

REMCo NEWS

Welcome

Greetings REMCo Community,

I hope that you're well, you're thriving, and you're enjoying your summer. As always, please continue to find ways to stay motivated while fulfilling the duties that come with your positions, especially those that involve the creation of welcoming space for the communities you serve. Be sure to register for our summer REMCo series, When Having the Hard Conversations Get Hard. These sessions will feature panel discussions by librarians with extensive backgrounds in diversity, equity, and inclusion, and are open to anyone who wishes to participate. Best of all, they're free! Visit the NCLA event calendar for more details, including registration.

REMCo is making great progress on the goals we set at the last business meeting. Going forward, you'll begin to see calls for the development of committees to select the winners for our Roadbuilder's Awards and Constance Hill Martena Diversity Award. With your help, we hope to recognize librarians and paraprofessionals whose work has impacted the services provided to their communities, and has brought about positive change in the library profession as a whole.

Elections, Elections, Elections – We need you!

I am asking that members consider running for a position on the Executive Board for the 2023-2025 term as a way to actively support our section's continuing success. Speaking on behalf of the REMCo community, we are open to those who are enthusiastic about creating a dynamic change for our membership and those who support us. For those of you looking to expand your professional horizons through networking, mentorship, community engagement, etc., Board membership is an excellent place to start. I encourage you to reach out to the current Executive Board if you have questions about duty expectations or to pick their brains about their practical experiences. To learn more about what REMCo has accomplished in the last few months, visit our website. You can find our bylaws, meeting minutes, archived webinars, past projects, and much more.

Positions available:

- Vice Chair/ Chair-Elect
- Co-Director
- Co-Director
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Web and Social Media Director

65th Biennial NCLA Conference, October 16-20, 2023

The months go by quickly, and conference time is drawing closer. We look forward to providing a phenomenal addition to your conference-going experience. If you wish to help collaborate in one of our pre-conference sessions, please contact me (brittany.champion@furman.edu) or Leander Croker (leanderc3@gmail.com). We are in the planning phase and would like your ideas.

As I've said before and will continue to remind you, let's keep on supporting one another in the spirit of collegiate excellence and growth. Your advice, encouragement, and collaboration can help to keep extraordinary minds in the profession. Find your purpose and explore avenues that will empower you.

Many of you know that I've taken on a new role as Outreach Librarian at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Despite this change of venue, I plan to continue serving as Chair.

Brittany N. Champion

Greetings

REMCo Community,

I hope you are all being safe and enjoying the warm weather. While we are in the full swing of summer reading, summer sessions, and in some cases summer break I hope you take a moment to take part in the REMCo' Summer Series "When Having the Hard Conversations Get Hard", a three part series focusing on DEI and librarianship. The REMCo Executive Board has been thrilled with the response we have received regarding our webinars, Cultural Conversations, and interactions on social media, if you have been looking for a way to contribute please consider serving on the REMCo Roadbuilders Awards Committee. If you are interested please contact me leanderc3@gmail.com by December 2022 with the subject line "REMCo Roadbuilders". While December and the 65th Biennial NCLA Conference may feel far away, remember "Winter is Coming". If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm Regards
Leander A. Croker



ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS

SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



*Brittany N.
Champion*

Chair



*Leander A.
Croker*

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect



Jazmyne Baylor is the new Research & Instruction Librarian (Education Liaison) at the Hunter Library on Western Carolina University's campus. In this role, she will be working closely with the School of Teaching & Learning, Department of Human Services, Educational Leadership and Parks & Recreation Management. Before this position, Jazmyne was the Adult Services & Technology Librarian for the Davie County Public Library System. She is excited about her transition from public to academia.

Jazmyne graduated from Western Carolina University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in communication and a Minor in psychology. She received her MLS from North Carolina Central University in 2020. Throughout her journey, she has had the opportunity to present at various conferences on self-advocacy, wellness, and diversity. She is also the recipient of scholarships from NCLA, ARSL, and ALA. She is passionate about social justice, wellness, education, and JEDI initiatives. With over six years of library experience, Jazmyne is excited about continuing to grow within the profession and returning to her Alma Mater as Faculty.



LaShaunda Rogers

LaShaunda Rogers currently serves as the Teen Services Manager with Durham County Library at our newly transformed Main Library location. LaShaunda has more than 15 years of library experience and has been committed to making a difference regardless of her title.

Her journey with Durham County Library began in 2006 as a Library Page and in less than a year led to a promotion of Office Assistant at East Regional Library. In 2015 LaShaunda accepted another Office Assistant position at Bragtown Library. It was in this role and location that LaShaunda really began to shine. This quaint neighborhood library of approximately 1,000 square feet is truly a welcoming living room for the Bragtown Community. While her role was that of a paraprofessional, the community quickly viewed LaShaunda as a valuable resource committed to impactful service. In return, LaShaunda gained greater confidence in her abilities and recognized the value she added to the library system and the customers we serve. This confidence led to her securing her first full-time position as a Senior Library Assistant, as well as serving as a Page Supervisor at Main Library.

Soon LaShaunda decided that the library profession was the career she wanted to pursue, and she began Library Science School at North Carolina Central University. She successfully completed the program and focused on reaching her dream job of Teen Services Librarian. She has been successful every step of the way and shortly after graduation secured the title of Teen Librarian at Main Library. She has proven to be a top-notch Teen Librarian and the youth enjoy interacting with her. She has built an extraordinary teen services team and fosters growth and innovation with each team member. Her journey from paraprofessional to professional demonstrates the results of a can-do-attitude. When asked what she likes most about Teen Services she had this to say, "I love the conversations that I have with teens and relating to them on different types of genres to read and the activities they like to engage in. The one thing I appreciate with teens is their honesty. If they feel that certain programs would or would not work with them or their peers, they aren't afraid to let us know." Lashaunda goes on to share, "I am a big fan of real-world situations that are displayed in many young adult books. My favorite reads so far (I have a long list in my "to be read" pile) are Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell and Grown by Tiffany Jackson."

Lashaunda's journey from paraprofessional to professional demonstrates the results of a can-do-attitude. LaShaunda continues to grow at Durham County Library and was recently selected to participate in the County Leadership Academy. LaShaunda is paving the way for others and continuously demonstrates the mission of Durham County Library as she encourages discovery, connects the community, and leads in literacy.

Juanita Thacker



Juanita Thacker (she/her) works as the Information Literacy Librarian for the University Libraries at UNC Greensboro where she also earned a Masters of Information and Library Studies. Thacker also holds an undergraduate degree in Business Education & Information Technologies from East Carolina University. She has served on various committees over the years devoted to advocating for all library users including students and paraprofessional staff. This past year Thacker has presented at the Critical Pedagogy Symposium as well as the POCinLIS, NCLA, and LAUNCCH conferences. She has served as a copy editor for the Journal of Learning Spaces and will be focusing on publishing her own content this upcoming year.

Thacker fosters her passion for equity diversity and inclusion issues via her role as founding member and marketing head of WOC+Lib--a digital publishing platform that seeks to highlight the scholarship and experiences of people of color. WOC+Lib is a volunteer-run platform with team members across time zones that publish thought-provoking features related to current LIS issues by people of color. Successfully marketing the website and those features takes much coordination and creativity. In her role, she coordinates meetings, delegates tasks, and led efforts to promote WOC+Lib's 2021 "It Takes Two" campaign fundraiser. The platform surpassed its \$5000 goal thanks in part to her vision and hard work. She continues to devise ideas for innovative content that will expand the reach of BIPOC issues and research in LIS that engage WOC+Lib's diverse audiences.

Her Information Literacy Librarian position requires much time lesson planning information literacy sessions for first-year students as a part of the College Writing Program. This particular group of students has unique needs and Ms. Thacker truly enjoys providing research instruction to them. Many of whom, like herself, are first generation college students. Thacker is currently working on creating a formal outreach plan for the College Writing Program to act as a "living document" that she hopes will serve as a resource for other librarians and potentially expand to include a formal outreach plan for the entire library.

Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award

Greetings to REMCo and the North Carolina Library Association. Here are the latest highlights and updates for the Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award.

CHM Diversity Award Highlights

- January 25, 2022: Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award Telethon via Instagram Live.
- March 10, 2022: Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award subcommittee meeting.
- April 20, 2022: Reminder posted through Wild Apricot to the entire membership of NCLA for the Constance Hill Marteena Diversity Award Fundraising Campaign. Should be sent out monthly.
- December 2021 – Present: Current total toward our \$1000 biannual goal: \$922.83 (92%).

Ms. Marteena was director of public information at North Carolina A&T State University (1929-1937), secretary to the president and director of public information of Bennett College (1937-1939), and director of Holgate Library at Bennett College (1937- 1967). Constance Hill Marteena played a vital role in the development of the North Carolina Negro Library Association. She heavily recruited African Americans to enter the field. She also served on the Accreditation Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She became president of the North Carolina Negro Library Association from 1952 until 1954. Under Hill's administration, the merger of the North Carolina Negro Library Association and the North Carolina Library Association was completed ending the segregation of professional library organizations in North Carolina.

Each biennial or when deemed appropriate, the North Carolina Library Association will present the Constance Hill Marteena Library Diversity Award to a librarian or group of librarians who have advocated for diversity through their work in their community. Thus strongly enhancing their library's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

If you would like to learn more about Constance Hill Marteena, criteria for the award, and how to donate please contact Marcellaus Joiner (marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov) or visit our sites. Donations Constance Hill Marteena Google Site

Marcellaus Joiner

Past Chair &

Chair of Constance Hill Marteena Committee

- Marcellaus Joiner: High Point Public Library
- Adreonna Bennett: UNC Charlotte
- Stephanie Fennell: Durham County Libraries
- Judy Allen Dodson: State Archives of North Carolina
- Forrest Foster: North Carolina A&T State University
- Velappan Velappan: Fayetteville State University



Kelvin Watson
Las Vegas Clark County Library District



Dr. LaKeisha Darden
Palm Beach Atlantic University



Rodrigo Castro
Wake Forest University

When Having The Hard Conversations Get Hard Series

Why Are We Still Having Hard Conversations?

This panel discussion will focus on why we're still having conversations that focus on DEI practices in librarianship and how we can move beyond discussions to implement action.

20
JUL
WED
11:00 AM

Dr. Nicole Cooke
University of South Carolina



Mychal Threats
Solano County Public Library



Kelvin Watson
Las Vegas Clark County Library District



Touger Vang
Montgomery Community College



Shannon Jones
Medical University of South Carolina Libraries

When Having The Hard Conversations Get Hard Series

Leading Beyond Words

This panel discussion will focus on supporting library professionals of color not acting as educators but rather encouraging accountability of the majority.

17
AUG
WED
11:00 AM

Stephanie Fennell
Durham County Libraries



Antoine McDonald
Central Public Library of Rochester & Monroe County



Shannon Jones
Medical University of South Carolina Libraries



Dr. Kawanna Bright
East Carolina University



Touger Vang
Montgomery Community College

When Having The Hard Conversations Get Hard Series

Librarianship and DEI

This panel discussion will focus on the library professionals and paraprofessionals of color and their works in DEI. In addition to their roles, how can they maintain morale in this line of work?

21
SEPT
WED
11:00 AM

Kelvin Watson
Las Vegas Clark County Library District



Rodrigo Castro
Wake Forest University



Summer Series



ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS
SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES
NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Black Male Librarian Joy

16
NOV
11:00 AM

Featuring
Dr. Lopez D. Matthews, Jr.
John "Mister John" Lewis, Jr.
Christopher "The People's Librarian" Fleming
Mr. Richard E. Ashby, Jr.

Registration Required • Open to All • Free to Attend



Black male librarians and library paraprofessionals make up a small percentage of library personnel across the country. However, their unique approaches make librarianship marketable and career choice a great opportunity to uplift and build communities. Join us for our virtual panel conversation as we begin to discuss how we can improve these numbers through recruitment and marketing and retain those who currently remain in the field.

Brittany Champion, Chair, brittany.champion@furman.edu
Leander Croker, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, leanderc3@gmail.com
Joan Hill, Secretary & Treasurer, jhill@livingstone.edu
Tammy Baggett-Best, Co-Director, tbaggett@dconc.gov
Carlos Grooms, Co-Director, cgrooms@ncat.edu
Donte' Perry, Social Media & Website Director, donte.perry@jwu.edu
Marcellaus Joiner, Past Chair, marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov

REMCo Executive Board