

RASS – MLA Subunit meeting
Friday, October 11, 2013
11:15am-12:15pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Over 40 individuals (current RASS membership 78) representing more than 14 different organizations and institutions.

Ice-breaker- Introductions and craft led by Stacey R. Hendren

As members arrived they were encouraged to make a lanyard bookmark using the beads and cord provided. The craft was meant as an ice breaker and an example of a simple program to do with adults. Hendren noted that thinner string or more beads with wider holes would have made the craft easier.



Hendren introduced the current co-chairs team, welcomed attendees, thanked them for their service, and read the RASS purpose statement "To stimulate and support full access to library services which are user-oriented. The Section seeks to bring about the fullest use of all media in meeting the educational, informational, recreational, and social interests and needs of users and potential users of all types of libraries."

Haugo informed members that starting in 2014 MLA members will be able to join sub-units without paying extra fees, and stated that the 2014 MLA conference will be in Mankato on October 8 & 9. RASS will recommend the same time frame for the business meeting due to the increased attendance.

Cross-generational Collaboration – PowerPoint and discussion led by Jill Smith

The presentation focused on how we can cross generational lines to work together to serve our library patrons most effectively. We talked about the three main generations working in libraries today – Baby Boomers, Generation Xers, and Millennials. We discussed general traits of each generation in very broad terms. We offered tips on working together to create a collaborative reference team. The PowerPoint presentation will be available on the RASS website.

RASS update- JoEllen Haugo & Stacey R. Hendren (co-chairs 2013)

a. Networking event, May 9, 2013

RASS members met on May 9th, 2013 to network and enjoy a nice dinner. During the informal and formal discussions members considered the purpose of RASS and ideas for further development, best and worst programs and reference questions, and developed goals for the next year. The three top goals were to develop a simple means of communication, to increase the sharing of resources through communication or the website, and to make the networking event an annual occurrence. Additionally, attendees agreed to form a leadership team to assist with meeting the goals. The RASS leadership team in addition to Co-Chairs JoEllen Haugo and Stacey Hendren, now includes Carrie Braaten, Kristine Harley, Carmen Olson, Jill Smith, and Gail Wolfson. Contact information for the leadership team has been added to the RASS website.



As a follow up to goal three, RASS would like to turn the networking event into an annual event. For 2014 we are hoping to have a host library that could provide a tour, and RASS would like to find a possible speaker and provide dinner. If any member is interested in volunteering to host, please contact Stacey Hendren (staceyrhendren@gmail.com) or Jill Smith (jill.smith@co.anoka.mn.us).

b. MLA Forum demonstration—

The first goal of the leadership committee was to discover a means for communication among members. The MLA Communications Committee asked RASS to pilot a forum feature on the website, and RASS is recommending its acceptance. The forum possibility is still tentative.

Hendren demonstrated how to log in to the forum via (www.mnlibraryassociation.org/forum), reminded members they need to know their MLA user name and password, and showed how simple it is to enter the RASS forum, add a topic, comment on a colleague post, or read about other's ideas. More information will come out to members after the MLA Board has voted on continuing the forum. Hendren encouraged members to check out what is currently written on the forum and add their expertise and stories.

c. Elect new co-chair- 2 year term

JoEllen Haugo stated her intention to step down at the end of her two year term as co-chair. The nomination for Jill Smith, Anoka County Library, was accepted and passed unanimously.

Items from the Floor

Members discussed hosting a program at the MLA Conference in October—need to submit proposals by April with final decision being made in May.

Suggested topics for conference

- Local author
- Discussion on dealing with irate patrons—Black Belt Librarian (program given about 5 years ago, well received)
- NY Public Library craziest reference questions
- Program on government agencies and their resources
- Most efficient way to do searches—tricks of the trade for finding answers
 - Job search
 - MnSure

All attendees of the RASS business meeting engaged in an open fun discussion on crazy reference questions-inspired by Kee Malesky, Unshelved (Gene Ambaum and Bill Barnes), and discussion about NY Public Libraries book.

Haugo and Hendren would like to thank everyone who attended the 2013 RASS business meeting and for making it a success. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact your 2014 co-chairs Stacey and Jill.



Jill Smith, JoEllen Haugo, Stacey Hendren