

Minutes for September 4, 2014 NJLA History & Preservation Section Meeting held at New Jersey State Library, Trenton, NJ.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM on September 4, 2014. In attendance were Section President Danny Klein, Vice President/President Elect Deb Schiff, Secretary Ken Kaufman, and Members at-Large Sarah Hull and Laura Poll.

Also in attendance were John Beekman, Tim Corlis, John Daquino, Deborah Mercer, Jessica Myers, Wendi Rottweiler, Gary Saretzky, and Michele Stricker.

The meeting was hosted by Deborah Mercer of the New Jersey State Library.

Introductions were made.

Minutes

Review of the minutes for June 3, 2014 was tabled until the next meeting when there will be printed copies available.

Committee Reports

Sarah spoke about the latest edition of "the Chronicle". October 20th is the next deadline for submissions.

Deb provided an update on Program Committee efforts. Carolyn is putting together the author's session, while Sarah will be doing a program on the keys to succeeding with grants. Kim is developing a program on overcoming the challenges of a digitization project, and Deb is seeking a speaker who can discuss dating photographs by analyzing its contents. Deb is also looking to collaborate with another section on a program which examines innovative ways to promote collections.

Jessica will send out a request for nominations for the Awards Committee. She discussed challenge of meeting the NJLA deadline of December, particularly as it coincides with the processes for similar awards from ALA and MARAC.

Danny reviewed the current composition for the Programs, Awards, and Nominations Committees, and asked for volunteers to fill any vacancies. The current status of committee assignments are as follows:

Program – Deb (chair), Carolyn, Kim, and Sarah.

Awards – Jessica (chair), Gary and Tim.

Nominations - Jessica (chair), Danny, Deb, **one vacancy**.

Old Business

Danny intends to further explore H&P participation in a possible NJLA anniversary commemoration when Fred Pachman, who introduced the topic, returns for a future meeting.

Danny and Deb attended the NJLA leadership conference. The theme for this year is “libraries on the edge”, and a major focus will be using social media more effectively.

New Business

Danny reported that Annmarie Klose resigned as Member at-Large. He wished her the best in relocating to western Maryland, and thanked her for her willingness to serve. Gary Saretzky was chosen by the Executive Board to complete Annmarie’s term.

Danny introduced the idea of a local history census as a priority for the year. It would involve sending out a questionnaire to public libraries, inquiring about holdings and staffing. He called for volunteers and received affirmative responses from Carolyn, Jessica, Ken, and Laura. There was discussion about expanding beyond public libraries to include academic libraries and historical organizations. Laura mentioned how this could be coordinated with the hidden collections initiative that was successful in Pennsylvania, and may be applied here. This program has posted finding aids of small organizations online. It was offered that CAPES applications are an existing source on identifying organizations and collections. John was concerned about the project’s reach, and argued for keeping the scope manageable to complete it within the term. Ken offered that an incremental approach may be the way to accomplish our multiple goals.

Danny proposed another goal of improving our social media profile by establishing a committee on the topic. Volunteers for the project are still being sought. NJLA is discontinuing its wiki and moving towards its Drupal website for communicating with members. Danny, Deb, Ken, and Sarah will be trained in using Drupal.

Announcements

Gary mentioned the upcoming exhibit, “the Civil War: New Jersey in Focus”, at the Monmouth County Library. Archives week events at the library will include programs on best practices for internships and New Jersey Civil War photographers on October 8th, as well as a presentation from Joseph Becton on the music of the Civil War on October 11th. The Becton appearance is one feature of Archives Day, which currently has 50 exhibitors registered for the all day event.

Gary informed the group that the website for the Public and General History Internship program at Rutgers is being updated. He asked institutional participants to let them know of any needed individual updates.

John discussed a special event at Jersey City Free Public Library celebrating the 50th anniversary of the New Jersey Room and the 350th anniversary of New Jersey. On September 20th, there will be an author’s program from Joseph Bilby and James Madden, the creators of the NJ 350

book, as well as a presentation from author, Trish Szymanski, on Washington Irving in Communipaw. Also featured is a display of collection highlights and treasures.

Sarah announced the opening of an exhibit from the Charles H. Detwiller, Jr. Architectural Drawings Collection, 1887-2002 at Plainfield Public Library. 70 pieces will be displayed in cases or on the wall through the end of October. This year's photography contest will be in step with an architectural theme. The library also has planned two events for October: a children's program recognizing archives month and a presentation from Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps.

Tim reported an upcoming exhibit on New Jersey before the Revolution at Rutgers University in the Special Collection/University Archives galleries.

Ken mentioned that the Heritage Trail Association will be hosting a narrated bus tour of the historical Bridgewater area on September 14th, and the Somerset County Library has scheduled a program on the Sourlands at Hillsborough Library on September 23rd and the Middlebrook Cantonment at Somerville Public Library on September 27th.

Michelle provided an update on the success of the Collections Care Consortium of New Jersey initiative, in which 36 workshops were conducted over a 2 year term. At the capstone event on July 30th, there were 100 people in attendance, connecting the cultural institution and first responder communities.

Adjournment

Without objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th at Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, NJ.

New Jersey State Library Tour

The meeting was followed by a tour of the State Library's Jerseyana collection with Deborah Mercer and John Shaw, which featured rare law books and documents of New Jersey and England from the colonial era.