

## **Beg, Borrow, & Steal - August 23, 2017**

Present: Sam -Chair (Winslow), Danielle - Vice Chair (Lewiston), Kelly (Ellsworth), Cheryl (Ellsworth), Libby (Blue Hill), Angie (Skowhegan), Chris (MSL), Susan (Rumford), Maria (Kennebunk), Kim (Canaan), Donna (Auburn), Jennifer (Waterville), Barb (Liberty), Cassie (Wilton), Lynn (Wilton), Alison (Wells), Jade (Wells), Stephanie (MSL)

### **Stephanie Schott - Introduction**

Stephanie is the new Early Literacy Consultant for the Maine State Library. She came to Maine from the Anchorage Public Library, where she was in Youth Services.

Right now she is working closely with Raising Readers to put inserts in the back of the books they give away to help parents learn how to interact with the books they read to their children and enhance the reading experience.

She is also working with YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association, a branch of the American Library Association) on a project to help middle school kids decide their secondary education path. Future Read with the Library is a program to help kids decide if a college path or a career path is right for them. The program focuses on rural and tribal libraries. If interested libraries may apply for the 3rd cohort, which will go out on MELIBS when they open up. <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/future-ready-library>

Stephanie is also working on bringing together the state library consultants to improve teen services and help library staff around the state to build teen services skills.

She has recently been made chair of the Reading Round-Up Committee.

In addition, Stephanie (alongside Lisa Shaw, the Statewide Specialist - Rural and Small Libraries) is working on the first single state leadership program in Maine, the Maine Libraries Engage and Lead program. This is the first leadership program organized just by the state of Maine and available to only Maine librarians.

Previous workshops, like NELLIS, involved other states/organizations. The program will help library staff work on leadership style, communication, and getting librarians outside their library and embedded in the community. MSL received a grant to run this program, so this year will be considered a trial run, but there are hopes to continue every other year.

Stephanie then "tortured" us with a song. -

Shake the Mango Tree (song from Africa) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4war7sLnuQ>

*Call and response song*

Shake shake the mango tree x2

Mango yellow mango green x2

One for you and one for me x2

Shake shake the mango tree x2

### **Chris Dorman - Introduction**

Chris Dorman is the Stem Librarian for the Maine State Library. She does robots. Chris helps libraries incorporate STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) into their library services. She is available to help libraries jumpstart their programs by coming and talking/demoing or by sending materials. She wanted to emphasise that a makerspace is not about the fancy tools but about generating excitement in science and getting kids involved.

## **YSS Bylaws**

The YSS Chair opened the Business Part of our meeting with an overview of how YSS is currently structured.

The mission of the Youth Services Section is to serve youth services library staff across the state of Maine as a whole.

Right now this is our current setup:

2 year vice chair → 2 year chair → 2 year past chair/Lupine chair

(Danielle) (Sam) (Jill is chair of Lupine this year, next year Sam will join the committee)

Secretary - vacant

Treasurer - no longer needed

This is the same setup that the Maine Library Association follows. In the past YSS has been the only interest group with a separate checkbook. This year MLA asked to absorb the financials into their accounts, thus relieving YSS of the billing and treasurer details. YSS agreed so this is no longer a required position in YSS. We will need to adjust the Bylaws to reflect this.

According to our bylaws the Chair of YSS is a member of the Lupine Committee and the Past President is the chair. Currently, since everything is in flux, Jill Hooper is the current chair of the Lupine Committee (not a past president of YSS) and Sam will join the committee next year as a member. There was discussion about whether this requirement is necessary. The Lupine Committee is a sub-committee of YSS so falls under the umbrella of the YSS Committee.

In the past YSS has found it difficult to find and keep active members in board positions (Secretary, Vice-Chair) because of the time commitment required. For several cycles YSS has not had a vice chair, instead only having a president, which is a violation of our bylaws.

After explaining the challenges we are currently facing, the Chair asked for feedback/opinions on how things could be improved.

Several members liked the current setup (the transition from vice chair to chair to Lupine), but thought maybe the yearly requirements could be reduced since 6 years is a big commitment. A suggestion was made to remove the requirement for the past president to be Lupine chair or reduce it to one year. A suggestion was made that maybe the current setup (vc->c->pc) is a deterrent since maybe someone would be willing to be vice-chair, but not want to be chair, so to separate the requirements and possibly cut the past chair requirements to one year. Added onto this was a suggestion that the Lupine requirement be removed from the YSS board requirements, so the chair doesn't have to be a member and the past chair isn't locked into being president of a second committee.

It was noted at this time that a requirement to being a member of the Lupine Committee, is that one is an active member of the MLA and YSS. The chair had been told that this was not enforced in the past, and felt it should be enforced going forward. The group agreed that this needs to be addressed in the future. The Chair checked and all the members of Lupine are currently MLA members, so perhaps this is something that happened in the past but is fine now. The membership rules for Lupine do need to be adjusted through the bylaws though (currently they say that Lupine is made up of 2 members from each district, but the districts have been dissolved).

After discussion on the bylaws the Chair asked the group how we could get people involved in YSS and to stay active in YSS, specifically on how to get more people to attend the business meeting.

A suggestion was made to become more involved in the Reading Round Up conference, to perhaps have a liaison to the planning committee and a whole session at the conference versus a 15 minute meeting between sessions. Currently the vice-chair is also on the committee for RRU so will act as a liaison until the bylaws can be edited and a new liaison can be found. One suggestion for a session was to host an event like Beg, Borrow, & Steal at RRU and to split the session in two: one half being a business meeting and one half being the sharing session.

A suggestion was made to include things like food, giveaways and fun onto the business session (like we did with this session of Beg, Borrow, & Steal), but to include things like informational sessions/workshops, as well as to make sure the committee members stay visible and are able to answer questions.

The Chair asked the group if they thought YSS would lose people by combining the business meeting with a teen interest session (so including more teen services into YSS). Stephanie mentioned that there are around 15 librarians across the state serving as sole teen services (ie not combined into children's services or youth services), and wondered if we might get a larger draw if we include this.

The Chair asked the group if there was anything they would like to see YSS focus on in the future? Currently YSS has Beg, Borrow, & Steal, the two facebook groups (Maine Storytime Underground (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/211011619230914/>) , Maine Youth Librarians (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/679885468823544/>) ) and the youth email list, YOUTHSERVICES-L(sign-up here:<http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/listservs.htm#youth>) .

There was a consensus that the group enjoyed the idea sharing sessions and would be interested in more, but that travel was a concern. The Chair mentioned that the Tandberg systems are available for us to use, but these have challenges because of the limited systems around the state. Chris let the group know that MSL is looking into phasing out the Tandberg and replacing it with a system where all an individual needs is a webcam (which can be borrowed from the state). We also brainstormed ideas on how best to share these sessions. Suggestions to record sessions for later viewing, live-stream events, or hold at multiple locations were made.

The following were presented as possible suggestions for future YSS workshops:

- Autism Storytimes/programming for patrons with Autism or other outside presenters
- Puppet Trainings
- Bulletin Boards
- "Tools" for our library toolbox
- Performer's showcase
- A special summer reading planning session in late winter (before RRU)

The Chair suggested that instead of a performer's showcase we host a performer's directory on the YSS page with reviews and recommendations of performers.

After this discussion the group took a break for lunch and reconvened for the sharing session of the program.

## Sharing Session

### *Barb - Pen Pal Database Program:*

Instead of the traditional constant exchange of letters, Barb decided to do a one time exchange and this worked well for their library. She was paired with a library in Wisconsin. The two libraries exchanged books about their respective states and shared them with their libraries. Barb read the book she got at story time alongside Dear Dragon (which is on the Chickadee List this year) and showed the letters they received to the kids. In return, Barb took photos from around her town and asked the story time kids what they would like to share about their town. Using the photos Barb made a book and sent that to the library in Wisconsin. For their return letters kids filled out a Be A Pen Pal form. This program was a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. There is a database for libraries wanting to participate, but all you really need is a contact.

Ivan O. Davis - Liberty Library  
Liberty, Maine

# Be a Pen Pal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

My family members are ...

My Favorites ...

Food \_\_\_\_\_

Color \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_

Movie \_\_\_\_\_

Animal \_\_\_\_\_

Activities \_\_\_\_\_

I am really good at ...

When I grow up, I want to be

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**BUILD A BETTER WORLD**

### *Jennifer - Take Apart Days*

Waterville held a program for middle schoolers+ where they had the opportunity to take apart large electronics and see how things worked. They got donations of large electronics and gave teens the tools to take them apart. Teens disassembled the electronics, and the library staff kept all non-broken parts for the last session. At the last session these non-broken parts were used to create something. Teens didn't have to create something electronic, only something they wanted to create- something fun for them. For example, one kid made a house and another made a tank out of mice and a cell phone.

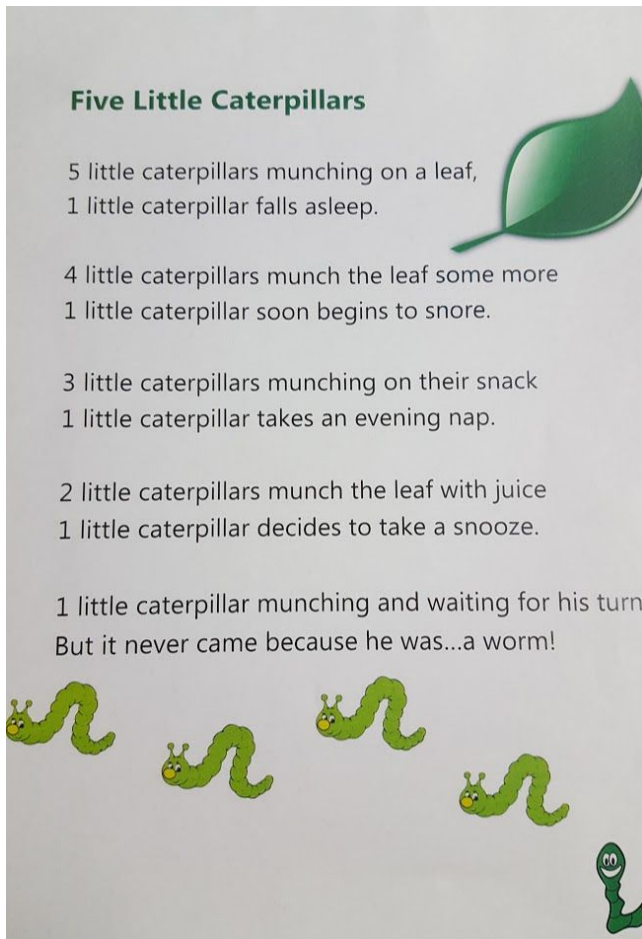
Teens learned how to take stuff apart without destroying it, as well as how to safely use the tools offered. Each of the 4 sessions lasted about an hour and a half, and if they came to all 4 sessions they got a mini screwdriver set and a voltmeter.

It is possible to hold this program with younger ages, but staff will need to monitor the items they take apart. Phones, mice, or things that are easy to take apart but without sharp ends are the best ideas.

**If you do this program TAKE OUT THE PSU (Power Supply Unit) or CAPACITOR BEFORE THE program because they hold a charge.**

### *Allison - Flannel Rhyme 5 little caterpillars*

Allison shared a flannel board story time rhyme she used over the summer. The pieces she made were of caterpillars and leaves for the rhyme 5 Little Caterpillars. She shared how she creates her pieces (using photos as a template) and the rhyme itself. She mentioned the group Flannel Fridays (<http://flannelfridaystorytime.blogspot.com/>) as an inspiration.



### *Libby - Teen Writing Group*

Libby's Teen Writing Group planned and presented Blue Hill's First Ever Pride Festival. Their writing group ranges from 16-24 kids and this year as a project they wanted to sponsor a Pride Festival. The writing group is for teens, but they don't have to be writers, it's more an outlet for creativity. Teens can draw, write recipes, etc, no matter what it is they'll find a place for their creativity.

The Pride Festival spanned a couple of days and incorporated a lot of different creative aspects. A local senior did a presentation on LGBTQ, one night was a movie festival, and they held a family fest on Saturday. One of the crafts they made was rainbow bracelets for their Pride March. Also included in the event was an open mic night and a community carnival, where older members of the Pride community could meet with younger members and answer questions. They also held a drag queen contest and hope to host a dance in future events.

### *Jade - teen programming*

One of the most popular programs this summer for Wells was the crafting program. Every Wednesday the school next door has an early release day, so they chose Wednesday for their craft days. Each session features a craft or a "random fandom" activity. One super popular program this year was Fairy Houses. For this program they purchased bird house kits (less expensive) from Amazon, and decorated them. They used



mostly found items for the fairy houses and kids were able to express their creativity. Another popular program was Kindness Rocks which kids painted at the library.

This fall the library will be using the USA as a theme so making state string art, playing a trucker board game and making magazine roll-ups.



#### *Stephanie - mug meals*

Stephanie shared that in her past library a really popular cooking program was mug cooking. Using a microwave, teens made mug meals with 2 sweet and 2 savory options for teens. Several libraries have done mug meals before with great success, and there are several books available for ILL across the state.

#### *Angie - Teen regression session*

Angie shared a program that was ONLY for high school teens, no younger kids allowed, called Teen Regression Session that was essentially like a preschool program for teens. They meet on Facebook to decide what kind of programs they want to do and the teens suggest ideas. They do things like make slime, color, hold paint nights, cupcake wars and more. Some of the more involved activities the teens did were a Golden Globe award night

and acting out movies (like karaoke and a play together). The group meets once a month and has pizza and cupcakes. Kim lets the teens self-govern and just keeps a light eye on them. They hold the program after hours on Friday nights.

#### Stephanie - Maine Public Library Fund

Stephanie shared the Maine Public Library Fund, which is grant money for Maine public libraries, ranges from \$500-\$5,000 and given away twice a month (next is in April). More information is available on the MSL website here: <http://www.maine.gov/msl/lib/admin/funding/>

#### Maria - Scratch Tickets

Maria shared a project Melissa West (not present) did for teen summer reading. They used an idea from the 5 Minute Librarian Blog for their teen summer reading rewards- scratch tickets. Teens were able to get one scratch ticket for coming into the library and checking out an item. They got the idea here:

<http://www.5minlib.com/2017/05/summer-reading-scratchies-some-new-ideas.html> and it was really popular. Lewiston also did this for their teen and adult programs and saw the same result (patrons loved it).

There was a short discussion about the Summer Food Service Project

(<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>) and how it is run. The program is funded by the federal government and provides lunch to children and teens 18 and under with no questions asked. It can be a bit time consuming, but the end result is worth it. An alternative is to partner with Backpack Food Projects, like the Book Fairy Project, to provide books and library information in every backpack and at the food pantry..

Jenn - Cirque Du Geek YAY! Super fun. Dance, crafts, cosplay, just go, it's amazing.





## Question Session

### Q - Successful Gaming Programs for Teens

Minute to win it games with prizes

Teen game night - only time the playstation and wii are available for public use 6-10 kids per week, teens take turns playing card/board games and using the video games

Gaming hour twice a week - teens with disabilities find this popular, 6-8 teens with disabilities come each time

Reach out to local game stores to partner, teach kids how to play, (Be careful about hosting tournaments though, this can be a game store's bread and butter)

Life size gaming - checkers using paper plates, jenga with soda boxes, using the jenga boxes to create a maze (good for Dash and Dot)

Life size candyland (<http://storytimewithmissmollie.blogspot.com/2013/03/life-sized-candy-land.html>), mazes made with soda boxes or other cardboard boxes

### Q - How do you handle a wide range of teens hanging out in the teen room?

*Background- there is a very young teen hanging out with an much older teen and how does one handle this*

YALSA Age range 12-18

Unfortunately, there's not much we can do about these sketchy situation other than let the kids know we're there if they need an adult to talk to we're available

Related- do you police the age range in the teen room?

Many places are pretty vigilant about keeping adults/kids out of the space

### Q - Laptops during story time, not a fan, director is, help.

Director wants kids to be using the laptops DURING story time

Maybe incorporate laptops into a separate program, but keeping the technology aspect

Ask director the vision of using laptops in the program

Look into media mentorship as opposed with handing the tech devices to kids

### Q - How do you provide stats or proof to board that not all programs have to be literacy based.

*Background- Board is very old school so frowns upon doing things that are not book clubs or traditional storytimes*

Chris Dorman can provide articles about this

We are training patrons for life, not just for books

Interest in programs/activity brings people into the library, which increases the likelihood that they'll check out materials

*Board is also resistant to graphic novels/comics*

Libraries are Holistic literacy based, reading the word and understanding the context around

What is the library's mission? Can you tie-in the mission to programs?

Look into the Maine Graphic Novels Facebook group

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MaineGNLibrarians/>)



**Business meeting**

After Beg, Borrow, & Steal the Chair and Vice-Chair had a short business meeting to go over what came out of the workshop.

We discussed the need for several new members to the YSS board, including: A RRU Liaison (vice-chair will hold this until a new member can be found since she is on the committee), Secretary, 2 Members at Large with staggered terms (this first term would have 2 members, 1 with a 1 year term that would turn into a 2 year term next round and a 2 year term). We would also like to invite the Chair of the Lupine Committee, a MASL Liaison or the MASL President, and have the STEM Consultant and the Early Literacy Consultant attend some meetings (possibly alternate?). In addition we would like to invite the CSLP Representatives and the MLA President.

Our goal for future meetings is to follow Robert's Rules of Order and have a voting quorum at meetings. Several of the above would not be voting members (MLA Board, liaisons, etc.) but would be welcome voices at meetings.

We would like to invite the CSLP Representative (Nicole Rancourt) to the pre-summer reading workshop that was suggested.

We discussed goals for the two Maine Library Facebook groups. One major goal is to try and post something relevant to libraries every day.

Future business meetings will most likely be held on Wednesday or Thursday mornings in Winslow, or virtually if bad weather persists.

Respectfully submitted

Samantha Cote, YSS Chair

Danielle Fortin, YSS Vice-Chair

August 29, 2017