

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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“WHODUNNIT? WE DID!” **Library Assistants: Magnifying Our Accomplishments** Kathy Martel

On June 6, 2007, about 160 New York State Library Assistants traveled to Norwich in central New York to attend the annual New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) Conference. For me, it was a delightful surprise to find this well-preserved little town nestled in rolling hills amidst beautiful country side.

This annual three day conference is an opportunity for support staff around the state to come together to learn new skills, update existing knowledge, network and have a little fun and visit another part of the state. It also gives staff planning the conference a chance to use their abilities to plan workshops, contact and engage speakers, work with area businesses and to address concerns of their peers. And this was all accomplished resulting in a well-honed conference.

I signed up for *MS Excel Pt.1* and *Pt.2* on Thursday. These workshops proved to be very informative and beneficial enhancing my prior knowledge of the program. Learning a program in stages, building on my use of it, gives me a better understanding and I am more confident using it.

On Friday, my workshops were *About Your Digital Camera* and *Photoshop CS2*. I felt taking these workshops would give me more appreciation of the capabilities of the modern equipment that is being used today. In my position in the Communications Office, I work with graphic artists that use various techniques with computer and cameras in designing the pamphlets, flyers and poster that are created for the library. The Photoshop workshop was an incredible program that gave insight far beyond my imagination on how pictures can be mended, cleaned and altered.

One of the most significant parts of the conference is the award ceremony. It is a time to measure members' strides and accomplishments through their years of membership, certificate of achievement and Craig Koste awards. This year I had the privilege of nominating Jane McManus who was chosen along with Rita Gregory to be recipient of the Craig Koste award. I cannot express the value of what each one of us does every day in our work that gives us credibility, confidence, self-reliance and pride in what we do and who we are. So often we are not aware of the positive impact we have on our peers, patrons and our communities as we go about our regular routine work.

As we drove up the rolling hills into the sunset leaving another successful NYSLAA conference, I was filled with new knowledge, thoughts of wonderful friendship and pride in an organization that keeps on giving.

INSIDE: Regional Reports from the Conference...CAP Report and Certificate Recipients...Virginia Report... Craig Koste and Ray Murray Recipients...Eileen O'Hara...Denise Billups... Membership Update

2007 Conference Reports

Capital Area Library Assistants

Presented by Carol Reppard, Chairperson

The present enrollment is 135 members.

June, 2006, Michele Matthews and Carol Reppard switched positions, Carol is now the Chair and Michele is Secretary.

Our Annual Fall Workshop in November, 2006, was titled "Using Microsoft Publisher." It was presented by Polly Alida-Farrington of P. A. Farrington Associates and held at RPI in Troy, NY. There were 17 in attendance.

In April, 2007, we held our first Lunch & Learn Workshop. The topic was "Beginning Your Genealogy Research at the National Archives", by Jean Nudd, archivist with the National Archives & Records Administration, Northeast Region, Pittsfield MA. This workshop was attended by 24 and was held during National Library Week.

Central New York Library Resources Council

Submitted by John Butcher

The Central New York Region has been very inactive since the last conference due to illness and retirement of its core group.

New York Metropolitan Library Council

Presented by Louise Smith-Jones

On April 19, 2007 the Metropolitan New Your Library Council (METRO) sponsored its Tenth Annual Library Assistants' Day Celebration at St. John's University Manhattan Campus. About 150 people were treated to a Continental Breakfast by METRO, the NYPL Union, and Mid-Manhattan's New York Public Library. We had excellent feedback on the five workshops: "Podcast as Library Resources", "RFID-Coming to a Library Near You", "Stress Management", "Dealing with Difficult People Before They Deal with You", and "Career Development-Never Too Late".

North Country Reference & Research Resources Council Library Assistants

Presented by Janet Moore

The Library Assistants hosted a conference in April, 2007, titled "Team Building". It was presented by Dan Davis at Paul Smith's College.

Rochester Regional Library Council Library Assistants

Presented by Heidi Jensen, Chairperson

The Rochester Regional Library Council Library Assistants meet four times a year. This year we scheduled two ½ day workshops: "An Overview of Access" and "Book Repair" along with several Monday Night and Pizza events.

Volunteer/Community Service projects were two collections for Grace Urban Ministries and three meals served to guests at the Ronald McDonald House.

South Central Regional Library Council's Library Assistants Special Interest Group

Presented by Judith Andrew

Since the 2006 Conference two ½ day workshops have been sponsored: “Information Commons: Coming Soon to a Library Near You” at Binghamton University and “Breaking Down Barriers: Making Your Services Accessible to Persons With Disabilities” at SUNY Cortland. Attendees are invited to bring their lunch and meet to network afterward.

Western New York Library Assistants (WYNLA)

Presented by Marie Peterson

WYNLA presents workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). This year we held an excellent workshop, “Emotional Intelligence Works”. It was presented by Ed Brodka of the Career Services Center at the University at Buffalo. We also held two “Getting to Know You” (GTKY) events for library support staff in the Western New York region. The first was at the Amherst Museum and the second was at the Health Sciences Library at the University at Buffalo.

This year the structure of the WYNLA Planning Committee has undergone significant change. We felt it was necessary to diversify the planning committee and broaden the input and options available in planning support staff continuing education activities. We believe this will enhance our profile in the regional libraries community, increase event attendance and lead to a stronger Western New York library assistants’ organization for the future.

Certificate of Achievement

Presented by Michele Matthews, Coordinator

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board consists of Michele Matthews, Coordinator with Board Members, Jane McManus and Scott Goodman. There have been 93 certificates earned and several people have received certificates in more than one area. The areas are: Administrative/Management, Automation, General Library Service, Public Service and Technical Service.

This year there are two members receiving their Certificate of Achievement:

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System | Administration/Management-Level 4 |
| Brian Doliver, Guernsey Memorial Library | General Library Service-Level 4 |

Congratulations Heidi and Brian! For information on earning a certificate, please contact a Review Board Member or check the NYSLAA web page.



Michele Matthews(r) presenting to Heidi Jensen.



Brian Doliver hard at work.

VLA Paraprofessional Forum

Exploring New Worlds of Library Service: from the past to the future

Submitted by Evanna DiSalvo

I'm very thankful for being offered the opportunity to attend the conference in Richmond VA. It's true what they say about southern hospitality and the entire endeavor was carried off with such style!

Can't Stop the Signal; Content Tracking on the Web. Ellen Krupar, Virginia Tech

Provided just what I was looking for – a plain language explanation of what "content tracking" is all about. I learned about RSS, tagging and sprigging (malicious tagging), pod casts and vod casts; what they are, how they're useful, and when they're not useful. (For a chuckle, check out "March of the Librarians" on youtube.com!)

Eating for Life; Healthy Food Choices for Disease Prevention. Rita Smith, Martha Jefferson Hospital

We've all heard most of it before, but it never hurts to hear it again. In a nutshell, excess weight caused by excess calorie intake not balanced by increased activity equals increased disease risk! No surprises there. However, the information was presented in a clear concise manner with enthusiasm and humor and included practical easy to follow guidelines for making healthier choices.

Grant Proposals. Jean L. Cooper, University of Virginia

Very good introduction to the parts of a grant proposal and tips for approaching grant writing successfully. Remember that writing a grant is not something that can be done at the last minute. Grants are not given just because you need money and have good intentions. They will be given if the problem you seek to address is significant, your credentials are solid and you have thought through a solid plan. (Email Jlc5f@virginia.edu for links to training materials online.)

Sex, Lies and Electronic Delivery: E-reserves, Courseware & Copyright. Rosemary A. Chase, George Mason University

Copyright is one of those topics we all know we must face, but do so with trepidation. This presentation made sense of what can be a very confounding topic laying out the basis of the law and pending laws, interpretation of fair use, and the practical application of guidelines. Questions from participants at the end of the presentation helped clarify some issues libraries frequently encounter like "to digitize or not to digitize". (Only digitize things that are not already, i.e. don't print a digital document and then scan it.)

Marketing at Your Library. Jaime Stoops, Pamunkey Regional Library

This presentation provided a good look at the experiences of a public library in adapting "coffee shop" marketing strategies to the library setting. A good rule of thumb" successful strategies are customer driven, staff initiated, visually interesting, and ever changing. So let's get busy and be creative, engage patrons, get staff involved and promote the library! (See the presentation at www.pamunkeylibrary.org/marketing.htm)



Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards

Joy Piper and Ruth Oberg from the 2007 NYSLAA Annual Conference Brochure

Craig Koste Award Winners for 2007

In 1992, the Executive Council created the NYSLAA Award for Outstanding Service for New York State library assistants who are members of NYSLAA. Its name was changed to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who, in 1995, bequeathed an endowment to NYSLAA. The award recognizes those library assistants who have distinguished themselves by their service to our organization and to the library assistants of New York on either a state or local level. A stipend of \$100 is given to the recipient's library for collection development.

We have two recipients this year for the Craig Koste Award:

Congratulations to both Rita Gregory and Jane McManus! Rita and Jane have been exemplary representatives of the best in service to library assistants across New York State.

Rita Gregory

Morris Raphael Cohen Library, City College

Rita Gregory was nominated by METRO'S Library Assistants, Support Staff & Associates —Special Interest Group (LASSA), of which she was a founder and is an active member. Rita was very instrumental in the planning of both the 23rd and 28th NYSLAA Annual Conferences held in New York City. Rita has also been very involved in the celebration of Library Assistants Day for METRO support staff. Rita currently works in the Serials Division of the Morris Raphael Cohen Library and has been an employee of City College for more than 35 years. While working, Rita has continued her educational goals recently completing her MLA. In addition she is a Shop Steward of Local 384 of City College. Rita has accomplished many things in her career both personally and for the empowerment of library assistants.



Jane McManus

Rochester Public Library, Winton Branch Library

Jane McManus was nominated by Kathy Martel of Rochester Public Library with supporting letters from Denise Enders and Maria Lucarelli. Jane works part-time at Winton Branch Library in the Children's Room where is well known for her Storytime programs. Denise Enders wrote... "She is energetic, original, enthusiastic, and relates to the children naturally and warmly. She teaches them to love books." Jane's branch manager, Maria Lucarelli, says "Jane has been instrumental in providing educational opportunities for her fellow clerks and library assistants. Jane is unselfish in sharing ideas and equipment that she has developed throughout her career." All of the supporting letters received for Jane's nomination mentioned her determination and drive to unionize part-time employees and work toward parity with full-time employees. In 1995 Unit 7420 Rochester Public Library Part-time Employees-CSEA came into existence. Jane has served as President since the Unit's inception.



The NYSLAA Executive Council is proud to present the Craig Koste award to both Rita and Jane in recognition of their dedication to Library Assistants in both their libraries and unions. Through their hard work they have improved the lives of support staff across the state. Thank you!

Ray Murray Award Winner 2007

In 1989, the Ray Murray Award was created to honor Ray Murray, a librarian who opened the door for creation of the annual library assistants' conference, thereby laying the groundwork for NYSLAA. This Award is given to library directors, trustees, board members or others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants.

This year's recipient is:

Elaine B. Dawson Newark Public Library

The 2007 Ray Murray Award is being presented to Elaine B. Dawson, Director of Newark Public Library. Ms. Dawson has been the director for 22 years and has continually encouraged library assistants to participate in workshops and conferences. Her commitment to the staff's professional growth has been unwavering.



Ms. Dawson was nominated by Peg Pellitier who has worked with her for 14 years. Supporting letters came from Carol Rosenthal and Julie Howard. In her letter Peg wrote. . . “staff at the Newark Public Library are always encouraged to attend available training sessions and workshops, and there is never a hardship from lost hours or mileage as these are consistently supported financially.”

Carol Rosenthal wrote.... “She was very supportive of my joining the committee to plan the NYSLAA conference we had in Geneva two years ago. Elly is always willing to listen to the input of anyone who works here about how to make the library a better place for our patrons. We all come away with a feeling that we make an important contribution to making our library work smoothly, and our community has a better library because of it.”

Julie Howard echoes that sentiment; “Elly realizes training is important as she strives for excellence within our library. I feel the staff here at the Newark Public Library is fortunate to have a director who acknowledges the importance of a well trained staff.”

NYSLAA would like to say “Thank You” to Ms. Dawson for appreciating the importance of professional growth for library assistants. Her efforts have afforded her staff to keep abreast of new technologies and trends in libraries. The respect Ms. Dawson's show's her employees is admirable. Ms. Dawson is a library director that truly embodies the spirit of the Ray Murray Award.

To all three winners - **Congratulations!**



Eileen O'Hara **Champion of Library Assistants – Goes into Transition**

Kathy Martel and Judith Andrew

Many may not know the background of Eileen O'Hara in connections with Rochester Regional Library Council Library Assistants' Group and New York State Library Assistants Association.

Before I was affiliated with the library in 1990, Eileen had been an intricate part in advocating and developing a runway for library support staff. It was through her insight and passion that the RRLC group was started. At one time each library in the area, medical, academic, public, and special, sent a representative to the group, to network, plan programs, set standards and to boost the jobs that are preformed each day. She was a positive force with a quiet, calm way that mesmerized and guided staff to a more informed level. Her drive to learn and educate was unwavering. As a result of her involvement, I believe the Rochester Regional Library Council offers the most useful, up to date workshops and programs in the state. I know this because it is a topic of conversations with other library staff at the NYSLAA conferences I have attended.

Speaking of NYSLAA, Eileen was involved from the conception of this organization when it truly was NOT YET an organization. She felt strongly that library support staff needed to come together to discuss work problems, improve skills and have a sense of importance in the library work place. She worked with a group of dedicated people from various parts of the state who also shared her ideas and they developed an annual one day seminar that has grown and developed into a state organization which is respected throughout the country. Her service to NYSLAA included being a member of the Acting Council before the first officer elections, chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee, Recording Secretary, and an unwavering supporter and creative planner for the association. Due to her dedication, in 1992, Eileen was the first recipient of the now named Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service that is presented annually at the NYSLAA Conference.

Eileen climbed the ladder as support staff as far as possible without her MLS. She felt she had more to give to the library world that she would not be able to achieve as a library assistant. Eileen made the decision to go back to school for her Master of Library Science degree to be better equipped to continue to meet her goals in spite of family needs and full time work pressures. This year she was the recipient of the 2007 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. This is what was written on the RRLC Webpage "*Eileen, Head of Library Technology at SUNY Brockport, has made over twenty-two presentations at regional and statewide conferences and workshops, written or co-authored numerous professional publications, and most recently managed a major library management system conversion. She has been active in RRLC, SUNYLA and other library professional organizations for many years. The award is especially significant since it is the first Chancellor's Award for Librarianship to be awarded at Brockport in over a decade. The award will be officially presented in May 2007.*"

Now Eileen has made the decision to "transition" down the path to retirement. I believe we will see or hear from her in the future but for a while she will be satisfying her own desires instead of the daily routine in the library.

Thank you and good luck in the transition, Eileen!

Denise Billups (AKA: The Big Winner)

Coleen Hopkins

Denise Billups, Bronx Community College Library, really “cleaned up” at the NYSLAA 2007 Annual Conference. She took home three raffle prizes, a “Sherlock Holmes” basket, the Lottery Tree tickets and the desk chair—all of which she carried home on a bus! She sent two messages to NYSLAA-L stating that she had a wonderful time, everyone in Norwich was so friendly (a message that was heard often), and that she won \$92.00 on the Lottery Tree. Denise told Scott Goodman, Conference Chair, that his staff did a wonderful job (they did!) and that the chair feels great! Scott was really hoping to win that one!



Denise Billups...the Big Winner

I received this email from Denise:

“I got my haul home OK and I had a great time, I’m looking forward to next year. I thought the “FISH” workshop was great. It gave my co-worker, Erma and me a lot of ideas on how to make our job a little more fun. Like hiding \$5.00 or a coupon for pizza in a misshelved book and see who finds it.”

Congratulations Denise!

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2007 is at 408 which includes 70 new members. Associate membership is held by 40 of our members.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your mail.

Are you on NYSLAA-L? This is a great avenue to share information, but if you’re not on the list then you won’t receive the information. It’s not a busy list making email messages very easy to manage. Why not take a minute to sign up? Go to NYSLAA.org, click on NYSLAA-L listserv, and follow the instructions.

As always, if you have a question regarding your membership or if you need a letter verifying your years of NYSLAA membership for the Certificate of Achievement Program please let me know.

Welcome New Members!

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| James Austin | University at Buffalo, Oscar A. Silverman Undergraduate Library |
| Nancy Brienza | Guernsey Memorial Library |
| Joanna Cruz | Bernard M. Baruch College, William & Anita Newman Library |
| Renee Elliott | Jefferson Community College, Melvil Dewey Library |
| Marcie Gifford | Sidney Memorial Public Library |
| Nereida Ocasio | Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library |
| Diana Radford | Groton Public Library |
| Alicia Steenberg | Massena Public Library |

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for NYSLAA Executive Council

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers. Elections for President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary will be held this October. Descriptions of each officer's duties are listed below. All officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written report to the President in January.

The **President** shall: 1) prepare an agenda for all general sessions and for meetings of the Executive Council; 2) preside at all general sessions of the Association and at meetings of the Executive Council; 3) fill the vacancies in the Executive Council by appointment; 4) authorize the creation of ad hoc and special committees; 5) act for the Executive Council between meetings of the Council; 6) collect written annual reports from all officers, committee chairs, the Ambassador, and the Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator for publication in the first quarter newsletter; 7) perform other duties as may be required.

The **Treasurer** shall: 1) receive, record, hold, and disburse all monies of the Association at the direction of the Executive Council; 2) receive all membership dues; 3) prepare a written annual statement of accounts for the Association; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

The **Corresponding Secretary** shall: 1) conduct such correspondence as may be directed by action of the Executive Council or Association and keep an official file of correspondence to be deposited in the archives upon completion of the term of office; 2) liaison the Public Relations Committee; 3) chair the Election Committee in even years; 4) perform such other duties as may be required.

Take an active role in your association! Consider running for office yourself, or nominate a colleague who you believe could make a significant contribution to our organization. (Nominees must accept the nomination in writing.) A nominating/acceptance form may be found on the following page. Please include a brief biography to be included with the ballot to acquaint voters with the candidate.