

LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

New Jersey State Library
185 W. State Street, Trenton
May 24, 2011

Present: Brian Auger, Marian Bauman, Ruth Bogan, Norman Gluckman, Susan Kaplan, Pamela Price, Hilda Weisburg, Ann Yurcaba.

Absent: Jean Edwards

Guests: Eileen Palmer, LMXAC and NJLA member-at-large; Mary Romance. West Orange Free Public Library and President, NJLA

NJSL staff: Norma Blake, State Librarian; Kathleen Peiffer, Associate State Librarian and LSTA Coordinator; Peggy Cadigan, Assoc. State Librarian, LDB; Victoria Rosch, Associate State Librarian, Library Law & Statistics; Scherelene Schatz, Statistics; Sheri Shafer, CFO, Adam Szczepaniak, Associate State Librarian, TBBC.

Reporting: Ruth Pallante, NJSL

Kathleen Peiffer called meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and reported compliance with Open Public Meetings Act.

Since this was the first meeting for new members of the Council, introductions were made and Kathleen reported their area of representation. Brian Auger, Somerset County Library, county/public; Marian Bauman, Neptune Twp. Library, urban/public; Ruth Bogan, PALS Plus, IT; Norman Gluckman, Avalon Public Library, special populations; Susan Kaplan, Sayreville Public Library, suburban/public; Pamela Price, Mercer County Community College, academic; Hilda Weisburg, Aberdeen School District, school; Ann Yurcaba, Lyrasis, special populations. Jean Edwards, Cumberland County Library, rural/public. In making her appointments to the Council, Kathleen noted that Norma not only took in consideration areas of expertise but also took in consideration geographic representation.

Minutes of March 23, 2010

Marian made a motion to accept minutes and Ruth seconded. Minutes were accepted as written.

LSTA funding future and Statewide Strategic Plan - Norma Blake, State Librarian

Norma welcomed and thanked members for accepting appointment to the LSTA Council. She indicated that although the Council is non-statutory, the State Library thought it was important and chose to convene the group. The Council will be involved in recommendations for the LSTA 5-year plan for the future, as well as the evaluation of the current LSTA five-year plan.

The Council will also be working with LNRB and a facilitator on a statewide strategic plan. In November the LNRB asked the State Library for three things. First was better and more up-to-date statistics. NJSL is now implementing Counting Opinions Statistic Keeping. Second, they wanted to view the LNRB budget with any federal money that was spent on Network projects. The budget was shared as such in February. Third was a Statewide Strategic Plan for Libraries. At their February meeting, LNRB was asked to spearhead the plan. Norma explained that the RFQ has been posted on our website and will be widely distributed and advertised. Mary Martin, chair of LNRB has been closely involved with this process and invited other LNRB members to join her. A facilitator will be selected and a joint meeting of LNRB and LSTA Council will be held July 6th at 1 p.m. at TBBC, to make decisions regarding the RFQ responses and next steps.

Norma explained the status of QandANJ. Her decision to cut QandA was based on funding costs and usage. LSTA monies have been cut, and although state budget is static at this point, there still could be cuts made. Last year's cut was dramatic. While both RefUSA and Ebsco usage went up 100%, QandA's use was down 23%. After hearing that some in the NJ library community believed the decision was too quickly made without sufficient input, Norma decided to take \$50,000 from Network Budget, which had been planned for, but not yet used for programs in Early Literacy, Workforce Development and Preservation and grant the money to LibraryLinkNJ to keep QandANJ up for as long as it could, giving the NJLA Reference Services Section Task Force time to look at other options. The Task Force will then present their recommendation to the LNRB and LSTA Council during the statewide planning process.

LSTA and LNRB budget Information – Sheri Shafer

Sheri handed out and explained FY 2010 LSTA funding information, which included any Network funds used for projects. The Council suggested adding to the budget pages the total cost of each project from all sources. Sheri said that she would provide that at the July 6th meeting, and the budget will be posted on the NJSL website.

LSTA Plan and Goals – Kathleen Peiffer

Kathleen spoke about the LSTA 5-year plan which is posted on our website. LSTA funds can be used to meet the four goal areas: information resources, electronic network, knowledgeable staff and partnerships. Kathleen explained how our network and statewide services fit in each area.

Sheri mentioned that the LSTA 5-year Plan and the Statewide Plan may overlap and need coordination so it is good that both will be worked on during the same time period.

By July 1st there should be a selection for a facilitator for the five-year plan by NJSL, LLNJ and LNRB. The purpose of the LSTA Plan is very prescribed.

The evaluation of the last LSTA 5-year plan is due this year. Reports are also submitted yearly for LSTA. The key question is, “how do you measure success?” Outcome based Evaluation doesn’t work for all programs. We would like to prove success of LSTA programs to federal government through stories and statistics. IMLS is struggling with the issue of measurement this summer.

Old Business – None

New Business – Kathleen Peiffer

Museum and Library Services Act was reauthorized December 2010, with changes. Copies were provided to council members.

Congressman Rush Holt was a co-sponsor of a “Dear Colleague” letter regarding LSTA and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program funds. Several New Jersey representatives signed the letter.

It was decided that a discussion on frequency of meetings, location, dates and times for the remainder of 2011 was deferred until after the July 6th joint meeting with LNRB.

The Council will work with a facilitator on the evaluation of the 2007-2012 LSTA Five-Year Plan and the new five-year plan. An RFQ was jointly announced by nine COSLINE states to select a facilitator and a decision will be made by July 1.

Election of Officers

Susan Kaplan, nominated and elected Chair of Committee. Brian Auger, nominated and elected Vice-chair.

Other Business

Talking Book and Braille Center Services – Adam Szczepaniak

Adam discussed services at TBBC and who they serve, the relationship between Library of Congress’ National Library Services and TBBC. He brought talking book players and thumb-drives to show committee. This past year TBBC has been working to make public libraries a gateway to TBBC services through Outspoken Library kiosks. Twenty-five kiosks have been distributed and they have five more available. Kiosks have also been set up in NJ Commission for the Blind offices and Veterans Centers. Making services known to qualified Veterans has been a priority. They have been in contact with the Brain Injury Association and will be meeting this week with the Dana and Christopher Reed Association as well.

TBBC has a Youth Services program and have purchased smaller players for children after hearing feedback that the standard players made them stand out from their peers.

The stories from individuals on how TBBC services have affected their quality of life made a great impact at legislative visits and hearings last year.

Statewide Electronic Resources - Scherelene Schatz

Handed out statistics and discussed. Brian Auger asked for them electronically. He will format in chart style.

Scherelene explained why JerseyCat activity was down last year. Many libraries from the time the budget was announced to the end of June were not allowing patrons to use the service. Some libraries lost about 4 months of use statistics. This year the statistics are back up.

Discussion took place on how to measure success and cost per use. Consensus was that counting sessions was more a determiner of success rather than counting viewing. It was noted that some databases are part of a bundle and elimination because lack of use or cost per session would not cut total cost. It was also noted that personal stories are an important part of showing success to government officials. For Frost and Sullivan, what a small business saves by not having to purchase a report can be very dramatic. One report can be 400 pages long and cost ten thousand dollars or more.

Marian made a motion for adjournment; Hilda seconded; motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Action Items:

Sheri will provide the total cost of each project with all segments of the budget represented at the July 6, 2011, LSTA/LNRB combined meeting.

Scherelene was asked to provide a "cost/price per view" for statewide databases using "sessions" as the criteria.

Natasha will get headings printed at the top of all J&CA report pages.

Natasha will let the LSTA Council know what the colored vs. white lines mean on the J&CA reports.

Kathleen will ask Byron to post all LSTA Council materials on the website after each meeting.