

**New Jersey State Library LSTA Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Talking Book and Braille Center, Trenton, NJ**  
**October 14, 2015**

**Present:** Seth Stephens, Chair; Sue Lazzari, Vice-Chair; Jerry Holtz, Mary K. Lewis, Wendy Whipple, Brett Bonfield

**Absent:** Ralph Bingham, Valerie Tucci, Joe DaRold, Amy Babcock Landry

**NJSL Staff:** Mary Chute, Sheri Shafer, James Lonergan, Adam Szczepaniak, Bob Keith,

**Guest:** Joanne Roukens (LLNJ)

**Reporting:** Diana Delgross, NJSL

The LSTA Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Seth Stephens, Chair.

James Lonergan declared that the meeting was in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

Members introduced themselves.

May 13, 2015 minutes approval – minutes approved as written.

Reports of the New Jersey State Library:

**State Librarian's Report:** Mary Chute mentioned Kathi Peiffer has left to become the New Mexico State Librarian. Victoria Rosch retired. Departures were discussed in the context of moving forward in a new direction with the hire of James Lonergan from IMLS and the eventual hire of the new Grants Manager. Internal transfer created for Michele Stricker from Library Support Services to Life Long Learning – replacing Kathi Peiffer. Per Capita State Aid checks (\$3,639,240 total) have been sent out to 12 counties and 267 municipalities. The Local Library Support Fund will be available on the 2015 NJ State Income Tax forms as a charitable donation – association libraries are excluded – but more information needs to be developed prior to tax season. Life Long Learning is busy with National Literacy Month (September); the Youth Services Forum; Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings. Sharon Rawlins is working with the NJ Center for the Book to develop an online serialized storybook *“Jersey Trackers (the JTs) and the Imagination Tree.”* The 8 chapter book is set to be launched in 2016. LLNJ is evaluating the surveys from the October 7 Experienced Director's Summit held on October 7 in East Windsor. This summit may alternate years with the Trustee Institute.

Joanne Roukens updated the council on Cheryl O'Connor's retirement from LLNJ (last day 10/15/15). Joanne will act as the interim director. Deadline for the director position application is October 18. LLNJ is hoping to make an offer in November and have the new director in place in January 2016. Continuing Education has been moving forward with events such as MentorNJ and TechFest (a reboot of TechSpeed Dating) – the hot topics most important to libraries for the 20 minute Table Talks will include legal issues, budget, technology and personnel. Joanne also mentioned that the Experienced Director's Summit was recorded on Google Docs.

Mary Chute handed out the 2 page Strategic Plan 2015-2018, content will be available on the website.

**TBBC Update:** Adam Szczepaniak reported on innovations at TBBC. There are 38 Outspoken Library workstations in public libraries in NJ. A Comcast Foundation grant helped upgrade the computers to a new operating system with a mouse driven software called Sitecues<sup>®</sup> that magnify and read text out loud for web browsing; user friendly. BARD Pilot Project (Braille & Audio Reading Download) has 71 participating libraries,

3,100 accounts approved for downloading and 239 individual accounts approved to download content. Downloads can be accessed on most devices including Android as well as Apple products. LEAP (Library Equal Access Program) funded by the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired – 8 workstations with accessible software in East Brunswick, South Orange and Atlantic County – Mays Landing.

**Statewide Databases:** Bob Keith discussed the statewide database usage of EBSCO and RefUSA. There has been an increase in searches. There was concern expressed regarding the Spanish language databases that were contracted for 3 years but seem to have been dropped off/unsubscribed from the report. Sheri will look into the databases paid contracts and their expiration dates. The handouts compare FY14 and FY15 sessions, searches and views. FY15 shows total sessions increased 18.1, total searches increased to 24.07%, and views decreased to 4.96%.

**Budget Update:** Sheri Shafer reviewed the financials starting with the LSTA Grant Year 2014 Budget (10/1/13-9/30/15) showing the GY14 budget of \$4,023,990.00; actual spending as of 9/30/15 \$4,023,990.00. Next was the LSTA Grant Year 2015 Budget (10/1/14 – 9/30/16) showing the GY15 budget of \$3,990,753.00 and the year to date spending through 9/30/15 \$1,411,858.00. FY2015 Statewide Projects (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) shows total spending on statewide projects, funded by both LSTA and Library Network Funds. The total FY15 budget was \$8,471,771.00; actual spending in FY15 was \$7,868,510.00. FY16 Statewide Projects (7/1/15 – 6/30/16) has a total budget of \$8,417,308.00; with year to date spending through 9/30/15 \$2,318,842.00. There are 2 fewer FTEs, budget was aided by the shift in hiring at TBBC. Discussed the Culinary Literacy Grant and possible partners and funding ideas to bring this project forward – based on the model done in Philadelphia. Sheri will review current contracts for EBSCO offerings. James will recruit a database selection committee to decide which databases will be contracted for starting 7/1/16.

**LSTA Update:** James Lonergan talked about IMLS, the LSTA Annual Report and the Five Year Plan. Dr. Kathryn K. (Kit) Matthew confirmed as the new director of IMLS in September to serve a four year term. Her 30 year museum career began in curatorial, collections management, and research roles then moved into management, exhibits and educational programs development, and fundraising and marketing roles. James then talked about the Measuring Success Initiative in the Grants to States program. IMLS FY16 budget not yet set, funded by continuing resolution through December 11, 2015. MLSA (includes LSTA) up for renewal in October 2016. New SPR – not yet available (usually by October 1<sup>st</sup>) but should be soon. The new SPR requires project-level budget detail, more fixed fields, less open narrative, detailed reporting on match, focal areas / interests so IMLS can compare projects and tell national story. Next year will incorporate new outcome evaluation measures where possible (piloting now), initially focused on more for instruction activities. Five year plan evaluation collection guidelines coming from IMLS next spring – due in March 2017 (prior to end of plan), we will need to begin the evaluation next year. The next Five year plan is due June 2017.

Proposed date for next meeting – James to send out a doodle poll with possible dates in 2016. The next meeting may be a joint session of LNRB and LSTA. James asked the present advisory council to consider the next term of office. Those who will be ending their term in February 2016 will be asked if they want to renew for a second term (if haven't already served two terms.) We will reach out for suggestions for candidates to consider for the LSTA Advisory Council.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.