



NJLA Executive Board Meeting

August 16 2022, 10 a.m. - Zoom

Approved Minutes

In attendance: Ally Blumenfeld, Danielle Cesena, Cindy Czesak, Heather Dalal, Corey Fleming, Lynnette Fucci, Carina Gonzalez, Kate Jagers, Allan Kleiman, Adriana Mamay, Laverne Mann, Keisha Miller, Judith Pissano, Joy Robinson, Selwa Shamy, Jessica Trujillo, John Wallace.

Guests: Karen Cerra, Jeff Cupo, Alicia Gough, Anthony Joachim, Maureen Langley, Rochelle Levin, Darby Malvey, Jen Nelson, Alicia Roman

1. Call to Order – Jessica Trujillo, President

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am

2. Adoption of Agenda – Jessica Trujillo, President

The agenda was adopted.

3. Welcome & Introductions

4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes:

- [July 19, 2022, Executive Board Meeting](#)

– Heather Dalal, Secretary

Moved AK, Second Selwa

Approved with amendments

5. [Financial Reports](#) – Allan Kleiman, Treasurer

Allan shared the [Financial Summary](#). He has had several meetings over the past month to make it a smooth transition. He met with Samantha McCoy to make sure our investment and Lakeland accounts are updated. NJLA bills have been paid in 3 ways: check, credit card, and recurring charges from the TDBank account. Allan is currently working on a list with Abby to have a clear indication of which bills are paid in which manner. We no longer have the credit card. We don't have a bill list but have a check detail, which was in the financial packets, and they only show the checks drawn from the account.

Interest was drawn from the Lakeland accounts and investments have not been posted to revenues. Allan is working on this so hopefully by Sept/Oct, it's much more transparent.

This is the first month of the fiscal year and we still have net assets of \$1,046,394 because we voted on the Dagg legacy after we adopted the budget. We will have to come back to the board next month with a budget modification but we are in good stead. Thanks to Kate for reviewing the bill from Harrah's (54 pages).

6. Reports:

a. Jessica Trujillo, President

Since the last meeting, Jessica met with several committees. After meeting with the Investment Committee, we figured out we needed to change the names on the financial accounts. The County Libraries Section (CLS) will expand their name to County and Large Libraries since they have a lot of the same issues and concerns. CLS stressed that everyone is welcome to their meetings and that they have a different topic and presentation at each meeting. CLS asked for a shout-out in the weekly newsletter. Jessica met with Professional Development and Young Adult Services (YAS) section She met with the YAS section president, they had interesting questions that they followed up on to make connections between people. One question was when the enhanced institutional membership comes, is there a way to promote their section to all these new individuals who could join? In the meeting with the Strategic Planning Task Force, they talked about having some NJLA-focused round table discussions based around different groups having unconfereces and conferences in order to find out where we have been successful and where we may have gaps. It was suggested it might be helpful to write the Strategic Plan after the new Exec Director is hired to ensure our new Exec Director and the Exec Board are walking at the same pace and working collaboratively.

Jessica will reach out to the Youth Services Forum to have a Round table discussion including 3-5 conversation starters to see where NJLA can get in. Other opportunities include Small Libraries and Vale coming up so we can leverage what's already happening in NJLA.

The Access Navigators Task Force is trying a different tactic by changing their name to the Digital Equity Task Force as they work with Comcast and other vendors. In the board packet is an [Access Navigators report](#) showing that last month was successful with a lot of wraparound services for patrons (i.e., writing resumes and helping find jobs). There are some grants out there, we haven't heard back yet. We are unsure if Access Navigators will continue past October.

b. Cindy Czesak, Interim Executive Director

Cindy has been in the position part-time for 3 weeks. She gives a big shout-out to Jess, Kate, Carina, and Allan. Right now, she is working on infrastructure and sorting things out. The plan is to cofidy everything so the next Exec Director can do creative things instead of administrative work. We are wrestling with a lot of issues but we have a clear path.

Cindy apologizes to the sections and committees who need attention. For example scholarship is lost in the shuffle, money was given but not an award. She is working on EDI initiatives. The Conference Committee is already started. She is thankful to the NJLA staff as they have been forthcoming with questions and information they may have.

c. Laverne Mann, ALA Councilor

There was a special council meeting called to remove the ALA Constitution. Laverne discussed a couple of things highlighted in [her report](#). This year's Banned Books week is the most important one in recent memory. George Johnson is the honorary chair. There was a NJ challenge from North Valley Regional Highland (Bergen county, Old Tappan) for sexually explicit material.

Laverne contacted Public Policy about the Senate Appropriations bill, which would provide 20 million dollars to modernize libraries. However, \$125 million was not even enough to NJ libraries.

OneClickPolitics is the new shared advocacy platform to replace Engage. ALA has signed a two-year contract that will provide not only advocacy but also bill tracking for all 50 states.

ALA symposiums coming up: YALSA in Baltimore. ALA Lib Learn x in New Orleans, ACRL in Pittsburgh.

One of the worst things about book challenges is that now they are coming from state officials, and legislators.

7. Committees:

a. Member Communications – NJLA Social Media Policy and Guidelines

i. [Proposals](#)

Maureen Langely - co chair of Member Communications Subcommittee shared the [2022_08 Member Communications - New Jersey Library Association Social Media Policy and Guidelines.pdf](#)

This proposal makes recommendations for control/facilitation of accounts in NJLA (who should have access, how to manage the passwords, etc). We need to be careful about what is in the policy. Some items that need more fleshing out and other items do not need to be in there. It was suggested that this be shared as a Google Document so that the Exec Board could make comments.

There was a discussion about using Slack. It offers more than what Memberclicks does. Alicia Gough is also looking at project management software and we would like to see if that would have an overlap. The intent of Slack would be for the entire membership engagement. We can use the free version as a cost would incur if we wish to archive messages beyond 10,000 messages. While it is hard to get members on a new platform and engage them socially, there is a need and this is a niche that NJLA could provide.

ii. [Google Suite Survey](#) -

Member Communications made a survey to gauge where everyone is at with using the Google Suite.

b. [Public Policy](#) – Public Policy - SB 650 - Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act

This is a bill started in NJ Senate and is now at the Assembly. It has a scary name. Public Policy had a conversation. We obviously do NOT in support for Human Trafficking but are working on

how bill would this affects public libraries. A big issue might be adding software to computers to make sure no one is viewing porn or anything defined legally as obscene. If you have 16 year old using the adult computer and they access something they should not have accessed, now the library is liable.

Do we need to get involved in this? We are concerned if this passes that it could also cover books. We don't have to draw attention - we don't know if it will pass. This bill is from January but other iterations of this bill have come up in the past. The real issue for libraries is that obscene material is coupled with human trafficking websites. This is a part of a nationwide effort to remove access to porn and have every single internet-connected device with filters. This has repercussions because of the imperfect nature of filters and this is a form of censorship.

It was suggested that someone from Public Policy call one of the sponsors to see what their thoughts are surrounding public libraries. It was also suggested that library staff be trained and Public Policy provide a refresher for everyone.

c. Committee Vice-Chairs – FY23

Jessica shared the Committee Vice Chairs. Kate Jagers made a motion to approve it. Allan Kleiman seconded. It was approved by all.

d. Executive Board Subcommittees

There was a discussion on EB liaisons' responsibilities. It's helpful for a chair to have connections with the organization. Jessica will share the liaisons with committees and sections so they know who their liaison is. She also will share the reporting form with liaisons.

8. New Business

a. Appointments –

ALA's EDI Assembly appointment of Jeff Cupo. Motion made by Jessica and seconded by Kate. Approved by all.

The NJ Broadband Access Study Commission appointment of Will Porter. Allan made the motion. Seconded by Kate. Approved by all.

b. Old Business -

i. EveryLibrary Partnership (Judith Pissano)

Jessica started a shared document for questions. By the end of this week, NJASL and NJLA reps will work on the requested MOA. The Exec Director of EveryLibrary is out of the country now, so this may wait.

Judith reached out to Delaware, a neighboring state organization involved with EveryLibrary. They provided positive feedback. The Delaware State Librarian is familiar with the costs.

NJ libraries continue to receive daily challenges, questions, and concerns. A patron moved materials and hid them just this week. We want to keep these challenges in mind. Judith hopes everyone considers this partnership. Jess will share the link to the document.

b. Closed session

Moved to the end of the meeting.

9. Partner Organizations Reports

a. NJSL – Jen Nelson

Jen sent out the NJSL newsletter yesterday. They did receive an extension to the ARPA Grant and offered extensions to grantees until Oct 31.

Jen was invited to testify at the governor's outreach ARPA meeting. She submitted a written statement about digital equity. This is an opportunity to submit testimony to the Wealth Disparity Task Force.

NJSL hired Maria Baratta as Director of the State Library Information Center.

There are a number of events coming up in September and October: Trustee and Director checkins, Grow your business (for small businesses), and a Virtual Trustee Institute. Jen asks that all sign up for the NJSL newsletter.

b. LibraryLinkNJ – Ralph Bingham

Ralph has been working on reforming EDI conversations. There is a meeting scheduled on 8/24, and individuals from that last conversation and all who expressed interest were invited to the meeting and to be a part of the work group. If anyone is interested, let Ralph know.

Ralph is working on the e-book conversation started in the Spring with facilitators. We have to figure out what we can do in NJ to keep this moving forward. There is an in-person meeting in October. Ralph will be reaching out to those involved in the last meeting.

At the Exec board meeting last month, they started a new fiscal year. Ralph shared the [Exec Board members](#).

There is a Board meeting this Thursday and it is open to the public. There is a virtual conference - Access and Accessibility on Wed 9/28 and LLNJ is happy to be partnering with groups from NJLA.

LLNJ has had a lot of success with book bash events this summer - prizes and author talks. There are publisher talks coming up and a horror readers's advisory presentation.

Ralph shared they featured the Newark Public Library and Statewide Reference Services in an attempt to spread the word about other state-funded library services available.

c. NJASL – Darby Malvey

Darby cannot stress enough that if we think we have seen intellectual freedom issues, we haven't seen anything yet. There are upcoming School Board elections and the New Sex Ed Standards

going into effect this September. There are a well-funded and organized groups putting together challenges and rallies including Moms for Liberty, The Garden State Coalition for Families, and No Left Turn in Education. Please keep in mind they have serious agendas. There are a lot more challenges in the works, keep in mind when we think we've won, there's a list that's a mile long of the books on the docket to be challenged in North Hunterdon. There are personal attacks on media specialists. Groups are posting their personal home addresses. If you have not yet reached out to your school, reach out to the admin and let them know you're there to help, but also there to work together. A lot of these librarians are all alone.

The information literacy bill passed the Senate and will be going to the Assembly. We can still sign the petition to save school libraries. It would be good to get this passed ASAP given the climate and fear that public support for libraries might swing in the opposite direction.

NJASL is collaborating with ACRL on school and academic library partnerships. The academic libraries will provide PD or demonstrations for students.

NJASL is attending the Principals' Conference. NJLA paid for half and would like to know if anyone from NJLA planning to attend. Cindy asked Darby to send an email and NJLA will send someone.

NJASL will present at the NJEA Conference on Intellectual Freedom for administrators and a Panel for school librarians on how to work with your public library.

NJASL will present at the West Jersey Reading Council to talk about intellectual freedom and how to respond to book challenges.

d. NJLTA – Pat Pavlak

No report

8.b. Closed session

Resolution: NJLA will approve a payout for 77 hours of J. Machie's vacation time.

Motioned by Jessica. Seconded by Corey. Approved by all.

The next meeting will be September 20, 2022 at 3pm on Zoom.

12. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42pm