**Library Volunteer Leaders - Notes**

**10-20-21 1:30 EST**

**Host: Wendy Johnson, Indianapolis Public Library**

[**wjohnson@indypl.org**](about:blank)

Hello, Friends –

It’s always great to see everyone. Thank you for your participation in our gatherings! There’s been so much in the news and my social media feed these days about self-care and wellness. “The Wednesday Group” always makes the top of my mental health list. No matter the topics, it’s reassuring to know there are friends and colleagues to offer support and great ideas.

Reminder: Wendy M is going to be out for a while starting in early November. Please send her any of your HR/volunteer questions in the next week. (w\_mcclure@yahoo.com)

Please, take care!

Wendy J

Meetings will be held every Wednesday at 1:30 EST for an hour until further notice. We’ll use the same Zoom link each week. Please share the link with fellow library volunteer leaders…**the more smart people the better**.

Zoom:  [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85199850785?pwd=WHorb3h2ckgvZjhZT1BOVWxEMzhlZz09](about:blank)

Meeting ID: 851 9985 0785

Access Code: Volunteer

**Topics Discussed**

**Seed Library Volunteers (Rita)**

Where do you find them? Who is a good fit?

* Garden Clubs
* Horticultural Schools
* County Extension
* Master Gardeners have service hour requirements
* Job Coach Teams
* Local Grange Hall
* Folks on the autism spectrum enjoy the repetitive nature of the tasks
* Before starting a Seed Library check state/local laws & regulations. There may be licensing requirements and specifications on labeling as a seed exchange. In Pennsylvania, the law had to be rewritten to permit the library to offer a seed library.
* Some catalog seed packets, others do not
* We had a university student who is studying Environmental Studies here the other week to help us prepare for our Backyard Biodiversity Day packing seeds, and she was very engaged.
* Seed library volunteer job description: https://getinvolvedclearinghouse.org/position-descriptions/seed-library-volunteer-oakland-public-library-ca
* Can community members donate seeds? Some programs say yes!
  + We asked for a donation from our local greenhouse and also asked patrons to harvest at the end of the season
  + Eventually
* Picture of a seed library: <https://liveoakpl.org/seedlibrary>

**Personal Development & Volunteer Resources goals (Chauna)**

What are your goals for the upcoming year? What should I be considering?

* Consider getting your CVA: <https://cvacert.org/>
* Increase accessibility to volunteer opportunities and related onboarding materials
* Consider starting the Points of Light Service Enterprise process: <https://www.pointsoflight.org/service-enterprise-program/>
* I was inspired by this group to develop a handbook for volunteer supervisors. For professional development, I plan to shadow staff in other departments to learn more about how they operate (and could maybe use volunteers?). I might also shadow some of our more skills-based volunteer roles (tutors, computer instructors, etc.) just to get a better sense of what the role looks like in real life.
* Participate in/or start a city-wide guiding coalition for volunteer engagement (and standardization)
* Consider obtaining your Nonprofit Professional Certification: <https://nla1.org/cnp/>
* Develop/deliver Volunteer Management 101 for staff (especially volunteer coordinators). Discuss setting boundaries, procedures, leadership tips, recognition tools, etc.
* Buildup your skills-based volunteer engagement
* Create/enhance “The Human Library”
* Connect with your local volunteer management peer group (DOVIA, AVA, etc.): <https://www.volunteeralive.org/land.php>
* Evaluate and update all documents, including volunteer position descriptions with a DEI lens
* Look at engaging court-ordered volunteers as a tool for equity – they obtain a fresh start. Chauna vets all court-ordered volunteers before passing them along to the branch volunteer point person. The point person is given the power to reject a candidate, just like any other potential volunteer. And this from Jennifer: Our court-mandated service workers are placed in Facilities and do tasks like wash windows, pick up trash, etc. Not much training is needed, but we require 20-hour minimum to make it worth the cost of a background check.
* Don't wait to be asked to the table, don't even bring your own chair... set up your own table!!! (If you set up your own table you can invite others to bring a chair. 😊) credit to Corina Sadler, City of Plano, TX delivered to us by Liza.
* Branch coordinators needing additional training/refreshers, a wonderful free resource: <https://www.nonprofitready.org/>

**Training Opportunities**

* [ServeOhio annual conference](https://www.serveohio.org/News-Events/Ohio-Conference-on-Service-Volunteerism/Conference-Session-Descriptions), virtual, Oct 27 & 28, $50
* Niche Academy Library Online Learning Conference, January 21, 2022. [FMI](https://www.nicheacademy.com/library-online-learning-2022?utm_campaign=Library%20Online%20Learning%20Conference%202022&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=146863292&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--3cVBwJ-Q-lv0G6yXlSEDODwrLH6naND1JkxoEJ9XxptErrjMOwPp1TBWV-DM72TaQ2fTIryrwwBcq85sqF9WmpyvisA&utm_content=146525130&utm_source=hs_email)
* [MAVA Dismantling Inequities Conference](https://mavanetwork.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=286912&module_id=484644), virtual and interactive, Dec 9 & 10, 2021

**On-going Educational Resources (just a few)**

* Volgistics National Peer Group – online – 2nd Tuesday of the month – free!

FMI contact Jessica Link, [linkj@crlibrary.org](about:blank).

* Better Impact User Group – online – 1st Tuesday of every other month – free!

December 7, 2021, February 1, 2022, April 5, 2022, and June 7, 2022,

2p EST/11a PST <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86131303138?pwd=RlBWN2U4SWpZZEdXNEhOem9uTUZJdz09>

Meeting ID: 861 3130 3138

Passcode: 240307

* Join the GetInvolved listserv by emailing Carla, [clehn@califa.org](about:blank). Fabulous resource with samples, current news & updates. <https://getinvolvedclearinghouse.org/>
* VolunteerMatch. Free sessions on many of the topics we discuss in this group: [https://learn.volunteermatch.org/](about:blank)

**Future Topics**

* When a big change is coming to their Library, how do you keep volunteers excited/encouraged/looking forward to the change? (Steven)
* Virtual tutoring tools – beyond Zoom (Sue)
* Online holiday gatherings – games, events, ideas to keep people engaged (Heidi)
* Demo of Clearinghouse - How to find our notes (Carla)
* Staff working with volunteers: tips – How do we get staff to engage with volunteers? (Amber)
* Boundaries with Volunteers: social media, off-property gatherings, etc.
* Volunteer Manager Ethics
* Volunteer Orientation/Training
* Difficult conversations
* Opportunities without onboarding barriers? Pop-up volunteering, Informal Volunteering
* Teen Advisories
* Circle Back for updates:
  + University of North Carolina – Charlotte (UNCC) Class Project Update – Chauna
  + Chauna –“that troublesome patron” update?
  + Our leadership role, what new things are we doing? Resources to share?