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DLA Diversity Committee Proposal

1 message

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Hello!

I'd like to let you know that recently there has been a growing interest to create a vibrant, active Diversity Committee with DLA. This committee could embrace the current and future work of supporting those who are interested in how libraries can meet the needs of specific groups, such as :

- LGBTQ
- Different cultures, persons of color
- Various age groups
- Understanding the needs of those who live in poverty
- Ways to help those who are experiencing homelessness/are in crisis

...and more.

Julie Brewer and former DLA Chapter Leader Councilor Hannah Lee presented on Diversity at a DLA meeting a couple of years ago and I thank them for their initiative on this. The ball is still rolling on creating a committee and now, it seems that the pace has picked up.

Sarena Deglin (DDL, former DLA Archives Committee Chair) has offered to Chair this new committee. Her intention is to try to have four meetings a year. She is working toward having a table at an LGBTQ event in Dover, in the middle of August.

DLA President Sarah Katz is supporting the inception of this committee.

Here is a draft description for the DLA Handbook/Bylaws (Gregg, please feel encouraged to provide feedback as the prominent member of the Handbook/Bylaws Committee):

--Draft (composed by Sarena Deglin)--

Diversity Committee

Shall have at least 3 members who meet at least four times a year.

Duties:

1. To keep the Executive Board and Association informed of all matters relating to diversity that have implication for Delaware libraries.
2. To recommend policy and appropriate action in these areas.
3. To keep abreast of national developments and maintain contact with the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services. <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/diversity>
4. To represent the Association when authorized by the Executive Board, at meetings and outreach events on these subjects.
5. To set up procedures to handle the reporting of diversity related problems to the committee and the passing of this information to the Executive Board.
6. To provide for the continuing education of library personnel on all aspects of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Methods may include workshops and a regular column in the Bulletin.
7. To keep civic and educational organizations in Delaware informed of DLA's interest in diversity and urge them to give their active support.

This Handbook/Bylaws change to include a Diversity Committee within DLA will be proposed at the upcoming DLA Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, July 24.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas and/or want to get involved, please contact Sarena at Sarena.deglin@lib.de.us.

I'm excited about this new Committee! Thank you to our DLA leaders – each of you listed here – for each piece you bring to the table. Your efforts are substantial and meaningful!

Sincerely,
Cathay