



**NJLA Executive Board Meeting**  
**March 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**  
via Zoom

## **Minutes**

### **Call to Order – Jen Schureman Brenner, President**

The President calls the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**Present:** Jen Schureman Brenner, Danielle Cesena, Pham Condello, Corey Fleming, Kate Jagers, Allan Kleiman, Adriana Mamay, Samantha McCoy, Eileen Palmer, Will Porter, Selwa Shamy, Jessica Trujillo, Leah Wagner, John Wallace, Kerry Weinstein

**Guests:** Ally Blumenfeld, Juliet Machie, Jen Nelson, Patricia Pavlak, Mary Moyer Stubbs

**Absent:** Leslin Charles, Laverne Mann

### **Adoption of Agenda – Jen Schureman Brenner, President**

**Minutes** of the February 16, 2021 Executive Board Meeting – **Selwa Shamy, Secretary**

Allan Kleiman brought up two sections needing corrections which were deleted after review from Juliet Mache, Jen Schureman Brenner and Kate Jagers prior to the meeting -- the updated minutes were not shared with the board before the meeting.

Allan made a motion to accept the minutes with amendments, Will Porter seconds, Leah Wagner abstains and the motion passes.

### **Financial Report – Samantha McCoy, Treasurer**

- Budget Committee met with Juliet last week to talk about what the budget looks like and what needs to be changed
- Met with the Finance Committee. Will put together a solid budget, we have a better direction than last year.
  - PPP Loan - working out the kinks; account is still linked to Pat Tumulty's phone
  - Summer Reading Grant - will talk to the auditor how it should be reported
- Larry Lane stepped down as the Chair of the Investments Subcommittee and Phillip Berg is stepping in until the end of the fiscal year
- Need to figure out how to handle investments funds going forward. Scholarship Committee would benefit from knowing their funds earlier.
- Once Conference registration opens, finances will be in better shape

### **Reports within NJLA**

#### **Jen Schureman Brenner, President**

- Spoke with someone from the [Vineland Times Journal](#) about what libraries have done for the community through the pandemic
- Thanks to Leah Wagner and the entire Nominations & Elections committee for putting

together the Executive Board slate and running a successful election

**Juliet Machie, Executive Director - [Full report](#)**

- Vaccine advocacy - sent press release that library workers will be classified under 1C. Pushed very hard to get classified in 1B. 1C may be eligible in April. If anything changes on the federal level, we'll do an email push. Library workers in schools K-12 are in 1B
- 17 legislative visits have been completed. It was possible due to being in a virtual environment. The focus is on the FY22 budget and members of the budget committee. We have achieved a few successes:
  - March 1 the Assembly passed the Broadband Study Commission and libraries are included
  - Library Network Aid has been introduced by their sponsors, everyone who we met with agreed to sign on to the bills
  - Budget Hearings started on March 10. There are two scheduled in the Assembly and Senate. The Senate budget hearings are scheduled for March 16 and 23. There is a link to attend the budget hearings in the full report.
- Build Americas Libraries Act at the federal level. Emails went out to contact lawmakers to sign onto the bill. If this is approved it will impact the construction and renovation of libraries. Senator Cory Booker has already signed on to the bill.
- Conference registration is opening soon. Juliet has been pushing for sponsors, she got a yes for a platinum sponsor, Reference USA. Harrahs - issued '23-'25 conference documents, it will be shared with the Conference Committee before signing.
- The office furniture and floors are in. Portions of the office will be painted. Still assessing computer needs.
- Partnerships - Summer Reading Grant application has been submitted to the State Library, the FY21 grant amount was \$32,000
- LibraryLinkNJ new Program Committee meeting - intended to do a better job of promoting and collaborating and highlighting what all organizations do program wise. In need of one more representative from NJLA, there is already one volunteer.
- We will hopefully have an NJLA Town Hall meeting on April 12 at 3 p.m. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the membership to dialog with Juliet.
- Eileen asked about the amount in the governor's budget for libraries. Juliet said she does not have that information yet. She did attend a pre-budget briefing from the governor where he highlighted his budget priorities. He did not mention libraries specifically. Kimberly Paone and Juliet both asked about library funding during that session. They got an email that the government wants to work with libraries in the future. One legislator said that there are several pockets of money available to the state. If the bill gets funded fully this would be the year to do it due to the extra funds, which will not be available in future years

**Eileen Palmer, ALA Councilor - [Full report](#)**

- ALA listed what they have done with resolutions during the Midwinter meeting, there is a link in the full report
- Build America's Libraries Act - Each board member needs to contact Senator Menendez's office and their local representative to sign onto the bill

- Big infrastructure package is being worked on by Congress in the next few weeks, BALA was designed to fit into this larger legislative infrastructure effort.
  - NJ has tried to meet the library construction need on a local level and it isn't enough.
  - This is an opportunity for the federal government to partner with state and local governments.
  - This kind of legislation is usually popular because it creates jobs
- American Rescue Plan Act - \$3.9 million is NJ's share of the money allocated to IMLS
- ALA Conference will be virtual from June 23-29, 2021
- ALA Council meets on March 31 - agenda includes Forward Together Resolutions Working Group, Eileen is on the subcommittee on the future of Council, there will be a report at the end of March and action items for June

### **Board Subcommittee Reports**

No reports

### **New Business**

#### **1. New Jersey Community Broadband Access Study Commission**

- a. The request is to appoint the Executive Director of NJLA to this committee. The legislation was included in the board packet. Senator Singleton (District 7) originated the bill. Juliet met with him and acknowledged his efforts and said a library representative needs to be included in the commission. Juliet met with legislators about this inclusion, two weeks later they received word they amended the bill to include a library representative. The NJLA member needs to be approved by the NJLA Executive Board
- b. Motion to appoint Juliet Mache to the NJ Community Broadband Access Study Commission. Samantha McCoy makes the motion, Cory Fleming seconds and the motion passes

#### **2. Amended NJLA FY22 Legislative Priorities**

- a. Want to integrate school library legislation priorities into NJLA priorities
- b. Advocacy efforts will highlight school library priorities and NJASL is involved. School library specialists are spread very thin and are sometimes covering seven schools
- c. Mary Moyer Stubbs - the bill is S1586 the School Ratio Bill would require a certain ratio of library media specialists to students
  - i. A248 and S3464 Information Literacy Bill, Senator Mike Testa (his wife is a school librarian in Vineland)
  - ii. NJASL will meet with Senator Vin Gopal (District 11). Freehold Regional is one of the districts in his region. There is one media specialist for almost 10,000 students in six high schools. He needs to be a key sponsor for the bill
  - iii. Spring meeting advanced NJLA legislative priorities. Will highlight digital resources
- d. Motion to accept NJLA Fiscal Year 22 Budget. Leah Wagner makes the first motion, Will Porter seconds and the motion passes

**3. Employee Relations Committee - Leah Wagner, Chair**

- a. Committee met with Juliet twice. Will have a final meeting in the next few weeks
- b. Medical Insurance Opt Out Form - recommendation to include in Personnel Policies so it can be used for future employees
- c. Allan Kleiman made the motion to include the Medical Insurance Opt Out Form in the Personnel Policies. Will Porter seconded and the motion passes.

**4. Nominations & Elections Committee - Leah Wagner, Chair**

- a. First election using MemberClicks this year. The winners are included in the packet.
- b. Low voter turnout, only 19%. Past elections have been closer to 45%. The Elections Committee will discuss how to increase voter participation. This year members had to log into MemberClicks to vote and that could have hindered participation. Election Runner is easier to use.
- c. Link for the Section elections went out yesterday. It has been getting more difficult to get people to run for office.
- d. Will Porter suggested reaching out to MemberClicks to request improvements to their voting aspect.

**5. Member Services Committee - Ally Blumenfeld, Chair**

- a. The committee wants to reach out to the consortia in NJ to present on behalf of NJLA the benefits of being involved. There is an event planned by the BCCLS Member Services Committee and Jessica Trujillo and Kerry Weinstein will be on their panel.
- b. Sponsor-a-Member Program plan implementation was approved by the Executive Board in October; Implementation proposal is in the packet
  - i. Met with Finance Committee last month, more responsibility on NJLA Office for this program due to privacy concerns
  - ii. First-come first-serve as long as there is funding, on a rolling basis
  - iii. Two components
    - 1. Soliciting donations from NJLA members
      - a. Form for sponsors to donate - increments of \$35, equivalent to hardship rate. \$70 will sponsor two memberships, etc. The money will go directly to the membership fund. The NJLA office would need to know which amounts are earmarked for this and which are for the general renewal form
      - b. Rolling basis
      - c. Scholarship Committee will acknowledge donors every year unless sponsors want to be anonymous
      - d. Want a donation section to be on the Join/Renew Form eventually
      - e. Membership fund has been set up already, it does not have any funds yet
    - 2. Eligibility requirements are new, lapsed, or renewing members. No other entity can sponsor their membership. Sponsor Form to apply will be different from the scholarship application. Not

verifying income. Will share a list of benefits to joining NJLA, there will be a comment box

- iv. If not enough funds, Member Services Committee will be alerted and more donations will be solicited; The form could be taken down when the fund is dry. Another option is to allow applications and those people would be put in a queue, once funds come in they would be applied.
- v. Juliet suggested we get this started and will evaluate and make changes down the line
- vi. Eileen Palmer and Danielle Cesena pointed out that anyone who does not have their membership paid by another entity is eligible, as opposed to those who are experiencing true hardship; Ally said that members who pay the hardship rate are doing so on the honor system. Hardship option can only be selected for two years -- this can be applied for this program as well.
- vii. Juliet suggested if this is approved to move forward, the initial plan is to do the fundraising part first, do this until June 30 for FY '22. The total on July 1 is what we have to work with. In July applications can start to be taken.
- viii. Allan Kleiman made a motion to approve the membership services committee to move forward to solicit donations for this purpose. Leah Wagner seconds and the motion passes.
- ix. Another motion was made by Allan Kleiman to accept the document with changes as stated. Cory Fleming seconds and the motion passes

## **Old Business**

### **Conference Update - Pham Condello**

1. Registration opens Saturday
2. Exhibits and Sponsorships - email has been sent to previous participants about signing on again; Kate Angelo is leading the exhibits team
3. We are looking into purchasing a CC package this year
4. NJLTA would like to have a "table," Pham will reach out to her to get that process going
5. NJLTA members have been able to register at membership rate in the past, Pham said that can continue this year; NJASL members also pay the NJLA member rate
6. Kate Jagers asked if members of other state associations can still pay NJLA member rate. After a discussion it was decided this will continue.

### **Partnering organizations**

1. **NJ State Library - Jen Nelson, NJ State Librarian, full report**
  - a. Announced second round of Library Construction Bond Act. The application has been streamlined and should be more accessible
  - b. Announced a small grant competition for public libraries around digital inclusion. About \$165,000. Grants of \$1000 to \$10,000. Wifi services cannot be included due to continuity of subscription.
    - i. Connectivity

- ii. Device Access
    - iii. Digital Literacy
  - c. IMLS is giving the NJ State Library \$3.9 million. The guidelines on how the funds can be used have not been shared yet, but email Jen Nelson with ideas on how to spend the funds/
  - d. Jen Nelson asks for feedback about whether or not the State Library report fits the needs of the NJLA Board
  - e. Allan Kleiman is suggesting a meeting between the State Library and LSTA, because they have not met in quite a while
  - f. Strategic planning process will begin this year. For 2022 a new LSTA plan needs to be created. Jen Nelson is interested in hearing from the library community about this, she wants to make sure the needs of NJ libraries are met/
- 2. NJASL - Mary Moyer Stubbs**
- a. Had their spring conference recently. Attendees were from other states, Canada and Scotland. Opening to other states brings a new breadth.
  - b. Unlock Student Potential website was supposed to be turned over to NJASL as an advocacy tool, and Mary asked about the timeline. Juliet will share the login credentials.
- 3. NJLTA - Patricia Pavlak**
- a. Online Trustee Training continues, two training sessions have been done so far
  - b. Trustees are concerned about budget cuts
  - c. Johnson Act training was done last month, over 100 attendees

**Action Plan for Next Meeting** - Next NJLA Executive Board meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

**Good of the Order**

Allan Kleiman motions to adjourn and Cory Fleming seconds at 11:44 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Selwa Shamy*