



**NJLA Executive Board Meeting**  
**March 15, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**  
Zoom

## **Minutes**

### **Attendance:**

Jen Schureman Brenner, Danielle Cesena, Corey Fleming, Carina Gonzalez, Kate Jagers, Juliet Machie, Adriana Mamay, Laverne Mann, Samantha McCoy, Allen McGinley, Keisha Miller, Eileen Palmer, Will Porter, Joy Robinson, Selwa Shamy, Jessica Trujillo, John Wallace

**Guests:** Alicia Gough, Darby Malvey, Gabrielle Clark, Molly Hone, Kimberly Paone, Ralph Bingham, Karen Cerra, Allan Kleiman

### **1. Call to Order – Kate Jagers, President**

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda – Kate Jagers, President**

- a. Accepted

### **3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:**

#### **a. February 15, 2022, Executive Board Meeting - Selwa Shamy, Secretary**

With no corrections, the minutes are accepted.

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

- a. Financial packet was presented with no questions
- b. Danielle Cesensa makes a motion to accept the bill list, Will Porter seconds and the motion passes.

### **5. Reports:**

#### **a. Kate Jagers, President**

- i. Conference registration is open! The executive board is encouraged to promote conference and share registration information.
  1. There will be both opening and closing keynotes this year
  2. Lots of activity to encourage vendors and registrants to stay until the end
- ii. The Conference Futures committee is talking about potential partnerships for conferences and exploring any possibilities for hybrid options.
- iii. The Finance Committee has been promoting Enhanced Institutional Membership by attending and speaking at different section and committee meetings. There is an FAQ on the website. Feedback has largely been positive for including all levels of staff.

- iv. Thanks to Member Services for sponsoring last month's NJLA Town Hall and to Juliet Mache and Jessica Trujillo for hosting. The level of engagement was rewarding.
- v. The Board Budget Committee is actively planning for FY23.
- vi. The Employee Relations Committee is working on the Executive Director performance review, and has been seeking input from the Board
- vii. NJLA Leadership and LibraryLinkNJ staff had been meeting monthly, focusing discussions on collaborating on professional development opportunities and effectively sharing the missions of our individual organizations.

**b. Juliet Machie, Executive Director - [Full Report](#)**

- i. Budget Advocacy - As of today, 17 legislative visits have been completed.
  1. The Per Capita State Aid Bill, A3647, was introduced on March 1 by Assemblyman Daniel Benson. The bill asks for a \$10.5 million supplemental appropriation to restore the PCSA to full funding.
  2. Also advocating for the Library Network Aid Bill and library funding from NJ's ARPA funds.
  3. Assembly Budget Hearings are scheduled for March 21 and 23. Juliet will have a three-minute verbal testimony and will be submitting written testimony. The schedule for Senate hearings has not yet been published.
- ii. ALA Meeting with Congressman Jefferson Van Drew's Aide, Blake Thelander on March 8. Jen Nelson and Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer also participated in the meeting.
- iii. NJLA Town Hall - thanks to those who attended. The engagement was inspiring, thanks to Member Services.
- iv. EDI Town Hall - February 24 - over 130 people attended. Thanks to Rosie Grant for facilitating, and to Kate Jagers, Jennie Pu, Ralph Bingham, Jen Nelson, Ellen Pozzi, Kurt Wagner, Pat Pavlak, and Keisha Miller for presenting. Intend to convene additional partners including NJLA's Diversity & Outreach section, Library Workers of Color, NJLTA, NJASL, VALE, and NJALA.
- v. LibraryLinkNJ - thanks to Ralph Bingham and the Executive Board for a commitment to working with NJLA. They have committed to sponsoring scholarship and will sponsor an EDI pre-conference as well as 10 diversity conference scholarships for library workers.
- vi. Juliet did an interview with NJ 101.5 FM Radio on February 17 and NJ Spotlight News featuring a story about the Library Construction Bond.
- vii. NJLA Ambassadors - thanks to those making the rounds in promoting Enhanced Institutional Memberships, updating on Public Policy, and sharing information about the new Equity Scholarships.
- viii. Congratulations to Springfield Public Library for reopening its doors after six months due to severe damage from Hurricane Ida.

**c. Eileen Palmer, ALA Councilor - [Full Report](#) from Council Meeting on March 10**

- i. Resolution to Support School and Youth Services Librarians Facing Increased Intellectual Freedom Challenges, ALA CD#51 - passed unanimously, which is rare.
- ii. Resolution to Promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Efforts in AASL While Addressing Historical Effects of Racism, ALA CD#52 - passed by a strong majority. Some concerns were expressed, but it was more important to pass it now. Could be a potential model for other divisions and chapters.
- iii. Resolution Calling on the US Executive Branch to Drop All Charges Against Julian Assange, ALA CD#53 - Social Responsibilities Round Table. Eileen thinks it isn't a good idea for ALA to take a position on legal issues - this did not pass.
- iv. Transforming ALA Governance (TAG) (Part 3), ALA CD#35a-35c passed. Eileen voted against this and Betty Turock spoke against this, but it is time to move on. There will be other votes before it goes to the membership.
- v. Resolution related to Structure, Composition, Purpose, and Meetings of ALA Council, ALA CD#54. This motion was not debated or acted on. Its future is unclear in light of the TAG
- vi. motion.
- vii. Eileen was appointed to the Chapter Relations Committee starting in July.

## 6. New Business

### a. Vice Chair Appointments

- i. Leadership & Education: Cassie Collucci, Somerset County Library System
- ii. Public Policy: Danielle Cesena, Livingston Public Library and Jennie Pu, Hoboken Public Library.
- iii. Jessica Trujillo moves these appointments, Jen Brenner seconds, Danielle Cesena abstains and the motion passes.

### b. Nominations & Elections Committee – Executive Board Election Results

- i. First Vice President: Carina Gonzalez
- ii. Second Vice President: Allen McGinley
- iii. Secretary: Heather Dalal
- iv. Treasurer: Allan Kleiman
- v. ALA Councilor: Laverne Mann
- vi. Members-at-Large: Selwa Shamy, Ally Blumenfeld, Lynette Fucci
- vii. Academic Member-at-Large: Adriana Mamay
- viii. A special election will need to take place to fill three vacated positions.

### c. Strategic Planning Task Force - Jessica Trujillo

- i. Jessica presented the **FY23 Operations Plan, July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**
- ii. The Board suggested modification to Point 2, "Develop and implement focused strategies for the recruitment and retention of membership." Engagement will be included in this statement.

- iii. This is a recommendation from the task force. The recommendation was passed unanimously.
  - iv. Additional documents have been added to the board packet that do not need board approval and are for informational purposes.
- d. Scholarship Committee Update**
- i. **Acknowledgement of LibraryLinkNJ Donation** - Many thanks to the LLNJ Board for making a commitment to financially support two equity scholarships at \$8500 each.
  - ii. **NJLA Equity Scholarships - John Wallace**
    - 1. ALA will not be able to be a partner this year.
    - 2. NJLA will move forward to issue scholarships. This proposal means the full \$8500 will go to the scholars instead of only \$5000. ALA required a stipend for travel and some for administrative purposes, so without the partnership all the funds can go to tuition.
    - 3. Deadline for applications is April 15.
    - 4. Working with Rutgers University to promote this opportunity. They are still fully committed even without the partnership with ALA.
    - 5. A web of support includes Diversity & Outreach Section, Library Workers of Color Section, Leadership & Education Committee, Members Services Committee.
    - 6. Juliet Mache will create a Memorandum of Agreement for our partners.
    - 7. Recommendation from the Scholarship Committee. Approval to move forward in the current capacity without ALA. The motion passes unanimously.
- e. Board Organizational Subcommittee Update**
- i. Proposal to establish an Archives & History Committee. The Archives & Records Task Force recommends creating a standing committee to focus on NJLA history and archives. This committee was first authorized in 1972 and was reinstated as a task force in 2021.
  - ii. Samantha McCoy suggested allocating funds for the work this committee will need to do. Kate Jagers said this will need to be kept in mind when drafting the FY23 budget.
  - iii. As recommended by the Archives & Records Task Force and the Board Organization Subcommittee, the motion passes.
- f. Conference Committee Update**
- i. Registration = 80+ people have registered to date
  - ii. Vendor and sponsorship funds are up to \$44,000 and \$15,000 in verbal commitments.
  - iii. As previously approved by the Board, masks will be optional, however, a vaccination card will be required or a negative COVID-19 test.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Intellectual Freedom Statement**

Some discussion was brought to the Board about speaking out about censorship

in school and public libraries across the country. A statement from NJLA was approved at the December meeting and shared widely. Eileen Palmer suggested we continue to promote what has already been put out there.

## **8. Partnering organizations**

**a. NJSL - Jen Nelson - [Full Report](#)**

**b. LibraryLinkNJ - Ralph Bingham**

**c. NJASL - Darby Malvey - [Full Report](#)**

i. Spring Virtual Mini Conference on Saturday, April 2. The recording will be available for 30 days. Registration is only \$10.00. Topics will include: How to do a Book Talk, Using Humor to Explore Tough Topics, Keeping Your Collection Alive in the Face of Book Challenges.

ii. School Media Specialist job posting season is starting. There are a lot more requests from public librarians who want to make the switch to schools. There are paths to emergency certifications, if you are interested reach out to NJASL for assistance.

iii. Legislative Update - State budget hearings are coming up. School funding formulas have changed, it is a seven year process.

1. Districts gaining the most money: Paterson, Plainfield, etc.

2. Districts losing the most money: Asbury Park, etc.

3. Send an email to your legislators to remind them of the public library stance on where funding should be present.

4. Op Ed in support of the Information Literacy bill. Suggestion to write an op ed or reshare this information.

**d. NJLTA - Pat Pavlak**

i. Joint program with the NJ State Library on Intellectual Freedom and Materials Challenges, March 22, with David Paige and Judith Pissano. The recording, presentations and chat log are on the NJLTA website.

## **9. Calendar - Executive Board Meeting - April 19, 2022, 10 a.m. Clifton Library**

70% of those who responded to Kate said they will attend in person. The meeting will be in person with a hybrid option.

## **10. Good of the Order**

**11. Adjourn** - Will Porter made a motion to adjourn and Joy Robinson seconds. The meeting adjourns at 4:49 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Selwa Shamy*