

HRLC Highlights

Newsletter of the Highlands Regional Library Cooperative / Serving the Counties of Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset,

VOL. 16, No. 2, June 2007



From the Executive Director

By Joanne Roukens

Since last fall, the HRLC staff and more than 350 of your colleagues have been working together with our consultants, the Ivy Group, envisioning the next three years of services to our members. Our "Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years July 1,

2007 – June 30, 2010" is now complete. I wish to thank the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work and all of you for your participation.

Please take a moment to read the Strategic Plan at <http://www.hrlc.org/planning/front.htm>. While you are at the webpage, take a look at the list of readings that were recommended to the participants in our Planning Summit. I also want to direct your attention to the "Strategic Priorities Litmus Test" devised by the Ivy Group. I think every member of HRLC should be using it for their own planning.

There are six strategic directions for HRLC in the new plan:

1. Delivery, resource sharing and intra-member cooperation
2. Advocacy and Government Relations
3. Technology Awareness and Tools
4. Customer Service
5. Marketing and Public Relations
6. Strategic Planning and Organizational Development

Over the next three years the Board and staff of HRLC will be using the Plan to guide all our efforts to ensure we provide you with the tools and training you need. HRLC is here to help you and your library work smart and be successful.

Library Goddesses Almost Win!

The team of Michele Reutty (Oakland P. L.), Arlene Sahraie (BCCLS), Michele Skowronski (Cliffside Park P. L.) and Joanne P. Roukens (HRLC), a.k.a. "Library Goddesses," almost won this year's Rutgers School of Communication, Information & Library Studies Alumni Association "SCILS Bowl" competition. Yes, we came in second, BUT we lost to very worthy opponents – Rutgers faculty led by Dr. Marie Radford. We still looked regal and powerful in our coordinating tiaras and the Library Goddesses defeated several other teams in a tough competition. Modeled on the venerable television program the "College Bowl" that tested the knowledge of college students, the teams composed of SCILS faculty, students or alumni vie for the honor of being declared "SCILS Bowl Champions." Covering popular culture, history, science, sports and other subjects, all competition questions are kept confidential and participants have no prior

knowledge of them or any specific subject that might be covered. All members of the Library Goddesses team are available for personal appearances – and we've upgraded our tiaras this year. Very sparkly!



Continuing Education Highlights

By Ellen Osborne, Program Coordinator

Now that summer's finally here, we hope that many of our school librarian/media specialist members will be able to take advantage of some great programs we have planned.

Information literacy shows up as an area of concern each time we survey our members. To help explore the needs and expectations of students at all levels, we're providing an opportunity for discussion among those who teach these skills, from the earliest grades to college. Join us on June 27th at County College of Morris for a roundtable discussion of students' research experiences throughout their educational life. "Building Information Literacy from the Bottom to the Top" will provide examples of ways to ensure student success.

Our special summer workshop day for school librarians will focus on social software. Sure, you've heard of MySpace, Facebook and YouTube, but have you actually looked into how they're used? And what about Meebo, or Trillian? You can find out about these, and more, on July 31st at our office in Denville.

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend one of our own Joanne Roukens' "Valuing Libraries" programs, here's your chance. Joanne will be presenting a one-day version of this highly-praised workshop on June 5th at Passaic County Community College in Wanaque, and at the Old Bridge Public Library on July 10th. You'll learn how to develop a powerful strategy for communicating what your library offers your community or organization in quality of life and return on investment. Every type of library can benefit from sending a representative to one of these workshops.

Our Technology Open House is back by popular demand on July 26th, with a repeat of last fall's highly successful program. Experts from the HRLC Technology Committee will be on hand to discuss and demonstrate some of the new technologies that you can use to enhance your services. If you missed the last Open House, or want to further explore something you learned, join us at the Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library. Be sure to watch for the all-new edition coming in November.

For all the details on these programs, check the flyers in this month's mailing, or at <http://www.hrlc.org/mailling.htm>, then register online at <http://www.peopleware.net/2909> or call us at 800-638-4752.

Regional Delivery Service

By now you should have received the "FY08 Delivery Service New Minimums and Pricing" memo. Responses are due no later than Wednesday, June 13th - failure to respond will result in your removal from delivery! All information regarding the new minimums can be found on our website at www.hrlc.org/delivery/deliveryinfo.htm. Once all responses have been received, updated lists will be made available on our website (some libraries are opting to no longer receive delivery so be sure to check the lists once they are made available).

The last day of CD&L delivery for schools is Friday, June 8th. Delivery will resume on Monday, September 10th.

Attention School Media Specialists: PLEASE be sure to send your 2nd quarter stats (April, May, June) BEFORE you leave for summer break.



FY2008 Executive Board Election Results

Terms: July 2007 – June 2010

The winners are:

Bergen County Representative

Wendy Bloom – Director, Ramsey Free Public Library

Somerset County Representative

Anne Meany – Director, Bernards Township Library

At-Large Representative

Mary Riskind – Director, Bergenfield Public Library

Special Library Representative

Patricia May – Director, St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center Library

Lay Representative

Ronald Leavesley – President, Friends of the Kinnelon Library & The Center for Life Long Learning

A great big "Thank You!" to those who also ran in the election:

Bergen County Representative

Patricia Denholm – Director, Sidney Silverman Library, Bergen Community College

Somerset County Representative

Karen Yanetta – Director, Bernardsville Public Library

At-Large Representative

Andrea Cahoon – Director, Ringwood Public Library

Showcase Café

(excerpted from *bookmark* – Newsletter of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians - May, 2007)

The library media center at Montville Township High School is a very special place. Recently, School Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen publicly praised the school's library media specialist Mrs. Donna Cohen and her library staff, Mrs. Lynne Ely and Mrs. Diane Winters for "transforming the library into the media, research, and cultural center of the high school." One reason this school library media center has become a favorite with staff and students alike is that Mrs. Cohen and the library staff have created programs that have helped to expand the connection between the library and school community.

A recent program, *The Showcase Café*, launched in October 2006, has brought a myriad of accolades and enhanced the image of the library. This exceptionally popular program was the brainchild of Mrs. Cohen. The inspiration for the project was born last summer, as a result of her participation in a storytelling workshop at Princeton University. "While I was working on a collaborative project where storytelling would take place in the library, I realized that the library would be the perfect place to show off many of our talented staff and students," Cohen said.

Cohen has seen a direct correlation between the *Showcase Café* and an increase in library visibility and library usage. The program has been sold out for every performance. The library has enabled the participating school clubs to raise over \$2,000, which they have contributed to a variety of charities. Most recently, the *Showcase Café* was featured by New Jersey Public Television station NJN, *Classroom Closeup*.

During this time of shrinking school budgets, libraries are working hard to "prove their value" to the administration and taxpayers. Mrs. Cohen and her staff have succeeded in raising awareness of the value of *their* school library by integrating innovative programs into the school library curricula. In conclusion, to quote Michael Palma, a member of the Montville Board of Education, who attended a *Showcase Café* performance: "it provides opportunities for people to both shine as performers and contribute to worthy causes. The positive feelings that are present do much to enhance the morale of the school."

NJLA



Congratulations to all the winners of awards presented at this year's NJLA Conference. We'd particularly like to note the winners from our Region:

Library Champions - Kiwanis Club of Bernardsville

Journalism:

- Editorials/Op-Ed - Mike Kelly, The Record - "The Librarian Went by the Book"
- Corpus of Coverage - The Record

Library Service Awards:

- Trustees - Bill Smithuysen, Waldwick Public Library and Buildings and Grounds Committee, Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library
- Individuals - Karen Yanetta, Bernardsville Public Library

PR Awards:

- Newsletter - Montvale Public Library and Paramus Public Library
- Program Announcement - Upper Saddle River Public Library and Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library
- Website - West Milford Township Library

Intellectual Freedom Award - Michelle Reutty, Oakland Public Library

And, of course, a special round of applause for the NJLA Librarian of the Year -- our own Joanne Roukens!

Pass The Shades!

By Amy Kearns, Paterson Public Library

We saw first-hand how bright the future is on May 7th and 8th at the Mid-Atlantic Futures Conference, put on by the New Jersey State Library, PALINET, and other Mid-Atlantic states. Over 600 librarians attended this inspiring conference and took part in a "World Café" where we brainstormed ideas about what the future would be like while we digested what we had heard.

New Jersey is faced with many challenges – ever-growing diversity, funding issues, technology changes that come at an increasingly faster pace, globalization – these will all impact on libraries. Change is inevitable but libraries are still uniquely poised to be key players, IF we make ourselves aware of what's coming and allow ourselves to change where appropriate. By doing this I know that we can remain indispensable to society. I am excited and motivated by the fact that we in New Jersey are looking ahead in anticipation and thinking and talking about creative ways to rise to these challenges!

We heard from a futurist, an architect, a scholar, a demographer, a consultant, and others. Each one had insightful and provocative ideas about the future. Check out the conference blog at <http://futuresconference.wordpress.com> so you can see photos, reactions and more. Handouts and podcasts should also be available soon! And don't forget to grab your shades!

Around the Region, Around the State...

Congratulations to Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer who became the Associate State Librarian and Head of the Library Development Bureau (LDB) of the New Jersey State Library (NJSL), effective March 31, 2007. Congrats also go to Victoria Rosch who was named Deputy Director of the Library Development Bureau of the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) in May.

Sharon Rawlins, currently Head of Youth Services at the Library for the Blind and Handicapped, will be joining the Library Development Bureau on May 29th as their Youth Services Consultant. Best wishes Sharon!

Congrats to Mary Martin, who became the new Director at Long Hill Township Library on April 9th.

Congratulations to Lori Barnes, Director, Oradell Public Library, who is leaving Oradell at the end of May. She is returning home to Colorado where her family is located and will be the new Town Librarian for Vail. Good luck!

Congratulations to the newly elected NJASL officers:

- Pat Massey - Vice President
- Lillian Keating - Recording Secretary
- Laretta Fernandez - Corresponding Secretary
- Judith Everitt - Member-at-Large

Best of wishes to the new slate of officers.



Spotlight on YOU! Featuring Mr. Darcy

We thought you'd like to know more about HRLC's newest staff member, our Morale and Security Officer, Mr.

Darcy. He recently met with Program Coordinator Ellen Osborne for this interview.

Ellen: Thanks for taking the time from your busy schedule to sit on my lap for this interview, Mr. Darcy. How did you happen to create your position at the Highlands office?

Darcy: Well, as you know, my Mom is Joanne Roukens, Highlands Executive Director. She started bringing me to the office when I was just a little pup, so that I wouldn't have to be alone all day. It became clear pretty quickly that the office staff had gone without the services of a Toy Poodle for way too long! I mean, who was there to greet each of them as they arrived in the morning?

Ellen: What are some of your responsibilities?

Darcy: As you can see from my title, my job consists mainly of two functional areas. As Morale Officer, I make sure that the staff starts the day with a smile by leaping and twirling as each person comes through the door, though sometimes I have to remind my Mom to let me out from behind my gate. Then, throughout the day, I make sure that my "aunts" get some refreshing exercise with a quick game of ball or some tugging on my blue lizard. I know that you're particularly fond of my lizard, Aunt Ellen, so I sometimes have to remind you to take a break by whacking you with it.

As Security Officer, I protect the office by carefully inspecting each person who comes through our door. As you can imagine, this is a big responsibility for a guy who only weighs about ten pounds. I find that, if needed, my fierce barking usually impresses visitors I haven't met before. Of course, I'm always happy to greet Mr. Lee and Don, our usual postmen, and our UPS delivery man. I do wish that Velocity wouldn't keep making me break in new drivers, though.

Ellen: I know that you find many other tasks in the office that require your attention.

Darcy: I've become quite effective as a meeting facilitator. Attendance at committee meetings has improved considerably since I've been making an appearance. Members often arrive early to confer with me before the meeting starts. A demonstration of what I've learned at Top Dog Obedience School usually sets a good tone for the session.



I also supervise the preparation of the monthly mailing. As you can see in the picture, my Grandma comes to our office to help, and I really enjoy working with her. I like to give her special attention by sitting on a chair right next to her. I go to visit her sometimes at her senior building, too. I help her call the bingo games, and entertain the other residents.

Even though I don't have my own account, I enjoy helping you check your email. It's great that you've learned to type with me on your lap.

Ellen: I'm sure that you have other activities outside the office.


Darcy: In addition to my courses at Top Dog, I'm a Canine Good Citizen, and I've recently been certified as a Therapy Dog. Naturally, I go to visit my breeder to be groomed regularly, and I stay there at Poodle Camp when my Mom's away. I also enjoy playing with the other dogs at our apartment complex. So, I manage to keep busy.

Ellen: Thanks Mr. Darcy. We really appreciate your help here at Highlands.

Darcy: You're welcome. Can I have a cookie now?



The HRLC Office will be on summer hours, closing at 1:30 p.m. on Fridays from June 29th through August 31st. Regular hours will resume after Labor Day. The HRLC Staff wishes all of our members a happy and safe summer!

 HRLC Treasurer's Report	
Balances as of April 30, 2007	
Morgan Stanley Checking Account	\$ 96,813.34
NJ Cash Management Fund	<u>345,199.53</u>
TOTAL OF ACCOUNTS	\$ 442,012.87
Funds Due 5/07	97,941.00
TOTAL	\$ 539,953.87



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