

F2021 Annual Report

Since we met a year ago for our annual meeting, LibraryLinkNJ has been surfing the waves of change.

In what we now know was the earlier stage of the Covid-19 pandemic, we launched TOPCATS, to gather the best thinking on managing services to our customers and taking care of our staffs, at a time when a ill-informed move by any of us could have caused others harm, if not death. We're not used to being in that position in libraries, but as a community, we rose to the challenge.

After the retirement of our executive director in late 2019, the board retained Dr. Juliet Machie as the interim executive director, to lead the organization forward at a time of internal crisis. Little did they all realize that external issues would also affect our operations.

Shortly after the 2020 membership meeting, the board appointed Susanne Sacchetti as the new ED. She and Dr. Machie worked together through December to put LLNJ on a more solid financial footing. Part of that was to move the LLNJ offices from rented space in Piscataway to donated space in the TBBC building in Ewing in November. But in December, we had to close the office for health reasons.

In March, Ms. Sacchetti resigned, for personal reasons, and I was hired as the latest interim executive director. Since then, we have been working on re-opening the office and laying the groundwork for resuming what we considered to be normal, before the feathers hit the fan over two years ago.

I would like to report that the delivery contract has been extended through the end of 2021, and a new RFP will be issued in a few months. We have resumed our newsletter, have begun updating our website, and look forward to improved two-way communication with our members. New programs for networking and continuing education are starting up. Our finances are stable through the coming fiscal year, although with nearly a decade of flat budgets in our recent history, continued services at the current level will undoubtedly mean more cost-sharing unless state funding increases.

I will be turning over the direction of LLNJ on July 6 to Ralph Bingham, the new executive director, and I wish him the best of outcomes in the future. I would also like to thank the executive board for their support these past three months, and thank the dedicated LLNJ staff for their cooperation as they coped with the fourth person in eighteen months as their supervisor.

W. Keith McCoy
Interim Executive Director