

**NJLA Reference & Adult Services Section Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022, 10:00 am via Zoom**

In Attendance: Kate Russo, Deborah Blackwell, Janet Birkhead, Tony Joachim, Alicia Roman, Joy Robinson, Lisa Bruckman.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Joy Robinson and seconded by Deborah Blackwell.

Kate gave an update on the Conference Proposals submitted for the NJLA Reference & Adult Services Section to the NJLA Conference 2023 Committee on November 30, 2022. The following were submitted:

- **Brown Bag Luncheon:** Better Serving the UnderServed in your Community -submitted 11/30/22 9:20am
- **Reference & Adult Services Mixer**-submitted 11/30/22 9:40am
- **Adult Interactive Programs**-submitted 11/29/22 3:30pm
- **Jumping Through Hoopla Hoops** -submitted 11/22/22 11:00am
- **How to handle Legal Reference questions program**-submitted 11/21/22 3:55pm
- Working with Vendors-submitted 11/21/22 5:10pm

We had a discussion about the great success of the NJLA Diversity & Outreach Section Unconference on November 17th, 2022, held at the Elizabeth Public Library. Kate applauded the brilliant organization by Jeff Cupo of Elizabeth Public Library, with the help of Alicia Roman (also of Elizabeth Public Library) and the Section Committee. Janet Birkhead felt that the inclusion of best practices adaptable for small libraries also benefited the Unconference greatly.

Debra lead us in a discussion with the questions, "What did we think of the articles?", and "What did we think with regard to the pairing of the two articles she had chosen for us to read?", (the two articles linked below) which were emailed with our Section meeting announcement by Kate:

1. "Do You Qualify as an Ally?" by Jill Geisler (2020)

[KATE: HOW DO I INSERT THE PDF FILE HERE? CONVERT TO A JPG?]

2. "Tips on Soft Skills" by Laura Haynes (2022)

<https://alacorenews.org/2022/01/18/tips-on-soft-skills/>

- Alicia spoke of the mentorship ethics and responsibilities of those colleagues who are seasoned librarians, who have a prior advantage, to drop any pre- existing reservations.
- Debra summarized that Library staff should "notice our"visceral response" within

us as Library employees, Librarians. Tony and Kate remarked on the professional responsibility to better one's own "soft skills" in their interactions with visitors to their Libraries' information desks, and to their own colleagues.

- The attendees concluded that the discussion was a rich one and worthy of further discussion, disappointed with the end of the meeting hour. Kate suggested we add a January, 2023, meeting to the scheduled meetings she has planned and will email a Doodle Survey to members to determine availability for this January, 2023, meeting.
- Tony moved to adjourn the meeting, Debra seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.