

# NJSL DIRECT

Weekly News Updates for New Jersey Libraries

May 11, 2026

## State Library Updates

### New Edition of New Jersey Library Trustee Guide

A new edition of the [New Jersey Library Trustee Guide](#) is now available on the Library Trustees page of the New Jersey State Library website. The New Jersey Library Trustee Guide offers information to assist New Jersey's public library trustees in their responsibilities.

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### Volunteers Needed!

The American Institutes for Research (AIR), IMLS's data collection contractor for the national Public Libraries Survey (PLS), is looking for library directors or their designees who typically complete the state annual report to participate in 60-minute virtual interviews to help test potential new and revised PLS questions. They are especially looking for libraries with bookmobiles and/or outreach vehicles. They plan to conduct one round of interviews in May. If you are interested in this opportunity to help shape prospective PLS questions, please contact the PLS team at AIR by email, [PLS@air.org](mailto:PLS@air.org).

If you'd like more information about what this entails, please reach out to Jen Nelson at [jnelson@njstatelib.org](mailto:jnelson@njstatelib.org).

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### Request for Quotations for LSTA Five-Year Evaluation

The New Jersey State Library is inviting qualified contractors to respond to our Request for Quotations (RFQ) to produce the mandatory LSTA Five-Year Evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). [View the RFQ on our webpage here.](#)

**Deadline for Questions:** June 16, 2026

**Submission Deadline:** June 30, 2026, 5:00 pm EST  
**Anticipated Contract Period:** August 1, 2026 – March 30, 2027

All questions concerning this RFQ must be submitted in writing to [mwalsh@njstatelib.org](mailto:mwalsh@njstatelib.org) by the stated deadline. Responses to questions will be compiled and distributed to all invited vendors to ensure a fair and transparent process.

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## Money Smart for Life Award

Is your library hosting a financial literacy program? There's still time to apply for the Money Smart for Life Award! Programs must be held between July 1, 2025, and May 15, 2026. [Submit an application](#) to nominate your library's financial literacy program. The deadline for this application is **June 5, 2026**.

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## News From Around The State

### Underrepresented Counties Response Needed in Counting on School Librarians Survey

LibraryLinkNJ in partnership with the New Jersey Library Association, the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, and the New Jersey Land Title Association are seeking continued assistance with crowd-sourcing accurate information about school library staffing across New Jersey. Results are coming in from their Counting on School Librarians survey, and some counties are currently underrepresented. To ensure the data accurately reflects school libraries across all of New Jersey, they're hoping to hear from folks in the following counties: **Salem, Passaic, and Cumberland**. If you're from one of these areas, or if you know library staff, parents, or community members who are, please consider sharing the survey with them. [Click here to fill out the survey](#).

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### Getting Ready for the World Cup: Keeping NJ Kids Safe

Advocates for Children of New Jersey will be holding a dine & discuss series for parents, providers, and community partners to prepare for the World Cup in New Jersey. **Each Wednesday in May from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**, join speakers as they present on the following topics:

- May 6, 2026 - Spotting the Signs: Protecting Children from Human Trafficking and Exploitation
- May 13, 2026 - Healthy for the Moment: Vaccinations, Public Health, and Keeping Families Well
- May 20, 2026 - Crowds, Chaos & Preparedness: Keeping Children Safe in Busy Public Spaces

- May 27, 2026 - Online Safety in a High-Visibility Moment: Protecting Kids and Teens During Major Events

[Click here for flyer with more information.](#)

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## Join LibraryLinkNJ for National Alliance on Mental Illness New Jersey (NAMI NJ) Overview

Representatives of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Jersey (NAMI NJ) will provide an informative presentation on **May 20th, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** This virtual overview will cover all of the supportive and free programming NAMI NJ has to offer local communities. Attendees will also learn about how they can leverage NAMI NJ as a resource for information and partnerships. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

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## National Opportunities

### Free Screenings of Flag Day Film for New Jersey Public Libraries

*Flag Day* is a new documentary about the largest Flag Day parade in the United States and the community that has kept that tradition alive for more than seventy years. [Watch the trailer here.](#) The film is available for FREE community screenings at public libraries. Host a screening of *Flag Day* to commemorate the holiday, America's 250th, or just to gather your community. Libraries that host a screening will receive a discussion guide, promotional materials, and a free Flag Day poster. [Click here to register.](#)

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### Participate in Research on How Public Libraries Address Loneliness in their Communities

A University of Texas at Austin research team is conducting a study on how public libraries address loneliness in their communities. If interested in participating, please [take this survey](#). In addition, they are recruiting participants for follow-up interviews. Individuals who are interested in sharing more in-depth experiences are invited to [complete this brief form](#). Participation is voluntary, and all responses will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, contact [Qianzi Cao](#), PhD Student, The University of Texas at Austin.

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## NJSL Presents Events

Our NJSL Presents Webinars are free and open to anyone interested in attending. Registration is required in advance and [all webinars are recorded and posted to our YouTube page](#) afterward. You can also [check out event recaps on our blog](#)! Here's what we have coming up in May, feel free to share within your communities.

- [The Real “Stolen Election”: Frank Hague and New Jersey’s 1937 Race for Governor](#) - May 12th @ noon
  - [Communicating Effectively With Dementia](#) - May 14th @ noon
  - [Financial Planning for Mid-Career Professionals](#) - May 19th @ noon
  - [Financial Side of College Graduation](#) - May 27th @ noon
  - [Cancer Information Session](#) - May 29th @ noon
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## Professional Development Opportunities

Visit the State Library's [CE Training webpage](#) for a variety of Continuing Education training opportunities for New Jersey librarians, library support staff, and trustees.

[On-Demand Training Portal](#) in the LibraryLinkNJ LearningSpace and [a list of training programs](#) currently being offered.

[Professional Development Links](#) and [Webinars and Other Training Events](#) from the NJLA Professional Development Committee.

Check out the upcoming LYRASIS CE opportunities on their [calendar here](#).

[Click here for a monthly national list](#) of CE and Professional Development opportunities.

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## Library Marketing Resources

If your library is looking for marketing tips, best practices and inspiration, [check out our Marketing Blog](#) updated monthly. Here's our most recent blog posts:

- [How to Use Canva Templates for Library Social Posts](#)
- [How to Turn One Library Program into Multiple Marketing Opportunities](#)
- [Library Content Brainstorm for 2026](#)
- [Marketing Trends for 2026](#)
- [A Guide to YouTube Shorts for Libraries](#)

Download sharable social media graphics and videos from the [Statewide Digital Marketing Campaign](#).

Also, you can [download marketing resources from State Library Vendors & Partners](#).

*Connecting people with information through libraries.*

New Jersey State Library | [Website](#)



*NJ250: Living Documents, Evolving Rights - New Jersey Through Three Constitutions*  
<https://www.njstatelib.org/nj250>

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