Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA)
Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Minutes

Present:

Excused:

Notes from June 16, 2026 meeting – approved with one change.

DEIJA Plan
The proposed DEIJA Plan was reviewed and approved as amended. A final version will be posted on our website.

DEIJA 2026/2027 Activities List
The 2025-2026 list was reviewed and there was discussion about the new plan for 2026/2027 which was approved.

Addressing J in the DEIJA -
We continued the discussion what was started at the June meeting about how are we addressing J and what does J look like now anyway. Two ideas for programming were shared with one being a presenter on the topic of "What does J mean for library workers now?" and the other having a community read on a book that covers a J topic with books provided to members who participate. We also discussed holding a learning circle after the programs.

Title II Accessibility
As we know, the deadline for meeting WCAG 2.1 AA was extended until next April. Christine shared that IDS Network Conference included several presentations on meeting the requirements for document provision. Basically, OCR is not sufficient. Remediation is the standard. Everyone is interested in attending additional programs on the topic and would like to do another learning circle on the topic.

DEIJA in the *SCRLC News*

- There were two items in *SCRLC News* since the last DEIJA meeting.
    - Celebrating diversity during America250 events/activities including those by George F. Johnson Library, History Center in Tompkins, The Seward House Museum, SUNY Cortland. July 2 Edition
    - The Seymour Public Library has screen magnifiers available for checkout and they also had a display for the Reading2Connect program with dementia accessible books. July 31 edition

Reasons for positivity/hope and around the table

Rachel shared that they recently facilitated a meeting between a descendent of slaveholders and descendants of those slaves who live in Elmira. It was a great opportunity and everyone who participated felt positive about the meeting. Rachel also shared that they continue to share diversity issues on their blog and they are working on their Ghost Walks. This is the 25th anniversary of Ghost Walks and they are putting together a book to celebrate the 25th anniversary.

Karin shared that Aurora Ledyard is putting together a time capsule for the 250th anniversary and it involves school children so they haven't had a lot of activity during the Summer. This break allowed them to reach out to the Gayogoho:no who are now working with them to select items for the capsule and for activities at the event.

Jenny shared that they are working n their community read program titled "Meet me in the Library; a place to foster … and Mike Bishop is facilitating the discussions (in person and online).

Other – Karin shared a question she heard from a librarian about how to handle a request for children's books about white people only. There was discussion about how to handle such a request. No one present has seen or heard such a request in our area.

Mary Carol joined late and shared the Day for Educators at Ganondagan on August 31. There was discussion about attending and it was suggested that maybe a couple of people from SCRLC attend to see what it's like and maybe participate more next year.

Next Steps/Meetings – Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 27 at 11:00 which is moved from our regular meeting date which coincided with our Annual Meeting.