

**NJLA Reference & Adult Services Section**

September 28, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom

**In Attendance**: Deborah Blackwell, Kate Russo, Claire Thomas, Ilene Lefkowitz, Karen Vias, Muriel Odrick

1. Called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Reading of meeting minutes – August 16, 2023. Second by Karen Vias

3. Introduction – section members attending introduce themselves – name, library location, how many years in their profession

4. Ideas for the Reference & Adult Services Section discussion – what is going on in attendees’ libraries, attendees’ passions that would be great programing.

* Karen V. – recognized the change in libraries – the type of activities in them, managing the different expectations of what a library is now (not quiet); managing the different expectations of what people think the library is now.
  + Suggested to have a panel with a selection of libraries – urban, county, suburban or small town libraries
  + Four members to discuss different topics from our discussion chosen ahead of time.
* Deborah B. – libraries are seen as a community centers.
* Ilene L. agrees libraries have changed so much.
* Claire T – location of her library {Cherry Hill Library} is basically a suburb of Philadelphia there is an uptick in homelessness, questioned how to help or make services available known, suggested a presentation by Ryan Dowd speaker about library such as Ryan Dowd
* Muriel – patrons lack of awareness of the multiple free databases available for free that can help them meet their basic needs; resources for job preparedness,
* Kate Russo – A panel - locate a representative from an Academic and Law Library. Those willing to come from those arena would enrich the dialogue – something based on some personal experiences, other professionals and some research on communicating effectively with coworkers on the spectrum developed to present as a conference idea.

Points of dialogue of ideas between meeting attendees:

* Partner with other ALA Sections.
* A.I. – Claire T. will contact Suzanne Fox concerning working with adults on the spectrum.
* Create a tool that is a collaboration of ideas to assist staff in directing patrons to resources beyond staff availability, training, time, and resources.

5. Monmouth County Library – Adult Forum 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan Township, NJ

* Friday, October 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. This Adult Forum will take place in the stead of the section meeting for October.
* Focus is on mental health – care and communication

6. Wellness tips from meeting attendees.

Question: What wellness do you do for yourself whether it is emotional, spiritual, exercise that you care to share?

* Yoga, some stretching, and a little exercise.
* Remember patrons are not taking out their bad moods on you, remember that it is really not about you, which helps not bring you down too much.
* Walks. Try not to be connected to anything – just listen to what is going on around you.
* Their two dogs are their self-care – they are the best.
* Leave our baggage from home at home or at the door and from work at work.
* Don’t obsess and ruminate about things that happen.
* Pausing and be aware of their own energy, stop breathe, engage with them, slow down and tune in with the person, do not immediately start talking – take cues from them before speaking
* Listening to Gospel music that is upbeat and are thankful for what they have, reading, and watching Brit Box.
* Not taking anyone’s backpack but their own.

7. Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. by Muriel Odrick, seconded by Kate Russo