



South Central Regional Library Council

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA) Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:00 AM Minutes

Present: Rachel Dworkin (Chemung County Historical Society), Karin Wikoff (Ithaca College); Jenny Shonk (Finger Lakes Library System); Beth Hysten (Corning Museum of Glass, retired)

ex officio: Christine Brown, Jessica Philippe

Excused: Allie Shanafelter (Corning Museum Of Glass)

Notes from Last Meeting ([December 16, 2025](#))

Around the Table

Rachel- For the past month they have a Smithsonian Travelling Exhibit about [Japanese War Brides](#) (it features a Chemung County resident's story about her mom). They have had programming around it and it's been really well received. The exhibit will be around till the end of the month. Rachel has been encouraged by how many people have come to see the exhibit.

Karin- She's been participating in the group reading program through Open Door (no longer funded through Humanities NY). They are reading about the colonial period, but trying to study about things like the French and Indian Wars and getting more perspectives that are not always shared. Here is the link: <https://www.howlandstonestore.org/event-listings>. To join, email Larry Bell (larrybell.cny@gmail.com) or Marilyn Post (madeline4394@gmail.com). One thing giving Karin hope is the weekly "What's the Plan?" -- with Leah and Ezra of Indivisible: <https://indivisible.org/events/whats-the-plan-with-leah-and-ezra/>.

Beth- The CMOG is putting together an exhibit on Haudensaunee beadwork. In May the exhibit on women in studio glass from the 60's and 70's will begin.

Jenny- At FLLS, they are working on their next community read: Meet Me at the Library. She recently read Chain Gain All Stars about incarcerated individuals fighting to the death. It's a fiction book that incorporates facts about the American prison system today. She also shared an article by Mike Bishop: <https://medium.com/@therealmikebishop/breaking-through-our-racist-raising-08e01d8b9de8>.

Title II Accessibility

E-Accessibility, WCAG2.1, Title II, and Your Library was held on Tuesday, February 10

- [Recording](#)
- [Session Resources](#)

[Web Accessibility Learning Circle](#) – Friday, February 27, 10:00 to 11:00 am.

SCRLC Plan of Service

The POS has been submitted to the Board of Trustees and soon to the membership for review. Thanks for your help with this!

Introducing iREAL – Tuesday, February 17, 1:00 to 2:00

We briefly discussed this webinar which will share more about the program (created in part by Binghamton University Libraries) to help mentor and ultimately recruit more BIPOC individuals to the library profession.

Article Discussion

IMLS Now – [The IMLS Propaganda Machine is in Full Swing](#)

Here is a [ProPublica article](#) about the same issue (and [a post on ALA's SRRT listserv](#) discussing the politicization of federal cultural funding and IMLS grant guidelines)

Some of us felt that applying for IMLS grants at this point would just unnecessarily call attention to DEI work that we're doing. It may be best to fly under the radar for now. LSTA funding is fine to apply for though because it's through the state library.

DEIJA in the SCRLC News

Review of reports in recent SCRLC News

- December 19 – Chemung County Historical Society's Japanese War Brides Exhibit
- January 30 – 100 Years of celebrating Black History – SCRLC's new tab for Black History month in the DEIJA LibGuide and the documentary "North to Freedom"
- February 13 – Binghamton University participates in iREAL

Next time, we'll share more about the upcoming CMOG exhibits- thanks for sharing Beth.

Reasons for positivity/hope

We discussed turnout at CCHS's exhibit, turnout at protests (the next No Kings Rally is March 28th) and other things mentioned above.

Upcoming meetings

Mark your calendars:

April 21, 11am

June 16, 11am

Minutes taken by Jessica