

It has been a great honor to serve as President of the New Jersey Library Association for the past ten months. I am proud to share some accomplishments and updates with the membership:

Doing Business Online

One of my goals was to work with the Membership Committee to implement a mechanism for online membership processing. With much cooperation from the NJLA staff, we were able to implement this feature in time for our renewals last July. We are able to accept payments online by credit card or through PayPal accounts using formsite.com. Approximately 300 memberships have been renewed or initiated online since we launched this service.

We have offered online conference registration for a few years, but the product we were using had an expensive per-registration fee. We have transitioned this year's conference registration to the formsite.com platform as well. Online processing accounted for approximately 30 percent of our paid registrations this year, about 10 percent higher over last year's figures.

Online donations are also accepted! We have expanded the information about donating funds to NJLA on the website. Thanks to the Investment Committee for developing the descriptions of our dedicated funds last year (their brochure debuted at Conference 2008). Members may make a contribution through the online form or print a form to mail in. Visit <http://www.njla.org> and click on "Support Us" for more information and to make a donation.

We are also completing a transition to online committee choice forms. President-Elect Susan Briant is already accepting committee choice forms online and we're making this process paperless this year!

NJLA even has e-commerce! Thanks to Kate Vasilik for setting up [cafepress.com](http://shop.cafepress.com/njla) for One Book NJ and helping me with the process for our conference merchandise. T-shirts, mugs, buttons and more are all available. Visit <http://shop.cafepress.com/njla> to make your selections.

And thanks to Pat Tumulty for securing a reasonably priced conference calling service. We have been able to have several efficient phone meetings when we just weren't able to meet in person. I'm sure we will be expanding the use of phone and online meetings in the next year.

There's one more item on my online to-do list and it is to work with the office to develop an online workshop registration process.

Website and Wiki

<http://www.njla.org> has a refreshed look. Our Publications Committee, headed up by Maureen Wynkoop and Leah Wagner and NJLA webmaster Ranjna Das, coordinated this makeover. A new wiki component to the web presence has made it very easy to update. Our sections and committees have much greater flexibility in presenting their information such as meeting minutes, calls for participation, and project results.

Eileen Palmer has been working with CapWiz, an online advocacy tool provided by ALA. We have used it for at least one action alert so far with much success and look forward to further implementation.

Sections, Round Tables, Committees, Subcommittees, and Task Forces

The committed volunteers leading our sections and committees have been very active throughout the year. I have compiled a document summarizing many of their projects. Please join me in thanking them for all of their hard work and dedication!

Conference

New Jersey Libraries Rock! Welcome to another tremendous conference experience. The programming is fabulous, thanks to the creativity of our sections and committees. I must offer a special note of appreciation to Cindy Czesak for guiding the Conference Committee this year. The Committee has managed every imaginable detail to ensure that this event is a “can’t miss” professional development experience as well as an economic success. We are gratified that we have maintained our attendance figures and have supportive group of exhibitors this year. We are most appreciative of the sponsors that have provided additional financial support.

Partnerships

NJLA has benefited from our rich partnerships with the New Jersey State Library and the Regional Library Cooperatives. Programming including nationally (marketing guru Seth Godin, library fundraiser Peter Pearson) and even internationally (library storytellers Shanachies) recognized speakers have enriched the calendar of professional development opportunities for the NJ library community. Many thanks to our state librarian Norma Blake and to Karen Hyman, Cheryl O’Connor, Connie Paul, Joanne Roukens, the executive directors of the regional library cooperatives, for their support and collaboration.

On February 19, many libraries took a snapshot of their services. Visit <http://snapshot.njlibraries.org/> to see the results of “Snapshot: One Day in the Life of New Jersey Libraries.” This terrific activity, organized in a matter of weeks, has generated much positive feedback to NJLA and the NJSL. It was my pleasure to be personally involved in Snapshot Day and to co-lead the working group with Peggy Cadigan from the NJSL. What a wonderful success!

Additional projects include a current schedule of trainings with the Department of Labor, the Tell Your Story statewide marketing campaign, One Book NJ, the upcoming Author Day on May 8, and the Trustee Institute on May 9. Just to name a few!

And there’s more!

Although the Conference is the true highlight of the NJLA year, I am also looking forward to some other upcoming events.

ALA Legislative Day activities will take place on May 11 & 12 in Washington DC. Eileen Palmer, Chair of the Public Policy Committee is organizing our participation.

The Fundraising Fair task force is working diligently to organize another great professional development opportunity for librarians as well as Trustees, Friends of Libraries groups, and Library foundation boards. Please save the date of Tuesday, June 9 at Brookdale Community College. This full day of workshops will feature library fundraising success stories, advice from professional fundraisers, a vendor area, and most important: practical tips for raising money!

More Thanks

I want to express my thanks to the NJLA Officers and members of the Executive Board for their contributions of time and expertise throughout the year. I also offer my appreciation to the NJLA Staff. Sue Rice, Betty Steckman, and Karen Avenick do an outstanding job for the association. I am so grateful to Pat Tumulty, our Executive Director for the remarkable job that she does for all of us, especially as our advocate in Trenton. And thank you to YOU too! The support and participation of our members is essential to the success of NJLA.