker/trainer.

Mimi suggested D&O offer a webinar series, in which we would provide access to a free, archived webinar at a physical location, so that members can experience the training in-person, followed by discussion. Members agreed and discussed logistics. Mimi will look into this further. These two CE ideas will be on next month's agenda.

The next meeting will be held on **March 28 at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library and via Google Hangouts.**

Submitted by Ally Blumenfeld