



Ethnic Services Round Table Membership Meeting
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021
Location: Virtual
Time: 2:00PM

Agenda:

- **Welcome & Introductions**

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| 1. Jay Dela Cruz | jdelacruz@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 2. Rio Aucena | raucena@wlsmail.org (New Rochelle Public Library) |
| 3. Madellen Garcia | mgarcia@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 4. Jamia Williams | jwilliams@brockport.edu (SUNY Brockport) |
| 5. Indira Mukherjee | Indira.Mukherjee@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 6. Sarah Gluck | sarahgluck@gmail.com (Queens Public Library) |
| 7. Manny Figueroa | mfigueroa@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 8. Fred Gitner | fred.j.gitner@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 9. Jo-Ann Wong | jwong@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 10. Kacper Jarecki | kacper.jarecki@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 11. Victoria Kowanetz | victoria.kowanetz@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 12. Tracy Allen | allent6@rpi.edu (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) |
| 13. Selina Sharmin | selina.sharmin@queenslibrary.org (Queens Public Library) |
| 14. Lindsay Davis | ldavis@communitylibrary.org (Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library) |

- **Approval of NYLA Membership Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, November 9th, 2020
 Location: Virtual
 Time: 2:00PM
 Motion made by Fred to approve minutes and Manny seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

- **NYLA Conference Program Update**

Rio Aucena

Engaging the Immigrant Community in a Digital Realm

With the advent of the pandemic, in-person ESOL classes had to be restructured for an online virtual environment. Learn about the steps and skills needed to transition your ESOL conversation classes and group into a successful virtual setting. Speakers: Marco Castillo, Queens Public Library & Jo-Ann Wong, Queens Public Library
 Proposal already submitted by Marco

Mental Health in BIPOC Services

There is usually a stigma attached to mental health among ethnic groups. With the pandemic, many are experiencing more mental stress than ever before. This program will help provide awareness about mental health in ethnic groups and the tools and resources to help this segment of the population.
 Speakers: Wendy Petties & Maria Ruiz De Toro

Reinventing Ethnic Library Services in the New Normal

A panel focusing on immigrant and ethnic cultural events in the new normal highlighting the changes, challenges, and solutions made in virtual and in-person services to immigrant communities.
 - Combining Combating Racism online webinar series and New Americans Program @ Queens Public Library.
 Speakers: Cathy Chen, Queens Public Library; David Nochimson, Molloy College; Jo-Ann Wong, Queens Public Library; Kelly Yim, NYPL & Tracy Allen, Middletown-Thrall Public Library

The second proposal title was originally “Mental Health in Ethnic Services”, however Fred suggested we ~~do~~ not use ethnic services in both titles. Changed second program proposal title to “Mental Health in BIPOC Services”. Manny suggested we ask Wendy and Maria their opinions for the title and description. Jo-Ann suggested a moderator plus the two speakers for proposal #2.

Proposal #1 has been submitted. Rio is working to finalize proposals #2 and #3.

- **Bylaws Task Force Update**

Fred Gitner, Kacper Jarecki, Indira Mukherjee

The revised version of the bylaws is finished. Fred has to send the draft version to the Board members. Since we are meeting virtually the approval by membership doesn't have to be done at a formal meeting. Members can be notified after which a vote will be taken. Fred will submit the change to the Executive Board over the weekend.

- **Membership/Public Relations Committee Status Update**

Kacper Jarecki and Indira Mukherjee

The last social event was held on January 6th, 2021, 13-14 people attended. Kacper suggested a Secret Valentine event where participants make book recommendations. A Doodle poll will go out for any future social events.

Fred inquired about the discrepancy in membership numbers with Jeremy. NYLA only lists 28 paid ESRT members. Fred has the list of the people not designated as members and he will get in touch with them. Fred will also share the information with the rest of the membership committee.

Kacper will email the inactive members. Selina and Fred worked on the membership letter for library school students; they will start forwarding the letter to potential new members.

Jo-Ann also suggested using the ESRT Facebook and Twitter channels to try and recruit more members. Current members can send articles or things of interest to Jo-Ann and she can post them online.

- **Nominating Committee Status Update – NYLA Deadlines**

The vacant positions for the upcoming election are: 1 member-at-large, Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The nominating committee has not assembled yet, however as per the bylaws, the committee chair will be Selina Sharmin, Immediate Past President. Two other committee members have been appointed, Manny Figueroa and Jo-Ann Wong. An email should go out prior to March 15th, 2021 to solicit nominations from members, we then have one month to receive nominations. Biographies and nominee information has to be submitted to NYLA prior to May 31st, 2021 (final deadline). An email should go out to membership by the end of February 2021 mentioning which positions are open and include a description of what duties are involved.

- **Publications Committee/Bibliography Committee Status Update**

Manny Figueroa

Manny thought it would be nice if we could get a newsletter out in the Spring and Fall. The past President can speak about their experience of working during the pandemic, and the new President can discuss their goals and objectives for the year. The newsletter can have different articles that deal with issues such as: information literacy, serving immigrant communities, combating racism, etc. Manny would like to get a group together to brainstorm, he will send out a Doodle poll for the brainstorming sessions.

Jo-Ann, Tracy, Sarah and Indira are all interested in helping with the newsletter. Jay can help with the formatting/layout. Manny suggested instead of a bibliography for the NYLA Annual Conference, we can put together a resource list. The list can be things that would be of interest to people serving different communities throughout the state. The newsletter will be in English only; it is for the membership not for customers.

Lindsay is working on an “app-ography”, she will send the information to everyone when she is back to work on Monday. The “app-ography” has apps and resources people can get on their smartphones.

- **Treasurer’s Report**

Fred Gitner

Treasurer’s report: ESRT Virtual Membership Meeting, January 22, 2021

Opening Balance, July 1, 2020: **\$4,239.51**

Income

Dues: July-November 2020 **\$160.00**

Expenses

July-November 2020 **\$0**

Closing Balance

November 30, 2020 **\$4,399.51**

- **Combating Racism Series Update**

Tracy Allen

There is no update to report just yet. Jo-Ann discussed that participants had asked why the sessions were limited to one hour. She suggested extending some of the programs to a longer length. Jo-Ann also suggested doing something similar to the Implicit Bias training here at QPL, but in a virtual setting. Manny will send the Implicit Bias materials he has to Tracy and Jo-Ann.

Rio asked if there would be 6 sessions again. Tracy is unsure but suggested 3 sessions at an hour and a half each, instead of 6 sessions at an hour each.

The Combating Racism group will look into who can financially support the series. There is a possibility of grants, other NYLA sections, vendors, or other systems (BPL, NYPL) that could help.

Rio suggested looking at the list of attendees and if a large number come from certain systems we can contact them and see if they would want to sponsor the program with us. Per Fred, vendors have to be approved by NYLA before we can approach them concerning sponsorship.

Jo-Ann suggested looking at other round tables to co-sponsor with us. Tracy also suggested trustee groups because they should be interested in their staff attending this series.

- **Brian G. Martin Professional Development Award Update**

We do not know if the annual NYLA Conference will be held in person, virtual, or hybrid this year. There is a possibility of giving out 2 Brian G. Martin Professional Development Awards since we did not give out one last year. This can be discussed later in the year, around April 2021. The award can be given out regardless of whether or not the conference will be in person. The type of conference will determine the number and amount of awards that can be given.

- **Old Business/New Business**

Manny discussed the REFORMA Virtual Spanish Book Buzz being held on 2/2, 2/4, 2/9 & 2/11 at 1pm. He will send an email with the information.

- **Schedule of Next Membership Meeting**

The next Executive Board Meeting will be Friday, March 26th, 2021 at 2pm.

The next General Membership Meeting will tentatively be in April – Rio will send a Doodle Poll to members.

Kacper will send out the Doodle poll for the next social event.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Fred. Seconded by Madellen. Meeting Adjourned: 4:00pm

Prepared by **Victoria Kowanetz, Secretary**

Edited by **Fred Gitner, Treasurer**