

**NJLA Scholarship Committee
Meeting Notes
Friday, December 13, 2013 / 10 am**

In attendance: John Trause, Susan VanAlstyne, Lisa Sedita, Mimi Hui (Chair), Lindita Cani, Maureen Carroll, Erin Gorski, Karla Ivarson, Debbi Maynard, Kassundra Miller

1. Mimi went over the funds available for the 2014-2015 academic year: \$8000. There will be no new Karma Scholarship recipient for 2014-2015 as last year's candidate will still be in library school for 2014-2015.
2. Karla will maintain the NJLA Scholarship Committee wiki and email Pat Tumulty of NJLA to get a link to it on the official NJLA website.
3. Mimi's initiative to scan the incoming scholarship applications and email them to committee members worked well and cut the time required at the review meeting in half. Mimi will again scan the applications this year into PDF format, with help from Lisa, and email them. Committee members are asked to please do their homework before the next meeting.
4. Application and Interview Dates for 2014:

March 17th—Deadline for scholarship applications

March 28th—Review of applications at the South Orange Public Library

April 25th—Interview of Candidates at Rutgers Huntington House

May 1st—Mimi presents the names of recipients to NJLA

June 3rd—Leadership Luncheon at the NJLA conference: scholarship recipients are presented to the luncheon.

5. Review of application and changes:

Discussion of asking all recipients to volunteer for the NJLA office (not just the Karma recipient) either in person or by doing a project online. Application will now include the statement:

“Scholarship recipients are given an opportunity to be of service to NJLA. Would you be interested in this opportunity?”

6. Discussion of the 2013-14 winners took place.

- One recipient relocated out of NJ to a southern state but finishing her library degree online.
- Another recipient is not currently in library school. It was explained to him that he had until August of 2014 to utilize his scholarship. If not used, the money will no longer be available and will go back into the scholarship fund. He is welcome to apply again and go through the process.
- There are two other winners yet to claim their scholarship funds. Unfortunately, it looks like we have awarded scholarships to candidates who aren't utilizing the money or who are establishing their careers outside of NJ.

Question—should we require candidates to be matriculated into library school?

Answer—the timeline is problematic, as students starting in the fall of 2015 would miss the opportunity for a scholarship.

We will need to screen carefully during the interview process to ascertain that candidates have been accepted into school AND if the candidate plans on working in New Jersey.

7. The scholarship committee will now follow up with candidates by mentoring them. Mentors for last year's candidates will be as follows:

- S. Anastasio/L. Cani
- J. Budd/M. Hui
- S. Gale/D. Maynard
- R. Magnan/K. Miller
- S. Nesmith/L. Sedita
- C. Skirka/J. Trause
- M. Stirm/M. Hui
- T. Beebe/E. Gorski

8. PR initiatives:

Mimi emails the listserves, accredited library schools in the area and ALA. Karla posts on relevant NJ librarian groups on Facebook. All of us are asked to tweet on Twitter. Erin suggested that committee members to outreach on Rutgers Campus. Perhaps an informational table at a required Colloquium presentation? Erin will tackle this project with John.