

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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## **NYSLAA Library Assistants: Create, Learn and Explore in the Catskill Mountains Cat Wise 2020 Conference Committee Chair**

Our 42nd conference this year will be taking place June 10–12, 2020 at the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology in Cobleskill, NY. Plan on coming in early on Wednesday and participating in an afternoon tour. We have three great options! There will be a 90-minute tour of Howe Caverns, a one hour guided tour of the Iroquois Indian Museum or a 90-minute guided campus tour.

Then Wednesday night will be our Meet and Greet complete with a chicken barbeque dinner, cash bar, and weather permitting, a campfire with s'mores right at the Alumni Commons where we will be staying.

The events are shaping up and we are offering some unique and exciting workshops. Some of the workshops for Thursday are The Science of Sound, Meditation, Crystals, and Stress Relief; two hands-on computer skills classes; and Universal Design.

You'll have time on Thursday after the workshops to stroll around downtown Cobleskill or check out some of the sights on campus before dinner at Chieftans. We'll be doing a buffet dinner followed by a trivia contest that evening.

A few of the workshops for Friday are Developing Your Inner Leader, Cataloging in ALMA Demystified, 3D Printing & Outreach, and Developing Dynamic Access Services.

Following Friday's workshops, we will enjoy lunch and our keynote speaker, Chuck D'Imperio. Chuck is a longtime radio broadcaster who has hosted a top rated morning show since 1989. Chuck has written seven books about Upstate New York and we're excited to have him come speak to us. Then we will move right to the awards presentations and the basket raffle.

We look forward to welcoming you to SUNY Cobleskill!



*Alumni Commons where we will be staying*

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**INSIDE: Fundraising...Raffle...Membership...Annual Reports...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Nominations... Eileen Lemley Scholarship**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2020

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### **Ruth V. Oberg**

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## Standing Committees

### **Community Outreach Chair**

(vacant)

### **Donations Chair**

(vacant)

### **Public Relations Chair**

(vacant)

### **Certificate of Achievement**

### **Review Board Coordinator – and – Ambassador**

**Michele Matthews**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
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prendm@rpi.edu

“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’s electronic listserv (NYSLAA-L) and follow us on Facebook.**

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv, simply go to [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org), click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.



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

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### **Editor: Tammy Southard**

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**Adrienne Birchler**, William K. Sanford Public Library volunteer  
**Erma Nieves**, Bronx Community College  
**Ruth V. Oberg**, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *May 15, 2020*  
Submission deadline: *April 30, 2020*

## NYSLAA Annual Reports for 2019

### President

**Michele A. Matthews**

It is an honor to say that 2019 was my fifth year as president of NYLSAA. My duties included setting the agenda for the Executive Council meetings and presiding over the general session of members at the annual conference.

There were no applications received for the NYSLAA's Degree Program Scholarship or our Continuing Education Scholarship.

There was one application for the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship and it was awarded to **Adrienne Birchler**. Adrienne is a long time member who is currently volunteering at William K. Sanford Colonie Library.

The 41st Annual Conference was held at The Ramada Geneva Lakefront in Geneva, NY. **Wendy Freier** of the Geneva Public Library stepped up and hosted the conference, along with **Debbie Elliott** and **Trisha Kemp** of the Geneva Public Library. Thank you Wendy, Debbie and Trisha for a great conference!

**Carrie Goetz** received the Craig Koste Award. Carrie is employed at the University of Buffalo. Several letters written by colleagues and supervisors detailing Carrie's involvement in the library community and in support of library assistants were received by the Executive Council. Of course, since Carrie is on the Executive Council, we already know of her support. Congratulations, Carrie!

There were no nominations for the Ray Murray Award.

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board awarded five certificates this year. They continue to guide anyone interested in earning a certificate.

The Public Relations Committee worked with the State Assembly Representatives to secure Thursday, April 12, 2019 as Library Assistants' Day. NYSLAA also allowed library assistants to join NYSLAA for free during Library Week.

The Conference Committee's Community Outreach collected items for the Center for Concern Food Bank, pet items for Beverly Animal Shelter, and children's books and Band-Aids for the Golisano Children's Hospital at the conference in June. They also collected homemade blankets from our members for the Linus Project.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President.

### Vice President

**Kathy Rossello**

I have attended all Executive Council Meetings during 2019. I have maintained the archives by filing minutes and all other association documents as well as posting updates for NYSLAA on our Facebook page. The Certificate of Achievement Review Board is another way in which I support library assistants. I contacted the Chair of the New York State Assembly's Library Committee to begin arrangements for the annual New York State Library Assistants' Recognition Day to be celebrated on the Thursday of National Library Week. This day was celebrated on April 11, 2019.

I have found it very rewarding to work with the rest of the Executive Council. It has also been a pleasure working with all the Conference Committee members over the past years. Please considering running for an office or joining one of the many committees of our organization. Let's continue to make NYSLAA successful in the future.



*Sample of dorm suite common area*

## Recording Secretary

**Tammy Southard**

This will be my fifth year as Recording Secretary for the NYSLAA Executive Council. As the Recording Secretary my duties have been to record and submit all of the minutes from the Executive Council Meetings and the Town Hall Meeting at the NYSLAA Conference.

The Recording Secretary also compiles, edits and publishes the NYSLAA Network Connections Newsletter four times a year with the assistance of the Newsletter Committee. This year the Newsletter Committee consisted of Adrienne Birchler, Erma Nieves, and Ruth Oberg. Thank you all for your assistance with the newsletters! And thank you to our members that have sent submissions for the newsletters. We like to hear what you all are doing in your libraries!

Please consider volunteering in any capacity and getting involved with NYSLAA. It truly is a rewarding experience being a part of this organization. We want to see NYSLAA continue in the future and we need volunteers!

## Corresponding Secretary

**Nora Renda**

One of my duties is to inform the winners of awards or scholarships. This year there were no applicants for the Continuing Education or Degree Program scholarships.

**Adrienne Birchler** was our 2019 recipient of the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship which enabled her to attend the conference. There were no applicants for the Enrichment Fund Scholarship.

**Carrie Goetz** received the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service and she received her award at the conference in Geneva on June 14, 2019.

There were no nominations for the Ray Murray award this year.

There was no Virginia Conference this year so we were not able to send a representative to attend.

I sent thank you notes to all of the presenters and guest speakers at the conference as well as to all the vendors that donated items to the basket raffle.

NYSLAA made a memorial donation to Community Lutheran Ministry in honor of Fred Stoss' wife Dorothy "Dottie" Stoss. Fred is a strong supporter of NYSLAA. He's attended and participated in several of our conferences for many years. His wife passed away suddenly on July 6, 2019.

This year I presided over the NYSLAA elections for the Executive Council. The winners were President **Michele Matthews**, RPI; Treasurer **Carrie Goetz**, University at Buffalo; and Corresponding Secretary **Dawn Foland** of SUNY Cobleskill.

As my term comes to an end as Corresponding Secretary, I would like to thank the Executive Council for making this a wonderful experience. It's a wonderful organization and I'm glad to have been chosen to serve these past two years. I wish **Dawn Foland** the very best as the newly elected Corresponding Secretary.

## Treasurer

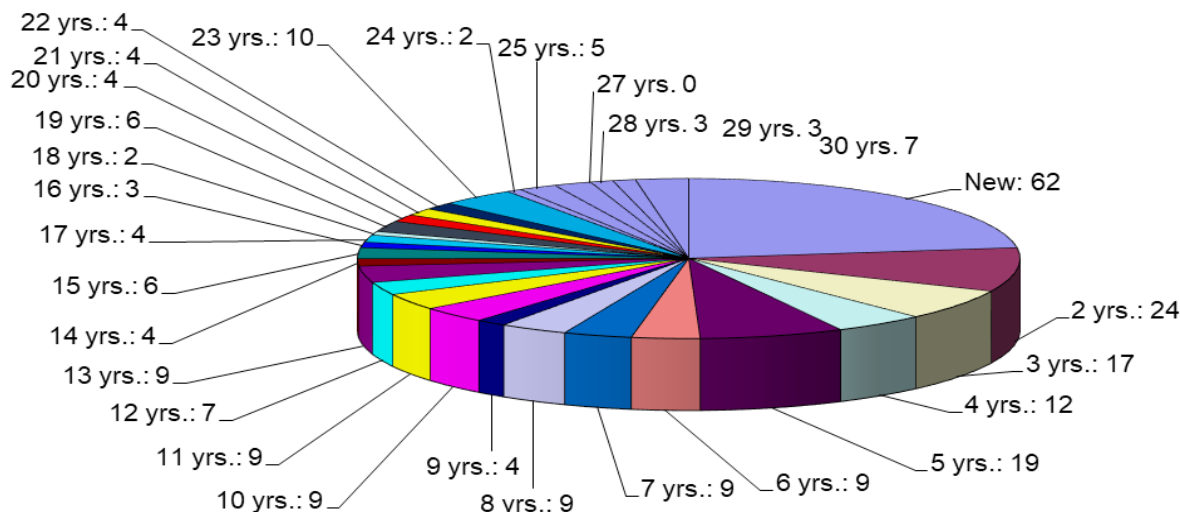
**Carrie Goetz**

Since the Network Connection Newsletter is only available online, we will not post our financial report on the web. The 2019 Treasurer's Annual Report is subject to our CPA's approval. Our books will be finalized in the next few months once the taxes are filed. All NYSLAA members are entitled to see a full report. If you are interested in seeing it after our CPA has approved them, please contact us at [nyslaa.org@gmail.com](mailto:nyslaa.org@gmail.com).

Just a quick reminder that if there is a class or a workshop you would like to take and your institution will not pay for it, NYSLAA has scholarships available to all its regular members with at least three years of membership. If you haven't applied before, it is FREE money that we offer for you just for writing a short paragraph. The Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship is also still available if you would like to come to the conference but receive no funding from your institution. The information can be found on our scholarship page, [nyslaa.org/scholarships.html](http://nyslaa.org/scholarships.html).



## Years of membership in NYSLAA for 2019 members



The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council—19 (15, 23, 21, 40, 29, 20)
  - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council—22 (23, 28, 23, 32, 26, 27)
  - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council—5 (8, 4, 6, 13, 9, 10)
  - (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council—49 (53, 53, 58, 57, 63, 55)
  - (5) Northern Country Library Council—16 (12, 15, 15, 17, 20, 23)
  - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council—59 (36, 47, 57, 78, 53, 60)
  - (7) South Central Research Library Council—48 (47, 44, 50, 54, 50, 46)
  - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council—26 (29, 29, 27, 34, 23, 26)
  - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council—19 (18, 24, 37, 25, 21, 24)
- Out of state members—8 (8, 9, 9, 8, 7, 8)

\* *Numbers in parenthesis are 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013 totals.*

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

- College and University—69 (56, 78, 81, 112, 90, 94)
- Junior College—15 (11, 10, 10, 15, 16, 15)
- Law—2 (3, 4, 5, 7, 6, 5)
- Medical—4 (2, 4, 6, 5, 4, 1,)
- Non-library—32 (25, 25, 24, 23, 25, 22)
- Public—143 (147, 149, 169, 184, 153, 157)
- School—2 (1, 3, 5, 9, 5, 3, 5)
- Special—4 (4, 5, 3, 3, 2, 2,)

\* *Numbers in parenthesis are 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2013 totals.*

The 2019 Membership directory is in the works and should be ready for online viewing shortly. Printed copies will only be available upon request.

I would like to thank **Patty Hoffman**, SUNY Geneseo, for her assistance with the proofreading of registrations for the 2019 NYSLAA Conference.

## Conference Coordinator

**Ruth V. Oberg**

I stepped down as Conference Coordinator after the 2016 Conference. After the 2017 conference, Executive Council found themselves again looking for a replacement. I offered to help out and Executive Council appointed me interim Conference Coordinator and I helped plan the 2019 Conference in Geneva. After the conference, **Wendy Freier** expressed interest in shadowing me and filling this position. I am really grateful for her wanting to take on this position. It is a bit of work but also very gratifying to see a successful conference produced each year.

Geneva, NY was the site of the 2019 Conference. It was hosted by **Wendy Freier**, chair, with **Debbie Elliott** and **Trisha Kemp**, all from Geneva Public Library. There were great workshops and nice events including a mixer at Ventosa Winery. Thursday dinner was at the beautiful Belhurst Castle. It all made for another wonderful conference. The keynote presenter at our lunch on Friday was Eleanor Sterns who portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She gave a very moving talk about the Women's Rights Movement.

I have been helping with the planning for the 2020 conference to be held at the SUNY Cobleskill campus in Cobleskill, NY. **Cat Wise** is chairing the committee along with **Dawn Foland**, **Stacy Abrey** and **Lynn Jozifel**, all from SUNY Cobleskill. We will have our Wednesday evening event at the dorms on campus with a chicken BBQ and our Thursday dinner at Chieftans. Cobleskill is nestled in the beautiful Catskill mountains and you will have plenty of views of those mountains. Wendy and I are currently working on the conference brochure and it will be mailed by the end of February. Hope to see you there.

As I have stated many times before, NYSLAA is a wonderful association and I have always enjoyed working on the Executive Council. We really enjoy meeting almost monthly and networking and catching up with each other. It is a great group of people. Thank you for letting me serve you for so many years.

## Certificate of Achievement

**Michele A. Matthews**

Current Committee members are **Michele Mathews**, Coordinator, **Christine Havens**, **Kathy Rossello**, **Melissa Tidd** and **Nora Renda**.

Five people were awarded certificates at this year's conference. They are:

**Debra Elliott** – Geneva Public Library  
Level IV Administration/Management

**Carrie Goetz** – University at Buffalo –Libraries Annex  
Level IV Automation

**Patricia Kemp** – Geneva Public Library  
Level IV General Library Services

**Nora Renda** – University at Buffalo Libraries  
Level IV Technical Services

**Barbara Ruppel** –Niagara County Community College  
Level IV Administration/Management

So far in 2020 there is one person who has received their certificate:

**Deanna Meadowcroft** –SUNY Oneonta  
Level III Public Services

Congratulations!

If you are interested in your certificate, feel free to contact one of us. There is still time to receive your certificate at the 2020 conference.

The Certificate of Review Board would like to thank **Carrie Goetz** for all of her hard work on this committee and wish her well in her new venture.

### Note Regarding NYSLAA's Future

If you look at the left column on page 2, you will see several vacant positions. We have a few more retirements pending. If you would like to see the organization continue we need your help. Please step up and volunteer. We only stay an organization by our members helping.

**Thank you.**



## End of NYSLAA Annual Reports



## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2019 topped out at 271 and 62 members were new. It is time to renew for 2020. We currently have 35 people who have already renewed for 2020.

Membership cards/letters for 2020 people who have renewed will be included in the mailing of the brochure. If you haven't renewed you will receive a renewal reminder with your brochure. All memberships received after the mailing of the brochure will be sent electronically.

If you move or your email has changed, please be sure to alert me of these changes. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership correspondence.

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](mailto:hanna@geneseo.edu).

## Fundraising

The Boon Supply Fundraiser had a profit of \$ 315.60. That total was combined from our catalog and online sales. A big thank you for all of you who helped organize and sell these items as well as those who purchased.

The lottery fundraising is underway for the month of February. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and good luck!

Unlike other conferences, NYSLAA includes most of the meals in the cost and meals add up. It is still not too late to donate. A donate link is available at NYSLAA.org home page.

## Basket Raffle

Please consider starting to plan your baskets for the raffle at the NYSLAA Conference. The more baskets we have the more fun for all. If you are planning to donate a basket please email me and let me know [wisecl@cobleskill.edu](mailto:wisecl@cobleskill.edu).

## SOUPer Bowl

Tammy Southard

SUNY Oneonta hosted a SOUPer Bowl luncheon on January 31st for all members of the library building. Our library is now a learning commons model which houses the Student Learning Center, the Technology Center, Faculty Center, Accessibility Services and the Office of Sustainability. We enjoyed a shared luncheon with so many different kinds of delicious soups.



## De-stressing Events at Ithaca College



For photos of many of the individual events, see [Ithaca College Library's Facebook page](#).

## Award Nominations

Each year, NYSLAA seeks nominations from its members for each of these awards. The Executive Council reviews the nominations in April of each year and notifies the recipients. The awards are presented at the annual conference in June.

### **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. Its name was changed in 1995 to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who passed away 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.

### **Ray Murray Award**

The Ray Murray Award was established in 1989 to recognize a librarian, library director, trustee, board member or any individual who has demonstrated outstanding support to library assistants.

Ray Murray began his library career at the University of Minnesota in 1961. He started at circulation and later transferred to acquisitions. While at Minnesota, Ray attended library school. He came to SUNY Oswego in 1975. With Ray’s help, a planning committee from SUNY Oswego, SUNY Cortland, and the University of Rochester brought about the 1977 conference, laying the groundwork for NYSLAA.

Ray left New York in 1980 where he had been the library director at Upsala College in New Jersey and Cardinal Stretch College in Milwaukee. He became the director of the Essex-Hudson Regional Library Cooperative in Newark, New Jersey in 1986. The New Jersey Cooperative is very similar to New York’s Three R’s Organization. One of Ray’s first projects in New Jersey was to bring about a conference for library assistants at Seton Hall in 1987.

To nominate someone for either award, please compile a packet including: your nomination letter, supporting letters, and any other pertinent documentation. The deadline for the submission is March 31st. See [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org) for more information.

Send nomination packets (or questions) for either award to the NYSLAA President. (See page 2.)  
For full information go to: [nyslaa.org/awardsnominations.html](http://nyslaa.org/awardsnominations.html).



## **Apply for the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship**

The **Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship** (ELCS), previously known as the NYSLAA Conference Contest, was renamed to honor the memory of **Eileen Lemley** who passed away while attending the 2014 conference. Eileen loved working in the library and attending NYSLAA conferences. The recipient will receive a full conference registration, up to two night’s lodging, the mixer, and one tour of your choice. Entries will be accepted from March 1st to March 31st. Applicants must complete a form and write an essay on “what NYSLAA means to me and why I want to attend the annual conference.” Only members who do not receive any funding from their library may apply.

The application form for the scholarship and more information on the web at: [nyslaa.org/scholarships.html](http://nyslaa.org/scholarships.html).