

LSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
New Jersey State Library
July 23, 2014

Present: Susan Kaplan, Chair; Ralph Bingham, Brett Bonfield, Susan Heinis, Sue Lazzari, Pamela Price, Mary Romance, Valerie Tucci, Wendy Whipple

Absent: Jerry Holtz, Seth Stephens

Guests: Timothy Owens, Senior Program Officer, IMLS; Joanne Roukens, Assistant Director, LibraryLinkNJ; Pat Tumulty, Exec. Director, New Jersey Library Association

NJSL Staff: Mary Chute, Kathleen Peiffer, Sheri Shafer, Bob Keith, Victoria Rosch, Adam Szczepaniak

Reporting: Ruth Pallante

Susan Kaplan called meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act confirmed. Members of Advisory Council and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Timothy Owens, IMLS Senior Program Officer is on a site visit to the New Jersey State Library.

Minutes of January 22, 2014 joint conference call meeting with Library Network Review Board were approved.

Progress on LSTA five-year plan – Kathi Peiffer

Kathi handed out progress report for programs and services provided through LSTA funds and how they fit within the 3 major goals of New Jersey's five-year plan. (attached)

Mary Romance expressed her thanks to Ben Weaver, a member of the State Library's IT team for his help when her library transitioned to JerseyConnect for their internet/website.

LSTA & NJSL budget information – Sheri Shafer

Sheri reported on LSTA and Network funds used for FY2014 Statewide Projects, covering the LSTA grant years 10/1/12 - 9/30/14 & 10/1/13 - 9/30/15. The report shows actual spending through 3/31/14. She also provided the LSTA Grant Year 2014 Budget.

Sheri asked Council members to note that although total expenditures seem to show \$127,310 in overspent funds, we were able to use \$200,000 in Tischler Memorial Funds towards databases which leaves \$72,690 in savings which will be used for future programs and projects.

Statewide database statistics – Bob Keith

Bob reported on the Statewide Database Usage. Because of lower funding level, there was a change in the number of databases. There will be more changes next year. Total database usage is up, except for total views. Gale Legal Forms, which allows patrons to download simple legal forms, had 6,190 forms downloaded in FY14.

NJSL Update – Mary Chute

Mary gave an update on library-related legislation and on State Library programs. (Complete report is attached).

Mary commended Pat, Kathi and Peggy for their commitment to legislative visits. This year, bills were introduced in both the Assembly and Senate requesting an additional \$3 million be added to Per Capita State Aid. These bills are still live and could be acted on in the future. Additionally, the state budget that passed both houses included the addition of \$3 million for Per Capita State Aid, but it did not make it into the Governor's final budget.

Grant applied for – 1) Ilead U, after review and deciding that NJ is ahead on the projects offered and the local investment asked for was significant, we pulled back and decided not to participate. 2) We applied for a small IMLS grant: iPads for Grandads. 3) The State Library has received preliminary approval for an award from the National Network-Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region for an Outreach to Consumers project that is titled "Mental Health Aid for Library Staff." Council members discussed how much this is really needed, not just post Sandy. Pam Price mentioned academic librarians helping returning veterans. 4) The NJSL has been selected to receive a Department of Labor Grant – Workforce Literacy Innovations Grant. There was discussion on what the Career Online High School grant entails, who it is aimed to help, and the challenges we've encountered in accepting.

Workshops – Grant writing 101 workshops were offered across state to assist beginning grant writers. A capstone event for IMLS Connecting to Collections Grant will be a statewide conference: Cultural Institutions and Emergency Management: Partners in Emergency Response and Recovery to be held the end of July.

NJSL TBBC remains the only state TBBC in the country permitted by the National Library Service for the Blind and Handicapped to train local public library staff to download books and magazines from its site at the Library of Congress.

Site visits – Lifelong Learning staff visited over 40 public libraries this year. All public libraries will have been visited by end of next year.

A Get Storied event was held in November and stressed the need to tell the library story more vigorously to customers and legislators.

On Monday, July 28th, Rep. Rush Holt will hold a press conference at the East Brunswick Public Library to announce a new law that integrates local libraries with federal job training programs – The Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act, which Rep. Holt helped write.

U.S. Senator Cory Booker wrote a letter in support of the e-rate program which is undergoing massive changes by the FCC.

The NJSL belong to the School, Health and Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition. Mary and Kathi have attended their strategic planning meetings and will attend their fall symposium.

Statewide Strategic Plan – Joanne Roukens

Joanne handed out a report from Cheryl O'Connor to Council and a copy of the "Creating Our Future" 4-page version of the Statewide Strategic Plan. Besides the 4-page version, the full report and summary can be found on LibraryLinkNJ's website. The 4-page pdf is intended for members to use and add to their local advocacy toolkit and also for engaging stakeholders, their communities, governing bodies and staff.

LibraryLinkNJ has added to the same page a **Showcase and Share** Section for each Goal of the Plan, where libraries are asked to share their local successful programs and services.

At the May LibraryLinkNJ membership meeting, members approved the LibraryLinkNJ budget for FY15, which included a budget line for Special Projects of \$100,000. This will give LibraryLinkNJ flexibility to do a series of smaller initiatives which support the goals of the Statewide Strategic Plan.

IMLS site visit from LSTA program manager – Timothy Owens

Timothy Owens is a Senior Program Manager, State Library Programs from IMLS. Each State Library is receives a site visit once every five years from a program manager. Timothy is responsible for 20 states. Besides a document checklist for site visits, the program manager's visit is to see LSTA money at work at the local level, its impact and to offer any technical assistance if needed. The visit gives them an opportunity to see how State Libraries are organized, how they work with local libraries, the focus of their 5-year plans and it also offers State Libraries a communication avenue for funding.

Timothy encouraged Council members to look at state programs highlighted on the IMLS website.

There were questions from Council members and discussion on federal level recognition of value of libraries, the shifting of burden of services and initiatives to libraries without accompanying funding, the formula used for LSTA funding and the loss of Gates Foundation grants to libraries.

Discussion took place on the Edge Initiative as an important tool in measuring community technology needs. Data collected will not only point out those needs but can be used in seeking funding. Ralph Bingham said he found it a very successful internal evaluation tool. They found

their library needed software to help sight impaired patrons use computers. The initiative is free this year and will eventually have price tag. Kathi has sent several notices to libraries. There are seven more openings. Libraries have to sign up by end of the month and finish survey by end of the year.

Old Business - none

New Business - none

Other Business –

This is Susan Kaplan's last year as chair and member of the LSTA Advisory Council.

Next meeting date –

Kathi will do a doodle poll for November, staying within preferred parameters of Wednesday or Thursday afternoons at the Talking Book and Braille Center if the meeting room is available.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.