Organizational Coordinator's Report

It has been quite a busy time for CSLP since our last Annual Meeting. Many of the projects shared at the 2018 meeting are beginning to take final form. I am happy to report we have a newly designed Programming Manual, a new online store, products that make full use of our CSLP specific artwork, a revised Rules of Use, and more.

While these projects cover a diverse group of activities, together they demonstrate that CSLP is an organization that is capable of handling all aspects of its operations. This greatly improves our ability to respond to librarian needs, and react to outside change.

Being a nimbler organization is great, and much of the changes for 2020 demonstrate that we can run a similar program without relying on a comprehensive, and exclusive contracts with an outside organization. However, in order to put this newly developed agility to good use, we will need to further develop our ability to listen to, and prioritize, the needs of our librarians, and member states.

Fortunately, our Statistics Committee is already at work running a first-year pilot survey to help assess the usefulness of CSLP. This is wonderful first step in formalizing our listening efforts. Our hope to have a survey tool that is so useful it is adopted by all CSLP member states. It will take work to achieve this goal, but imagine the benefits a data set like this could provide. I truly believe this tool could play an important role in furthering the research conversation around summer programming in public libraries.

Listening and communication, were two concerns brought up at our last meeting. These are two aspects of an organization that can always use improvement. While we still have work to do, I am very pleased with some of the progress I have seen. The Board has worked very hard to make sure that meeting agendas are shared out two weeks before the Board meeting takes place. They have also extended an open invitation, and we have seen several State Reps in attendance. It seems like a small thing, but attending a Board meeting, if you are able, is a great way to connect with the larger organization, and amplify your voice.

Speaking of communication, the Social Media committee has produced two wonderful Social Media Toolkits for State Reps and Frontline Librarians. These toolkits should make it easier for you to communicate with your librarians, and help them connect with their communities.

While one-way communication isn't always the most ideal, I am happy to report the growth of our monthly newsletter. At the time of this writing we have 2,704 active subscribers, up from 1,879 at this time last year.

Online use of our programming manual continues to grow. We will not know its impact at the time of our meeting, but I am very hopeful the move to a bloglike platform for sharing programming ideas will help create a space where librarians can share programming ideas/improvements, as well as help gather direct feedback for what programming ideas are working for them, and what they would like to see more (or less) of.

June marked my second full year with CSLP, and I am pleased with the progress we have made. There is still a lot of work to do, but I feel we have taken great steps toward achieving our mission to "empower libraries to foster community".

Respectfully,

Luke Kralik