

SPRING 2020

# REMCO NEWS



ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS  
SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES  
NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



## Welcome from the Chair

Greetings REMCO Members,

What an exciting time to be a part of REMCO. We are about to embark on a new decade as 2019 comes to a close. I want to say welcome to the incoming executive board and the general body of REMCO. I'd like to take this time to thank all the current and new members for choosing REMCO as a vehicle to exercise your voice and share your thoughts and ideas. Let us approach 2020 and the new decade with purpose and drive to continue to promote positive change and support for diverse communities throughout the library field.

We were blessed with diverse and informative programming for 2018-2019. We would like to continue to do the same for 2020-2021. Cultural Conversations are your voices speaking to what's happening in the field currently. We invite you to listen to past REMCO cultural conversations and ask for your input and ideas on future programming. Please contact your new officers if you want to share some ideas.

[Cultural Conversations](#)



*Marcellaus A.  
Joiner*

# New Executive Board Members



## ***Brittany N. Champion, Vice Chair/ Chair Elect***

Brittany Champion is currently serving as the Instruction and Outreach Librarian at Pitt Community College in Greenville, NC. Prior to her time at Pitt Community College, she served as a Reference Librarian at Wayne County Public Library in Goldsboro, NC. Her history in libraries has afforded her a plethora of opportunities to work with communities of vast backgrounds. Librarianship has always been a passion of hers as she began working as a work study student at Davis Memorial Library in 2011.

She is excited to transition into Vice Chair and ready to continue pushing REMCo forward with engaging programs, webinars, and events. Champion takes pride in finding ways to improve herself professionally, expanding her research interests, and discovering ways to better Pitt Community College patron's library experience through instruction, programming, and other outreach opportunities. She enjoys working with today's youth to build their information literacy skills, encouraging them to take on stronger leadership roles in their communities, and empowering them to see beyond their environment.

One of the main reasons she enjoys being a part of REMCo is the community that the roundtable has established. Students, faculty, and paraprofessionals have been committed to improving the library field for underrepresented populations.

## ***Joan Hill, Secretary/ Treasurer***



Joan Hill is the Reference & Instruction Librarian at Andrew Carnegie Library at Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Hill is passionate about teaching and empowering students. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She later graduated with her master's degree in Library and Information Science from University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Joan is excited about the opportunity to serve on the REMCo board. She supports the ideas of promoting positive change and committing to advocate, represent, and serve our diverse communities within librarianship.

## 2020 REMCo Executive Board

Marcellaus Joiner, Chair, [marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov](mailto:marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov)

Brittany Champion, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, [bnchampion711@my.pittcc.edu](mailto:bnchampion711@my.pittcc.edu)

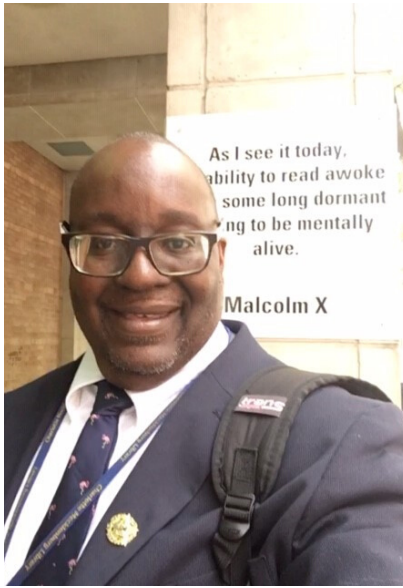
Joan Hill, Secretary & Treasurer, [ijhill@livingstone.edu](mailto:ijhill@livingstone.edu)

Jennifer Garrett, Co-Director, [jigarret@ncsu.edu](mailto:jigarret@ncsu.edu)

Lajuan Pringle, Co-Director, [lpringle@cmlibrary.org](mailto:lpringle@cmlibrary.org)

Jewel Davis, Past Chair, [davisja5@appstate.edu](mailto:davisja5@appstate.edu)

# New Executive Board Members



## *LaJuan Pringle, Co-Director*

LaJuan is a Branch Leader for Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. He has been with Charlotte Mecklenburg for 21 years and currently assigned to the West Boulevard branch. He is a co-leader of FOREWORD, the Library's organizational culture initiative. He also serves on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation Board as a staff liaison.

LaJuan is extensively involved in library association work. From 2013 through 2019, he worked on ALA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiative. In addition to serving on the REMCo board, LaJuan is also co-chair of the NCLA Legislative and Advocacy Committee. With the regional Metrolina Library Association (MLA), LaJuan currently serves as an at large board member and the 2020 Conference Chair. LaJuan is extremely excited to serve on the REMCo board as a Co-Director.

## *Jennifer Garrett, Co-Director*

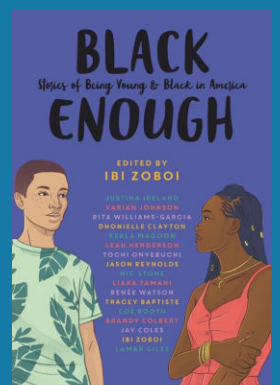
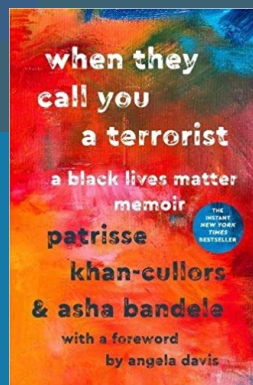
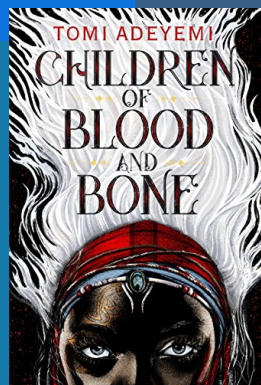
Jennifer Garrett is Director, Talent Management at the NC State University Libraries. In her role, she manages the recruitment of librarian and staff positions, including managing nomination, search, and appointment processes. She is the Libraries' Unit Equity Officer and policy and procedure expert, including Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.



As Director, Jennifer also serves in a leadership role for the Libraries' diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, including planning and implementing programs that foster a climate where diverse staff and user populations feel welcomed, valued, and respected. This also includes developing strategies to increase employment and retention of members of underrepresented groups. Finally, Jennifer serves as coordinator for the NCSU Libraries Fellows program, a nationally renowned residency for recent MLS/MIS graduates.

She believes that the spaces, services, and support REMCo provides, especially for our BIPOC librarians and staff, is core not only to libraries, but is essential to the development and overall well-being of our profession and colleagues. She is very excited to be part of the NCLA REMCo board!

## REMCo Recommended Reads



# 63rd Biennial North Carolina Library Association Conference Recap

## Roadbuilder's Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2019 Roadbuilder's Award Winners!

Liliet Council- School Library

Derick Flood- Public Library

Dr. Anthony Chow- Library Education

Shamella Cromartie- Academic Library

The Roadbuilder's Awards were established in 1989 and recognize ethnic minority librarians who have served as pioneers and positive role models in librarianship.

The awards pay homage to those librarians who exemplify courage, integrity, and perseverance and have contributed to the field of librarianship for their specific category.



Roadbuilder's Award winners with incoming chair from left to right: Dr. Anthony Chow, Liliet Council, Brittany Champion standing in for Shamella Cromartie, Marcellaus Joiner, and Derick Flood bottom left

**Thank you to our Roadbuilder's Award committee members Marcellaus Joiner, Angel Truesdale, Kate Engelbrecht, and Ericka D. Hill.**



# 63rd Biennial North Carolina Library Association Conference

## Recap continued

Vital Records for Genealogy: How to use vital records to do family research

By Marcellaus A. Joiner

This past biennial I presented a presentation on using vital records for genealogy. This presentation introduced participants to the value and availability of birth, marriage, divorce, and death records in North Carolina and nearby jurisdictions. How reliable are these records and for what periods are they available? What can one do for those periods in which they do not exist? The presentation was well attended with 24 participants in the audience. If you are interested in how to use vital records to conduct genealogy research, keep these ideals in mind when starting your research.

1. **Birth Certificates:** List the father and mother of the child in most cases.
2. **Marriage Records:** List the bride and the groom, their residence at the time of marriage, the mother and father of both parties as well as their residence, and whether the parents are alive or deceased.
3. **Divorce Records:** Not only list the date of the marriage ending but also documents the marriage date.
4. **Death Records:** List the deceased, who their parents and spouse were, the informant, and most often tells cause of death.

## REMCo Members Travel

Public Libraries Association: Social Justice and Public Libraries Symposium

By Brittany N. Champion

I had the opportunity to attend the Social Justice and Public Libraries Symposium through a grant provided by the North Carolina State Library. It was an opportunity to network with librarians (special, school, academic, and public) who shared similar commonalities in social justice programs and studies. What I now know is that all libraries, no matter the size of the system or the diversity of their staff, struggle to reach patrons of marginalized groups for various reasons.

Mia Henry, founder of Freedom Lifted and social justice educator, shared ways for us to connect with patrons who are underserved. Henry and PLA facilitators provided methods and tools for us to learn what services and resources would help to enrich their [underserved patrons] lives.

Librarians struggle to connect with these groups due to barriers of communication and trust, lack of knowledge of literacy needs, and cultural sensitivity of their communities. It's important that we actively seek ways to learn from our patrons in order to bridge the gaps that separate us.

# Reconnect: Membership Initiative

Our world is more connected than ever before from a digital point of view. The process of continuing to expand the section of Remco – coming together with members from across the state to share goals and ideas – is even more important now. Sometimes those digital barriers are limiting. Sometimes it's just better to get out and share your time with others.

One of the best things you can do as an individual who is part of a thriving and growing organization is to take an active role in your community. And yes – that means putting down your phone, leaving the confines of your beautiful universities, special libraries, archives and public libraries, and getting out there to meet and talk with fellow REMCo members.

Community events, activities and gatherings are a great way to connect with others, make new friends, and nurture long lasting relationships. REMCo will be embarking on organizing socials to do just that. We need your help the general membership to do just that. Please click the link to take a quick survey of your location in the state. We would like to use this information so that we can plan locations of socials as fairly as possible. We will be collecting the location data until February 15, 2020. [Survey](#)

## Recommit: Culture Conversations with REMCo

We are pleased to continue our online Culture Conversations with REMCo series this year. Spearheaded by our past chair, Jewel Davis, the series began in 2018 and has focused on the following conversations:

- Ask the Professionals Workshop featuring:
  - Wanda K. Brown: ALA President
  - Michael A. Crumpton: Immediate Past President of NCLA
  - Mariel Christian: Senior Manager of Library and Information Services at RTI International
  - Gerald V. Holmes: Reference Librarian and Diversity Coordinator at Jackson Library at UNCG
  - Sarah Koonts: Director of Archives and Records at the State Archives of NC
- Building Diverse Collections for K-12 Students: A Conversation with Jewel Davis
- Awareness and Action towards an inclusive Organization featuring: Nikaht J. Ghouse
- Ask the Professionals Webinar Featuring:
  - Brian Hart: Deputy Director of Libraries Greensboro, North Carolina
  - Claudia Aleman: Interim Manager Stanford L. Warren Library Durham, North Carolina
  - Stephenie Fennell: North Regional Manager Durham County Libraries

We are currently contacting speakers for our next slate of programs for 2020/2021. We hope you continue to participate in the Culture Conversations series. If you have any topic or speaker suggestions, please let your executive board know!

**If you have expertise in a subject you believe may be of interest to our members, please consider contacting us to present a webinar. We want to support you and provide a platform for you to present your knowledge.**

# REMCo Member Spotlight

Leander A. Croker is the Business Services Manager for Durham County Library in Durham North Carolina. Prior to joining Durham Public Library Leander spent the early part of her career in academic libraries at North Carolina A&T State University and Johnston Community College.

For the past three years Leander has been the driving force behind “Entrepreneurial Education and Support” programming

1. Financial and business literacy programming;
2. Professional development for key library staff through the national learning collaborative, Strengthening Libraries as Entrepreneurial Hubs Cohort; and
3. Intentional local partnerships.

This multifaceted approach is nurturing entrepreneurs, strengthening staff capacity to deliver high-quality services, and positioning the library as a relevant and active partner in the Durham entrepreneurial ecosystem.

As a direct result of this programming Durham County Library was awarded the SunTrust Lighting the Way Award to financially support expanding entrepreneurship related programming, and the NCPLDA 2019 - Literacy Award.

Leander knows access to information can change lives and librarians play a pivotal role in that exploration.

Leander, originally from Dayton, Ohio, received her undergraduate degree in History from Winston-Salem State University and M.L.I.S from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

## Why did you join REMCO

I joined REMCO because I recognize the importance and value of connecting, and collaborating with other librarians of color in order to ensure library services reflect the diversity of the populations we serve.



## **Professional Accomplishments of REMCo members:**

**Forrest Foster** - Director of Library Services at FSU (2019)

**Shamella Cromartie** - Associate Dean of Library Services at Western Carolina University (2019)

**Brittany N. Champion**- Instruction and Outreach Librarian at Pitt Community College (2020)

## **Conferences:**

**Brittany N. Champion:** PLA: Public Libraries and Social Justice Symposium (August 2019)

## **Awards:**

**Stephanie D. Fennell**

Received the Certificate of Recognition for 2018-2019 Outstanding Adult Programming Award for a Large Library. Adaptive Training. This award was presented by the North Carolina Public Library Director's Association on December 5, 2019.