

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July-Sept. 2014 Vol.26, no.3

Library Assistants: Racing Forward with Technology

Michele Matthews, Conference Chair

Library Assistants: Racing Forward with Technology, the 36th Annual Conference was absolutely amazing. The venue, Holiday Inn of Saratoga Springs could not have been more attentive to our needs.



Mixer – Inn at Saratoga

The mixer was a huge success at The Inn at Saratoga. Reconnecting with members and meeting new members on the beautiful spring evening was a lot of fun. The delicious appetizers were flowing all evening long.

The National Museum of Racing was an amazing venue for our Thursday night event. The docent gave a wonderful tour of the museum and he was very knowledgeable about

racing history. This is what Saratoga Springs is all about

The workshops were well received. I had several presenters email to thank me for inviting them! Tom Whalen presented and when I got back to the office this is what he sent, “I want to thank you and NYSLAA for inviting me to come and talk about LinkedIn with your members. I had a really great group that kept me on my toes and I always appreciate an attentive audience (especially right after lunch!)” I was really touched by this.



Thursday event – National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame

The committee wishes to thank Ruth Oberg for her help and guidance along with the Executive Council.

INSIDE: Regional Reports...CAP...NYSLAA Elections...Workshop review...Membership...etc.

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Ambassador

(Vacant) apply to any Council member

“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.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: nyslaa.org

Join NYSLAA’s Electronic Listserv (NYSLAA-L) and follow us on Facebook

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv simply go to nyslaa.org, click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.



Search for: **New York State Library Assistants' Association**

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Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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Regional Reports

Nancy Davis, Public Relations Chair

I hope you all enjoyed a glimpse of life in Saratoga Springs between the workshops and events that brought you here. If you weren't able to attend, I hope you are saving up to attend next year's conference!

Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference. We also invite the representatives to present a brief summary at the conference.

Capital District Library Council

CALA Coordinating Committee Member Nicole Johnson presented their report.

Central New York Library Resources Council

Debby Emerson, CLRC Director sent an email to report that the Council was presenting the Library Assistants' Day in conjunction with the South Central Regional Library Council, the Northern New York Library Network, the Rochester Regional Library Council, and the Western New York Library Resources Council.

Metropolitan New York Library Council

Nina Manning from New York Public Library gave a brief report.

Northern New York Library Network

Sue Lafevre from Assessment and Instructional Planning of the Champlain Valley Educational Services, School Library System delivered a brief report.



Networking! Fred Stoss and Jean-Paul Vivian

Rochester Regional Library Council

Wendy Freier from Geneva Public Library gave the brief report. Here is the full written report submitted by Debbie Elliotto and Wendy Freier.

The Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Library Assistants Group sponsors two half-day workshops and two evening workshops annually. We also hold four planning sessions in addition to these workshops.

Since our last conference we have offered the following half day sessions:

Mental Health Issues and Libraries

presented by Betsy Mackinnon

The Common Core State Standards: How Public and Academic Libraries Can Support Student Learning with Jim Belair

The two evening sessions included:

Pizza and Top 10 Good Tech Habits

presented by Ron Kirsop

Digital Photo Editing

presented by Chris Finger

We continued our tradition of community service by preparing three meals for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. We currently hold two of our four annual meetings at 5:30 pm in conjunction with RRLC's Monday Night Pizza Series.

The group is actively seeking ways to encourage more people to attend the planning sessions thereby enabling us to better meet the needs of library assistants/support staff and the many differing types of libraries they serve.



20-year members Lisa Wemett and Ruth Oberg

South Central Research Library Council

Sheila Tshudy from the Corning Museum of Glass, Rakow Library presented the brief report. Here is the full written report submitted from Judith Andrew.

The Library Assistants Special Interest Group of the South Central Regional Library Council has been inactive for the past two years. For some reason, it has been very difficult to find people who are willing and able to serve on this committee. BUT! Library assistants from across our region have been attending SCRLC's general workshops and webinars that are open to both librarians and library assistants. In addition, fifteen people from the South Central region attended this year's Library Assistants Day Conference in Syracuse, which is hosted each year by SCRLC and four other regional library councils. I served on the planning committee for the conference and Sheila Tshudy and I presented a workshop about NYSLAA at that conference.

Western New York Library Resources Council

Pat Klaybor, WNYLRC, Liaison to WNYLA

Western New York Library Assistants Committee (WNYLA) presents workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). This past year WNYLA held a

“Getting to Know You” (GTKY) event and a workshop for library support staff. On November 13, 2013, the committee held a Fall GTKY at the Darwin Martin Complex. There were 21 attendees. Each of our networking events usually includes a wonderful speaker/tour guide, a tour of the libraries/art gallery or historical site. If there is adequate space on site, we have refreshments, and basket raffles. These events have always been very successful and well-attended.

On March 20, 2014, a workshop was held at WNYLRC. It was a two part workshop, entitled “Using Your Strengths as a Library Assistant/Getting More from our Kindle/iPad”. There were 17 attendees. The first portion utilized the results of the StrengthsFinder assessment. (based on the bestselling book by Tom Rath). The second portion was a very lively presentation of hints, tips and apps for both the Kindle and iPad.

The WNYLA committee has a Facebook page (like us & see what we have to offer) and a WNYLA listserv designed to keep perspective attendees informed about our committee events. New members to the WNYLA committee (which is a standing committee of WNYLRC) are always welcome. If interested, please contact us through wnylrc.org. All committee members' contact information is available on the site.

End of Regional Reports.



Hanging out and catching up with friends!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Nancy Davis, Chair

It is truly an honor to be the Public Relations Chair, and I am reaching out to you all for ideas, means or ways we can continue to expand our membership. I look forward to spreading our name to libraries across New York State.

I am looking forward to working with the Executive Council and NYSLAA's committees. You will certainly be hearing from me over the next year! I hope to hear from you as well!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Nancy Davis, Chair

The attendees of this year's conference in Saratoga Springs were very generous to our chosen recipients.

Your donations were abundant, appreciated and warmly accepted. Thank you all for your generosity.

The Shelters of Saratoga received a large trunk full of food as well as a check for \$100.00. The Saratoga County Animal Shelter received a van full of toys, food and linen that they were thrilled to accept on your behalf. They also will be receiving a check for \$100.00.

The Community Outreach Committee would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who were able to donate.

You will be hearing from me throughout the next year as we plan and plot to arrange an extraordinary conference for you in 2015. We will be working directly with our Donations Chair, Sheila Tshudy and a member of the 2015 Conference Committee.

I want to be sure to thank the 2014 Community Outreach Committee members, you did an excellent job organizing, executing and delivering for this year's event. A special thanks to Terry Berl, Shirley West and Holly Ludico for bringing these final preparations to fruition, along with Rose Flickner, Sue Lefebvre, Michele Matthews, La Verne Sankey, Darlene Strack and Sheila Tshudy for your generous support and assistance.



The NYSLAA Conference always makes us smile



NYSLAA PROCLAMATION

Nancy Davis, Public Relations Chair

On June 3, 2014, Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. (I, D, WF-Sag Harbor) presented members of the New York State Library Assistants' Association with a Legislative Resolution "Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 17, 2014 as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York", in conjunction with the observance of National Library Assistants' Day."

Assemblyman Thiele is the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology and introduced the Resolution to recognize the efforts Library Assistants put forth in ensuring the smooth operation of our libraries on a daily basis. Also pictured is Assemblyman Joseph S. Saladino, Ranking Member of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee, who is a co-prime sponsor of the Resolution. Pictured left to right: Michele Matthews, NYSLAA President; Ruth Oberg, NYSLAA Conference Coordinator; Kathy Rossello, NYSLAA Vice President; Nancy Davis, NYSLAA Chair of the Public Relations and Community Outreach Committees; Assemblyman Thiele; Donna Hanna, NYSLAA Membership Secretary; Carrie Goetz, NYSLAA Treasurer; Donna Kuhner, NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary; and Assemblyman Saladino. Missing from picture: Coleen Hopkins, NYSLAA Recording Secretary.

A special thank you goes to Lisa Lombardo of Assemblyman Thiele's office, for all her assistance in arranging this photo opportunity.



**Roosevelt Baths
and Spa Tour**



Bylaws Review and Revision

Judith Andrew

The Executive Council has created the 2014 Bylaws Revision Committee, chaired by me, Judith Andrew. Other members are Adrienne Birchler, Vickie Button, Pam Rogers, and Kenyon Wells.

Kenyon and I met with the Executive Council on March 26, 2014, where we went through the Bylaws and the Constitution, as a group, to review which sections needed to be updated or changed.



Some proposed revisions:

- Conference Coordinator becomes an elected member of the Executive Council.
- Community Outreach included in the documents.
- Grammatical/spelling errors be corrected.
- Confusing/inconsistent language be clarified.

The committee met on June 18, 2014, to devise wording for the proposed changes and additions. We then submitted the language for the proposed amendments to the Executive Council, and after approval, the proposed amendments will be sent to the Association's regular members for voting. Ballots will be mailed by August 15, 2014, and must be returned with a postmark no later than August 31, 2014.



Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews, Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board awarded ten certificates at the 2014 Annual NYSLAA Conference. The recipients are:

Betty Albright	Bethlehem Public Library	Level IV-Public Services
Jennifer Bigenwald	St. John Fisher College	Level III-General Library Services
Kathryn Croft	SUNY College at Oneonta	Level IV-Administration/Management
Mona Farrow	Old Dominion University	Level IV-Public Services
Dawn Gage	SUNY College at Oneonta	Level IV-Administration/Management
Diana Golemb	University of Rochester	Level IV-Public Services
Lisa Grant	College of St. Rose	Level IV-Technical Services
Sue Lefebvre	Champlain Valley Education Services	Level IV-General Library Services
Sally McMaster	University of Rochester	Level IV-Public Services
Tammy Southard	SUNY College at Oneonta	Level IV-Technical Services
After the conference:		
Eileen Lemley	Retired	Awarded posthumously

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board has awarded a total of 139 certificates. We now have pins to wear showing you have earned your Certificate. Please contact me at prendm@rpi.edu if you have received your certificate but have not received a Certificate of Achievement pin.



Craig Koste Award 2014 Winner

Darlene Strack

SUNY Plattsburgh, Feinberg Library

The Executive Council is pleased to announce Darlene Strack as the Craig Koste Award Winner.

Darlene Strack is the Circulation Supervisor for Feinberg Library at SUNY Plattsburgh. She wears many hats while doing her job and fills in when they are short-staffed. She runs several service desks and computer labs and oversees the book stacks, government documents and media. She also hires, trains and supervises the student assistants.



In their nomination letter, Diane Trombly and Deborah Mousseau state “her contagious smile greets everyone, including patrons, student workers, co-workers, faculty and staff with consideration and respect on a daily basis. Darlene promotes professional development and encourages co-workers to join NYSLAA and take pride in what we do for our library. In 2012, Darlene graciously volunteered to take the scroll to host the 2013 NYSLAA Conference. Her enthusiasm made it easy to excite several of her co-workers to join NYSLAA and jump on board with her to plan an exceptional conference in Lake Placid, NY. With hard work and attention to detail, Dar led her team to host a very successful conference. Darlene is an exceptional human species and leads by example.”

The Dean of Library and Information Services, Holly Heller-Ross, and Darlene’s supervisor, Carol Bleaux, state in their letter of support for her nomination, “In the short while that Darlene has been a [NYSLAA] member she has participated whole heartedly! She has attended conferences, served as local arrangements chair for last year’s conference, and organized a workshop at Plattsburgh for the association’s certificate program. This workshop was open to staff from our North Country region and was very successful in motivating staff to start on that process. She is a strong and effective champion for membership and participation. Her enthusiastic encouragement has led to several active new members from the Plattsburgh area, and we are certain that this high level of activity will continue.”

Congratulations Darlene!



Membership Update

Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

The Membership for 2014 is at 289 including 41 new 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 membership mailings.

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 via hanna@geneseo.edu.

Ray Murray Award 2014 Winner

Frederick W. Stoss, Biological Sciences Librarian
Science and Engineering Information Center, University at Buffalo

The Executive Council is pleased to announce Fred Stoss as the Ray Murray Award Winner. Ruth Oberg states in her nomination letter, “Fred and I have worked together since 1996. He has always been very supportive of me as a library assistant and of the NYSLAA organization. He has volunteered to give a



workshop before I even have a chance to ask him! Fred has done one or two workshops a year for us since 2007, only missing two conferences. This can mean traveling across the state without a fee. He is always willing to help and has suggested interesting topics that have been unique for NYSLAA on sustainability and green practices for our libraries. He has donated a lot of his time and energy. Fred speaks at many conferences during the year and has been active in NYLA and ALA for many years. Fred took instruction from Al Gore and is a certified teacher of his Climate Reality Project. He recently traveled to Aruba to present at the third annual Green Education Symposium Aruba.

He received their first ever Friend of the Biblioteca Nacional Aruba (BNA National Library of Aruba) Award for his work with the BNA in green education and for helping to create the library’s Caribbean Energy, Environmental and Sustainability Program.”

Terry Mulee writes in her letter of support, “I have known Fred since the early 80’s when he was the librarian for The Center for Environmental Information in Rochester. Through the years, Fred has creatively woven his love of science, the environment, fishing, education, and librarianship across a variety of job titles and employers. He is incredibly comfortable in an academic environment where he can let his free spirited personality shine through. I have seen Fred in action within the scope of NYSLAA and beyond. Fred is always there to lend that helping hand, encourage you to be the best you can be, mentor, and train you. Throughout the years, I think it is no exaggeration to say that Fred has impacted the careers of hundreds of other library professionals, not the least of those, library assistants.”

Congratulations Fred!



Welcome New Members!

Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

Sujatha Bhuvanaraj
Alexander Eustice
Sania Jean
Nicole Johnson
Sheila Molinaro
Kristin West

Cleveland Chiropractic College, Dr. Carl's Cleveland Jr. Memorial Library, CA
University of Rochester, Rush Rhees Library
New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwartzman Building
Sage Colleges, Shea Learning Center
North Colonie Central School District, Shaker Junior High School Library
Schenectady County Community College, Begley Library

NYSLAA Elections

Donna Kuhner, 2014 Election Chair

It is time to be thinking about the NYSLAA Elections and who you would like to nominate for the offices of Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and the new Executive Council position of Conference Coordinator (pending the results of the Constitution/Bylaws Amendment voting results). Nominations need to be submitted by September 30, 2014. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance form located on our webpage, nyslaa.org and a biography to be included in the ballot. Please send your nominations to:

Donna Kuhner

Recording Secretary

58 E. Fulton St.

Gloversville, NY 12078

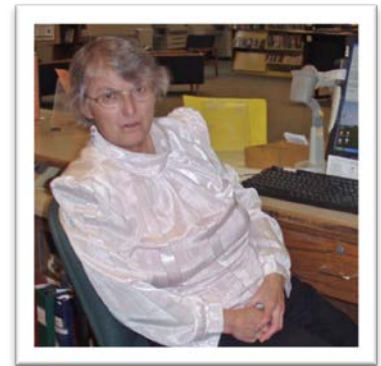
You can also submit them electronically to: dkuhner@mvls.info or faxed to 518-773-0292.



Eileen S. Lemley

September 12, 19499-June 6, 2014

NYSLAA was saddened by Eileen's passing at the 2014 Annual NYSLAA Conference in Saratoga Springs. Eileen would have received her 10 year pin at the Friday luncheon and she was working on her Certificate of Achievement. She loved the conferences and the opportunity to visit with all of us.



The Executive Council voted to award Eileen's Certificate of Achievement posthumously and to rename the Conference Contest to The Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship. After the conference, we offered our members the opportunity to make a donation to the Scleroderma Foundation in Eileen's name via the NYSLAA webpage. We are pleased to have donated \$300.00 in Eileen's name. Thank you for your generosity in helping us to honor Eileen.

**Rest in peace, Eileen, your sweet smile
will be missed at NYSLAA Conferences.**

