Dear Colleagues,

One of my heroes is Robert Kennedy. He stood for ideals that are still true today. He once said, “There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?” It seems more time is spent on churning up excuses for not doing something rather than reasons for doing it. Yes, there will be unmovable obstacles. Yes, there will be moments of flailing at windmills. Yes, you will be the only one to see it. And yes, there will be times that others will see it too. That is why my theme for 2015-2016 is “Why not?”

Why not collaborate with your opposite? Why not take a field trip instead of a meeting? Why not imagine? Who’s going to stop you? Why not try one more time? Thomas Edison tested over 3000 filaments before he came up with his version of a practical light bulb.

As librarians, we’re part of the backbone for enlightenment and growth. We serve not just to improve the quality of life but also fill those essential needs. Kennedy also said, “All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don’t. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity”. I agree.

Gene Coppola
President, Florida Library Association