

# NETWORK CONNECTION



*Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association*

*Jan.-Mar., 2009 Vol.21, no.1*

## **Library Assistants Libraries Need You!**

Submitted by: CALA 2009 NYSLAA Conference Committee  
Michele Matthews, Carol A. Reppard, Jean Guyon, Kathy Corbett,  
Adrienne Birchler, Michele Guiffre, and Eileen Lemley

After months of hard work, the NYSLAA 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference is really starting to come together. We have secured our tours which will include a combined tour of historic Oakwood Cemetery and Second Street in Troy. Oakwood was established in the 1840's and the tour will include stops at Gardner Earl Chapel and Crematorium and the gravesites of Emma Willard, "Uncle Sam" Wilson, and many more. The tour will then continue on to the historic downtown district of Troy and will concentrate on the Women of Second Street and their contributions to education, abolition and the suffrage and anti-suffrage movements. The tour will be led by Bernie Vogel, Administrator of Oakwood Cemetery and Kathy Sheehan, Registrar at the Rensselaer County Historical Society and Rensselaer County Historian. Our second



tour offering will be of one of the foremost acoustic concert halls, the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall (at left.) Defining the state of the art since 1875, the Music Hall is nestled amidst the historic 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture of down-town Troy. The Hall is richly painted and adorned with original antiques, delicate wrought iron balconies, a grand crystal chandelier and Tiffany stained glass windows. It has been recognized by Steinway and Sons as one of the greatest piano concert halls. The tour will be conducted by Karen Good, Community Relations Manager for the Hall.

For those who do not wish to partake of the tours, Troy is rich with architectural delights. Stop by the Troy Public Library located across Second Street from the Sage Campus. Here you will view Tiffany windows, marble floors, stairs and columns. Be sure to see the glass floors in the stack areas. Visit the antiques district, the Riverfront Park area and the wonderful shops in downtown. Maps will be included in your registration packets.

Our workshops are finalized after some very anxious moments. We will be offering Photoshop, Digitization, Personal Grants, Outreach, Genealogy, Preservation, Identity Theft, Technology, the New York State Library, Web 2.0, Resume Writing, Access, Leadership, Pub Med and many more. There should be something to appeal to everyone.

The mixer has also been finalized and will be held at the Red Front. The Red Front is a local eatery noted for its great food and friendly staff. It is located a short walk from the Sage campus. Also, we are looking forward to our Thursday night event when we cruise and party aboard the Captain JP on the Hudson River. We will be celebrating CALA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that evening, as well. On Friday we top off the Conference with our keynote speaker, Sister Anne Bryan Smollin. She is sure to send us off with a whole new outlook on life and our jobs.

So save the dates, we hope to see all of you in Troy, June 10-12, 2009.

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2009

### Joy Piper

President  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-2305 ext. 242  
jpiper@buffalo.edu

### Ruth V. Oberg

Vice-President  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-2947 ext. 227  
oberg@buffalo.edu

### Dawn Burnett

Treasurer  
Bureau Veritas Consumer Prod. Serv.  
(716) 505-3590  
dawn.burnett@us.bureauveritas.com

### Coleen Hopkins

Recording Secretary  
SUNY Geneseo  
(585) 245-5597  
hopkinsc@geneseo.edu

### Donna Kuhner

Corresponding Secretary  
Gloversville Public Library  
(518) 725-2819  
dkuhner@sals.edu

### Donna Hanna

Membership Secretary  
SUNY Geneseo  
(585) 245-5508  
hanna@geneseo.edu

\*\*\*\*\*

### Standing Committee

#### Public Relations Chair

Ruth Mason  
Guernsey Memorial Library  
(607) 334-4034  
no.libclerk1@4cls.org

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Conference Coordinator

Ruth V. Oberg  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-2947 ext. 227  
oberg@buffalo.edu

#### Ambassador

Dorothy Morgan  
Liverpool Public Library  
(315) 457-0310 ext. 103  
dot@lpl.org

#### Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator

Scott Goodman  
Guernsey Memorial Library  
(607) 334-4034  
no.scott@4cls.org

“We would like to see a library community in New York State where library assistants have a voice in decisions that affect their future, are valued for their contributions, recognized and rewarded appropriately, and where there is equitable access to professional development opportunities.”

## NYSLAA’S MISSION

“The mission of the New York State Library Assistants’ Association is:

1. To enhance the professional image and status of NY State’s library assistants.
2. To further their professional growth.
3. To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.
4. To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.”

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CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)

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## JOIN NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’S ELECTRONIC FORUM

To subscribe, send the following command to **listproc@cornell.edu**, subscribe nyslaa-l <first name> <last name>. Do not include a subject.

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## Editor: Coleen Hopkins

*SUNY Geneseo, Milne Library  
1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454  
Phone: 585-245-5597 Fax: 585-245-5997  
Email: hopkinsc@geneseo.edu*

*Newsletter Committee: Chair, Coleen Hopkins, SUNY Geneseo;  
Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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# Annual Reports

## President



This is my third year serving as NYSLAA President and it has been an educational and enriching experience for me. My responsibilities include scheduling meetings, preparing an agenda and running the Executive Council meetings. The President and

Council members keep NYSLAA running smoothly, while also sharing ideas to make this organization stronger and more relevant to its members.

The Executive Council has been working with Conference Coordinator Ruth Oberg to develop new Conference guidelines, making the planning of future conferences more straight forward. The Council also discussed the possibility of having a Donations Chair. This position would be of great value to Conference Planning Committees.

During our Town Meeting held at the 2008 conference, members suggested trying again to obtain non-profit status. Our treasurer, Dawn Burnett, discussed this with our accountant. Unfortunately, we do not qualify. NYSLAA would have to be performing a service for the general public. And while some of our regions do perform community service, it is not sponsored by NYSLAA; therefore we are not eligible for non-profit status.

A new year is beginning; let's hope for another year that is successful for NYSLAA. Hopefully more NYSLAA members will become involved and continue to strive to make our organization the best it can be.

Respectfully submitted  
Joy Piper, President



## Vice President

As Vice President I attended every EC meeting during 2008, I participated in discussions and helped where I could. I maintain the archives by filing minutes and other association documents. As stated in my annual report for last year, it was my hope that in

the Fall of 2008, when nominations were requested, someone new would step up and take on this role.



There were no nominations submitted for the office of Vice President and I agreed to continue for another term. Attending meetings, helping with the conference, and filing the archives are the only specific duties, but the reward of working for this organization and with the members of the Executive Council is priceless.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth V. Oberg, Vice President



## Corresponding Secretary

I have just completed my first year as Corresponding Secretary for NYSLAA. Being the "new kid on the block," I had a lot to learn. I made it through year one and look forward to what lies ahead for year two.

As Corresponding Secretary, it is one of my duties to notify the winners and runners-up chosen from those who indicated they would like to attend the NYSLAA, Virginia, and New Jersey conferences. To have your name submitted for one of these drawings you need to indicate it on your membership renewal form. Please put a check mark by which conference you would like to attend. The recipients of these drawings have enjoyed the opportunity of attending conferences in and out of New York State and have had the pleasure of mingling and networking with others. They have had the chance to learn that new ways of doing our jobs are invaluable tools.

Another duty of the Corresponding Secretary is to notify those individuals selected to receive the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service and the Ray Murray Award. The recipients of these awards are honored at our annual conference each year. These awards and how they were established can be found on the NYSLAA website.

Having the opportunity to serve on the NYSLAA Executive Council is something that each member should consider. Please take the time to look over the job duties in the By-Laws. Remember this is "your" organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Kuhner,  
Corresponding Secretary



## Treasurer

The Treasurer's Annual Report is not intended for viewing on the web site. If you are a NYSLAA member you may request a copy from the NYSLAA Treasurer or check your paper copy of the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn M. Burnett, Treasurer

## Membership Secretary

The 2008 membership year ended with 428 members. Years with our organization for members are: 22 nineteen-year, 12 eighteen-year, 9 seventeen-year, 8 sixteen-year, 15 fifteen-year, 15 fourteen-year, 20 thirteen-year, 29 twelve-year, 20 eleven-year, 14 ten-year, 23 nine-year, 18 eight-year, 16 seven-year, 16 six-year, 20 five-year, 30 four-year, 23 three-year, 52 two-year and 66 of our members were new. Associate status is held by 39 of our members

The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council -- 23 (20, 19, 24, 24, 25)
- (2) Central New York Library Resources Council -- 53 (49, 49, 48, 53, 52)
- (3) Long Island Library Resources Council -- 26 (33, 42, 36, 36, 38, 33)
- (4) New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency -- 82 (84, 75, 54, 32, 43)
- (5) Northern Country Library Council -- 18 (20, 25, 29, 27, 31)
- (6) Rochester Regional Library Council -- 94 (91, 101, 128, 121, 93)
- (7) South Central Research Library Council -- 62 (66, 53, 77, 61, 72)
- (8) Southeastern NY Library Resources Council -- 25 (30, 24, 24, 30, 36)
- (9) Western New York Library Resources Council -- 34 (34, 35, 42, 40, 50)

Out of state members -- 11 (12, 13, 10, 8, 9)

While region 9 held steady, regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and out of state members showed slight declines. Regions 2 and 6 had increases in membership numbers. Great work on recruiting in these two regions!

Types of institutions represented by this year's membership are:

- College and University -- 131 (128, 130, 146, 133, 152)  
Junior College -- 22 (26, 19, 22, 18, 19)  
Law -- 26 (41, 40, 37, 31, 28)  
Medical -- 10 (11, 12, 10, 8, 12)  
Non-library -- 17 (20, 15, 20, 14, 14)  
Public -- 206 (197, 193, 213, 199, 189)  
School -- 10 (10, 11, 11, 15, 19)  
Special -- 6 (6, 16, 13, 13, 11)

\* Numbers in parenthesis are 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2003 totals.

These numbers show a comparison over the last six years enabling you to see if your type of institution or particular region has gained or lost membership.

As we've done the past several years, the 2008 Directory will be mailed to members along with their 2009 conference brochure, membership letter/card, this newsletter and renewal reminders where applicable. I would like to thank Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System; Joy Piper and Ruth Oberg, both from University at Buffalo, and Bev Murphy from SUNY Geneseo for their help in proofreading the 2006 directory.



I would also like to thank Coleen Hopkins and Beverly Murphy from SUNY Geneseo for helping with the numerous preliminary details that went into getting people registered for the 2008 conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

## Recording Secretary

2008 has gone all too quickly and NYSLAA has had a busy year. I have enjoyed attending the Executive Council meetings and the annual conference and keeping the minutes for our organization. The minutes are always available to the membership for review. Please feel free to contact me with a request at any time.

The *Network Connection* newsletter has taken on a two-column format and it is my understanding this is easier for all you speed readers to process. The new format has presented some challenges and I am always happy to try new things to make it a better publication. Let me know what you think. It is my desire to promote the happenings of our members, member libraries and the regional organizations. This year we have had a few, but I'm sure there are more out there and I am only an email away: hopkinsc@geneseo.edu.

My thanks go out to Donna Hanna and Ruth Oberg for their assistance in proofreading, publishing and mailing, and to everyone who has contributed articles to the newsletter. I look forward to serving the NYSLAA membership for the 2009-10 term by being an active participant on the Executive Council, recording all the minutes and publishing the newsletter.



Respectfully submitted,  
Coleen L. Hopkins,  
Recording Secretary



## Conference Coordinator

The first half of 2008 was spent working on the conference planning that was started in 2007 with Sue Garavelli and the committee from Liverpool Public Library. The 2008 conference was held at the Holiday



Inn in Liverpool, NY with a few workshops being held at Liverpool Public Library. We enjoyed a wonderful evening on Oneida Lake

at Borio's for dinner where we were entertained by Nick Mulpagano who impersonated several well known singers. There was a very nice selection of workshops. The keynote address was given by author Jean Amour Polly. The conference received good reviews on the evaluation forms and was rated a success. A large thank you goes to the local planning committee for all their commitment and hard work assisting me on another great conference.

In the second half of 2008 I began the planning for the 2009 conference with Carol Reppard and Michele Matthews from Troy and their committee from the Capital Area Library Assistants. I made a site visit in August with the Executive Council. We are going back to a campus setting this year. Russell Sage is a quaint older campus. The computer workshops will be held



up the hill at RPI. The planning continues over the phone and email.

I'm still looking for someone to put in a bid for 2010!

Respectfully submitted  
Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator



Louise Smith-Jones and Luisa Lopez at Borio's

## Public Relations

In June of 2008 I made arrangements with the office of Assemblywoman Amy Paulin to have Thursday, April 17, 2008 proclaimed as New York State Library Assistants' Day. This was received in late August from State Senator Hugh Farley's office in Albany.



I sent a message on the NYSLAA listserv reminding everyone about Library Assistants' Day. Several people wrote back and shared how their libraries celebrated their day. Festivities ranged from several luncheons to munchies and gifts of appreciation.

In June at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Liverpool, I had the honor of presenting the Craig Koste Award to Heidi Jensen of Pioneer Library System and the Ray Murray Award to Lisa C. Wemett from the Webster Public Library. I also presented the 5, 10, and 15 year membership awards.

At the annual conference I had asked the regional representatives to provide a brief written report of events that had taken place in their region and to give a synopsis to the membership at the Town Meeting.

I submitted two articles for the April-June edition of the Network Connection. One described my experiences traveling with the Four County group to Albany on March 11 to participate in Lobby Day and the second concerned different ways members celebrated Library Assistants' Day on April 17

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Mason, Public Relations Chair

## Certificate of Achievement Review Board

Current committee members are Scott Goodman, Coordinator, Jane McManus and Eileen Lemley.



At the May 2008 Certificate of Achievement Review Board Meeting, Michele Matthews announced that she'd be stepping down as Coordinator of the Certificate of Achievement Review Board in June, right after the conference. She said she'd be happy to serve as an advisor but that family commitments were playing a part in her decision. Scott Goodman was approved by the Executive Council to take over that position in June of 2008.

In May of 2008 the Certificate of Achievement Review Board met at Guernsey Memorial Library to review packets. Two packets were received and all were approved for certificates. They were:

Karen Kazzi – upgraded from Level III to Level IV in Public Service

Sheila Tshudy – Level IV in Technical Services.

The certificates were awarded at NYSLAA's annual conference.

There was discussion about adding a new level, level V. We agreed to do more research before going any further.

Archival records have been received from Dayna Cole and they are now at Guernsey Memorial Library with Scott Goodman.

In June 2008, the Certificate of Achievement Review Board met at the conference in Liverpool and reviewed one packet.

Nancy Brienza-Duffy – Level IV in General Library Services

The certificate was awarded to Nancy by Scott Goodman in person at Guernsey Memorial Library.

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board presented the Certificate of Achievement Workshop at the NYSLAA annual conference. Thirteen people attended.

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board did not meet again in 2008. Nobody on the Review Board was able to meet with the Executive Council when they met in the fall of 2008

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Scott Goodman, Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator, in collaboration with  
Michele Matthews, past Coordinator

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## Ambassador

Although many of my responsibilities include committee and Board work on a national level, NYSLAA will always remain first in my book. It has been my state association since 1984, and I am very proud to be a member as well as your Ambassador. It seems that everything I do wraps around my dedication to support staff first and foremost from New York State, however so much of what happens on a national level impacts us on a local as well as on a state level.



We need to continue to advocate for increased membership in NYSLAA and for libraries in New York State. Together our voices will be heard, but they need to be loud and clear. These voices need to be in great numbers in order to carry our message that libraries and library workers are critical to this state. In December, the Governor proposed an \$18 million or 18% cut in Library Aid for 2009-10 Executive Budget that would bring funding down to \$80.5 million.

I've written previously about getting ready for the journey that we all will be taking together as library support staff. As you read these amazing stories you will see that the train has left the station and we are full steam ahead. I must say we are heading in the right direction for sure. From ongoing discussions on a national level about the library support staff certification program to work on the development of strong strategic plans there is always something for us to do.

The following are a few highlights on a national level (some of you may see this duplicated in the national newsletter from the world of the library support staff interest roundtable (LSSIRT). Although this happened in 2009 it was worthy of mentioning now.

ALA Midwinter meeting in Denver, Colorado produced some amazing "firsts" for library support staff.

1) The Library Support Staff Certification Program is on-track to begin accepting students in January 2010 -- one year EARLY! Nancy Bolt gave a terrific report at Council I during the conference and the Council members were a-buzz.

2) A short video entitled "Why be a Councilor" debuted at Council I and "support staff" were finally listed as members on Council. That is a first! However, we have heard that our round table membership must be 1% of the total ALA Membership by AUGUST 30 (we thought it was NOV. 30) in order to keep our Councilor. This figure is a moving target, contingent on the number of ALA personal members at that time, but right now, the LSSIRT round table needs MORE members. We need to all recruit.

3) Our LSSIRT roundtable Councilor, Jennifer Kutzik talked to Leslie Berger, past president of ALA. Ms Berger reported that her committee voted to accept support staff into the Emerging Leaders program! So, we need to get out and recruit support staff as future leaders in ALA! The website has not been updated yet, but you can read more about the program here: [www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/abouthrdr/index.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/hrdr/abouthrdr/index.cfm).

I hope 2008 afforded you the opportunity to spend some time with special people in your lives and that 2009 will continue to do the same.

To quote from a recent article I read from an author and poet Mary Anne Radmacher, “May your walls know joy...may every room hold laughter...and every window open to great possibility.”

I may have missed wishing each of you a very happy and safe holiday season, but I have the opportunity now to wish you a GREAT NEW YEAR!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Morgan, Ambassador

*\*End of Annual Reports\**

## VLA 2009 Paraprofessional Conference



May 17 – 19, 2009

Holiday Inn Select/Koger South Conference Center  
Richmond, VA

[www.vla.org/demo//Paraprof/Pf-Events.html](http://www.vla.org/demo//Paraprof/Pf-Events.html)

## Nominations Sought

### Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service

In 1992, the Executive Council created “The NYSLAA Award for Outstanding Service” specifically for New York State library assistants who are members of NYSLAA. In 1997, its name was changed to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who passed away in 1995 and 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 will be given to the library of the winner for collection development.

#### *Recent winners:*

- 2008 Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System
- 2007 Jane McManus, Rochester Public Library, Winton Branch  
Rita Gregory, City College of NY
- 2006 Karen Ricketson, Plattsburgh Public Library
- 2005 Sheila Hallahan, Horseheads Free Library  
Tracy LaBarge, Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library
- 2004 Katherine Martel, Rochester Public Library

### Ray Murray Award

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. The Ray Murray Award is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, board members, and others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants.

#### *Recent winners:*

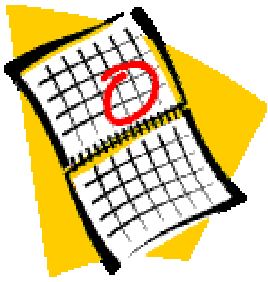
- 2008 Lisa C. Wemett, Webster Public Library
- 2007 Elaine Dawson, Newark Public Library
- 2006 Metro Library Resources Council
- 2005 Kathy Miller, Rochester Reg. Library Council
- 2004 Mary Brown, Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library

#### **To nominate:**

Please send a letter of nomination for either award to:  
Joy Piper, 134 Lockwood Memorial Library, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260  
(716) 645-2305 ext.242 [jpiper@buffalo.edu](mailto:jpiper@buffalo.edu)



Supporting letters and documentation are encouraged along with the nomination letter. Please include the name of the nominee’s supervisor for notification. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Joy. Awards will be presented at the 2009 Conference in Troy.



## Mark Your Calendars

Ruth Mason  
Public Relations Chairperson

### New York State Library Assistants' Day

This year National Library Week will be celebrated April 12-18. This year's theme is "Worlds Connect @ Your Library." Since 1999, New York State has honored library assistants by proclaiming Thursday in National Library Week as "Library Assistants' Day."

A request has already been made of Congresswoman Amy Paulin, chairperson of the Library Committee to sponsor our proclamation for April 16, 2009.



Does your library do something special to celebrate Library Assistants' Day? Festivities are varied across the state. Please post your plans to the listserv, nyslaa-l.

Have a GREAT National Library Week and a SUPER Library Assistants' Day!!

### Lobby Day

Each year for Lobby Day, many library workers from across New York State make the trek to Albany to speak with and listen to, their government representatives about library issues.

This year Lobby Day will be held Tuesday, March 10th.

Various NYLA affiliates have planned several pre-Lobby Day activities and meetings on Monday, March 9th, at the Holiday Inn on Wolf Road. Buses are available through many of your regional organizations or visit the NYLA webpage at nyla.org.



For many years, NYSLAA has contributed to an informal Legislative Breakfast Reception hosted by NYLA from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Meeting Room Six in the Concourse of the Empire State Plaza. Registration is held nearby. Advocacy materials are available for attendees to use in their meetings with legislators and their staff. The rally and speeches are planned for 11:30 a.m. to noon.

A schedule is provided to each group listing the times they may meet with their respective representatives in conference rooms. Time is allowed for grabbing lunch. The food-court nearby offers a wide variety of tasty, reasonably priced gastronomic delights. For the less adventurous among us, McDonald's holds a strategic corner!

Last March was my first experience at Lobby Day. It was exciting to see "our government at work." On the bus ride home, my reflections included a little pride to have given some input to the congressmen and senators representing our districts. Idealistic as it sounds, I do believe that "little people" do have voices that – when banded together- can be heard and considered!

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## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships are rolling in for 2009 so keep them coming. If you've renewed for 2009 you should receive your membership card and letter with the March mailing. If not, you'll receive a renewal reminder. Please get your membership in as soon as possible so you'll receive all the newsletters and mailings.

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 and 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.

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## Great Times at NYSLAA's 2008 Conference



Dancing at the Mixer



Being "Entertained" at Borio's



Technology Workshop



Hard at Work



Thursday Night Dinner at Borio's



Enjoying the Conference

Join us for a terrific time this year in Troy!  
June 10 – 12, 2009