

NJLA Professional Development Committee Meeting
CJRLC Office, Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Members in attendance:

Connie Paul, CJRLC
Rosalind Reisner, CJRLC
Julie DuBois, Mount Laurel
Trevor Dawes, Princeton University
Ellen Callanan, Sussex County
Pete Bromberg, SJRLC
Leslie Kahn, Newark Public
Carol Nersinger, East Brunswick
Zarita Mattox, Ocean County

1. Yayyy, Trevor (and Nicole Cooke) for starting the Black Caucus of the American Library Association – they are now officially Movers & Shakers!
2. February minutes approved, with the correction of a few things that Pete will take care of.
3. Pat – NJLA Announcements
 - a. The blog-quest is moving forward. Software has been purchased for the website, and things should be ready to go soon!
 - b. A podcasting station will once again be set-up at the conference this year, and podcasts will be available on the NJLA website.
 - c. Starting next week, there will be a single, unified calendar on the website, complete with color-coded events, programs, meetings, etc.
 - d. Technology training is in the works for section leaders to bring them up to speed with NJLA's latest endeavors, i.e. blogging, online meetings, videoconferencing, etc.
4. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Conference – no members present
 - b. Exhibits – no members present
 - c. Leadership Education – Connie reported that the latest round of Emerging Leaders has finished. The next round will begin in spring of 2008. Consideration is being given to a longer, 18-month cycle, as well as planned goings-on in between cycles. All in all, it's going well!
 - d. Mentoring – Trevor reported that the requests keep coming, not just from library students, but from directors as well. A few suggestions were offered on how to find mentors for this group of people:
 - i. Send out a "blanket" request.
 - ii. Contact specific people who would make a good match, i.e. the Admin Section members, Leadership Program members (coaching training will be conducted next fall), Branch Managers, etc.

To follow up, Trevor will send a memo to the Admin Section and advertise at the conference membership table. He and Zarita will consider sharing applications with others to broaden the pool of potential matches.

5. Review of Online Meeting/Next Steps

- a. Cons – Perhaps the lack of smooth-sailing was due to the fact that we were not all using the same platform. Messages were being lost, and chatters were dropping in and out of the meeting accidentally.
- b. Pros – A large number of people can attend, it's cheap, promotes a feeling of connectedness, and there is minimal crosstalk.
- c. Suggestions for streamlining – have guidelines, i.e. use of question/exclamation marks, longer reports prepared in advance to cut/paste or to be part of a wiki URL that can be sent to everyone.
- d. Next Steps
 - i. investigate platforms and make a recommendation for NJLA to purchase by end of May (suggestions for investigation include contacting NJLSA, IEEE)
 - ii. consider role as promoter/educator (possibly in conjunction with IT) of the software as a means of enhancing professional communication within NJLA – Pete will create an overview of online meetings/chat platforms, including the positive and negative aspects, examples of how to do it, etc.

6. Next meeting date – Wednesday, May 23, 2007 – Pete will notify us of any changes.