

# NETWORK CONNECTION

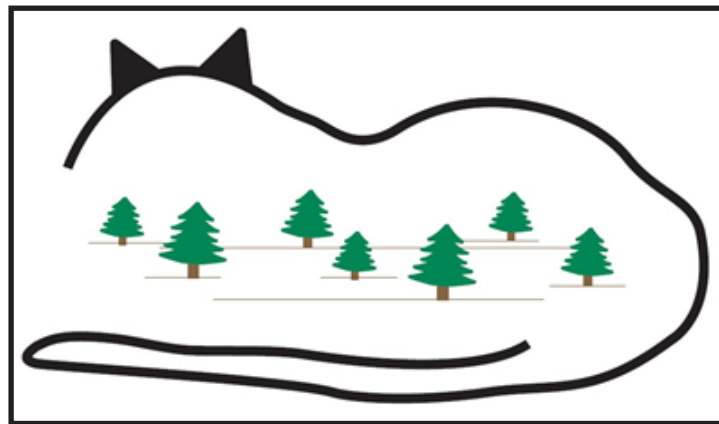


Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

July - Sept. 2020 Vol.32, No.3

## 2021 NYSLAA CONFERENCE

Wendy Freier, Conference Coordinator

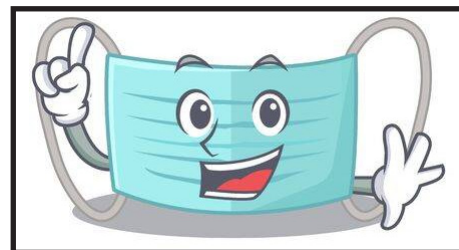


We are hoping that we can reschedule the same conference venues and speakers for 2021.

The 2021 conference date is tentatively set for June 9-11, 2021 at SUNY Cobleskill. Everything is contingent upon future decisions of the governor, the college, and the speakers we had lined up for last year. As we firm up the details they will be posted to the listserv, Facebook, the NYSLAA website, and distributed via the newsletter.

Please save the conference brochure that was mailed to you this year. We are hoping that much of it will still be the same and we can send out an updated page for the brochure next year. We will not be reprinting or mailing the entire brochure.

Hoping to see you all in June! Until then, stay safe.



**INSIDE: Regional Reports...Memberships...NYSLAA Elections...Let's Explore Webster...Pandemic**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2020

### **Michele Matthews**

President  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(518) 276-8330  
prendm@rpi.edu

### **Kathy Rosello**

Vice-President  
East Greenbush Community Library  
(518) 477-7476 ext. 108  
rossek@eglibrary.org

### **Treasurer**

(vacant)

### **Tammy Southard**

Recording Secretary  
SUNY Oneonta  
(607) 436-2727  
Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

### **Dawn Foland**

Corresponding Secretary  
SUNY Cobleskill  
(518)231-4562  
folandde@cobleskill.edu

### **Donna Hanna**

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

### **Wendy Freier**

Conference Coordinator  
Geneva Public Library  
(315) 781-2935  
wfreier@pls-net.org

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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  
(518) 276- 8330  
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.”

---

---

**CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: [nyslaa.org](http://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](http://nyslaa.org), click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.



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

---

---

The *NYSLAA Network Connection* is published four times a year by the New York State Library Assistants’ Association. Articles may be reprinted with the permission of the editor.

### **Editor: Tammy Southard**

SUNY Oneonta, Milne Library  
Email: [Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu](mailto:Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu)

Newsletter Committee: **Chair, Tammy Southard**, SUNY Oneonta  
**Adrienne Birchler**, William K. Sanford Public Library volunteer  
**Ruth V. Oberg**, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *November 15, 2020*

Submission deadline: *October 31, 2020*

## Regional Reports

Written regional reports are requested from the regional representatives prior to the conference. These are the reports that were to be presented at the conference this year.

### Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC)

Wendy Freier

#### Monday Night Workshops

September 16, 2019 Tour of the URMC Edward G. Miner Library History of Medicine Section

Presenter: **Meredith Gozo**, Curator, Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarian

On your visit to the Miner Library History of Medicine Section, we will share with you a number of resources that draw on the highlights of our rare books and manuscripts. The Miner Library houses a significant collection of early anatomical atlases that were instrumental to advances in the study and understanding of the human body, and several of these will be on display for you. You will also have the chance to see some seminal works in medical history, rare ephemera in popular medicine, items from our photographic collections, original documents and objects from distinguished faculty whose papers are in our archives, and medical artifacts that reflect medical practices of days gone by.

Participants will learn about the historic resources housed at the E.G. Miner Library.

May 11, 2020 Dennis Carr's talk about Susan B. Anthony. This has been postponed (TBD) and will probably be offered via zoom.

#### Half-Day Workshops

October 8, 2019 Decoding the Alphabet Soup: Learning about the LGBTQIA Community

Presenters: **Jennifer Stickles & Michelle La Voie**

To be a true ally to the LGBTQIA community it is important to educate yourself. This workshop will cover terminology, implicit bias, the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and the issues that are unique to the LGBTQIA community.

Participants will gain knowledge on how to make their library LGBTQIA affirmative for patrons & staff.

October 8, 2019

In the Trenches: Combating Controversy and Censorship

Presenters: **Jennifer Stickles and Michelle La Voie**

Controversy and censorship are nothing new to libraries. However, with social media providing a mask of anonymity for keyboard warriors, libraries increasingly confront situations where the programs they offer are being targeted for censorship. Library staff and administrators may find themselves facing off with irate patrons, protesters, and even threats of violence. Using real experiences, participants will learn how to handle these situations, including how not to fight censorship with censorship.

This workshop will help participants learn how to interact with the press, local police, community partners, and teach them how to rally the support of their trustees and staff.

#### Future events:

National Library of Medicine Resources for Citizen Science. This has been postponed until the fall of 2020 and it will be presented as a webinar.

Food for Thought: Exploring Nutrition Information Resources. This has been postponed until the fall of 2020 and it will be presented as a webinar.

#### Volunteer events:

We have continued our Ronald McDonald House Dinners. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, we were able to make three dinners for families staying at the House.



## Regional Reports continued:

### Central New York Libraries Resources Council (CLRC)

**Anna Dobkowski**

The Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) opened a communication network among the region's Library Assistants, Paraprofessionals and Support Staff through a Special Interest Group (LA SIG). The group began in March and has been meeting weekly through Zoom.

The LA SIG interests include:

- \* recognizing all library support staff employed in CLRC member libraries
- \* furthering the professional development and job enrichment of support staff
- \* enhancing the professional image of support staff within the library community

For those working in interlibrary loan, save the date, Tuesday, September 29, for a virtual resource sharing workshop hosted by CLRC, SCRLC, CDLC and SENYLRC. The theme — NOT Lost in Transition: Resource Sharing in Changing Times — will run during the morning and will include the ever-popular “Day in the Life of...”

CLRC continues to offer member library staff professional development grants to attend classes, new initiative grants for innovative projects and the new Crisis Response Technology Grant to help libraries get back on their feet during COVID.

<https://clrc.org/grants-awards/>



### Western New York Library Assistants (WNYLA)

**Pat Klaybor**, (WNYLRC), Liason to WNYLA Committee and **Naciah Bell**, (Senior Staff Assistant, University at Buffalo), Chair of WNYLA Committee

The Western New York Library Assistants Committee (WNYLA) presents workshops and networking events with the support of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) and is a standing committee of that council. Even though membership on the committee is only open to support staff, all our events are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

WNYLA usually holds one or two networking events that we call GTKY (Getting to Know You) a year and usually a workshop geared toward the interests of library assistants, staff and clerks. We do sometimes have a difficult time holding events and workshops since sometimes our numbers dwindle down to three or four members, but we do the best we can.

Our networking events for 2019 included a tour of the Albright Knox Art Gallery and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Richardson Olmsted Complex. This took place on June 25, 2019 and we had 19 people in attendance.

Our second GTKY took place on October 23, 2019. It was also a combination tour of the Buffalo Religious Arts Center and the Buffalo Inactive Records and Research Facility. We had 14 attendees.

Our activities for 2020 were nonexistent for the beginning of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were considering doing online tours and would have if things didn't begin to re-open. Online, of course, is really not the same as seeing, touching and admiring in person along with being able to network with colleagues. Some venues we are considering for fall tours are the Karpeles Museum and the Herschell Carrousel Museum. Our plan is also to have a Zoom webinar on climate change.

## Regional Reports continued:

### LASSA (NYC)

**Anthony Wyche**

During our 2019 - 2020 LASSA Regional year, we saw the departure of our two long standing LASSA committee members – both served as previous Conveners - **Rita Gregory** and **Mildred Graham**. They will be missed, and we wish them the absolute best with their current activities!

Our group continued to schedule meetings using MeetUp, which encouraged and obtained new membership. We also continued to work closely with Davis Erin Anderson, Assistant Director for Programs and Partnerships at METRO, keeping her informed of our group’s progress and goals. Some of our meetings were scheduled at METRO’s headquarters at 599 11th Avenue, New York City.

In November 2019, we held our annual food drive. In lieu of food items, a monetary donation was made to the “Feed the Community” event, sponsored by the Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

In December 2019, we held our annual toy drive (picture attachment included). Our donated toys were made to the Little Rock Baptist Church. Our theme for our 2020 LAD (Library Assistants’ Day) celebration was “Finding Your Place at the Library - Library Support Staff and Their Contributions.”

We secured Terrance Neal, VP for the NY Public Library’s Human Resources Department, as our keynote speaker. Our scheduled workshops included: “Health & Wellness,” “Dealing with Conflict,” “Social Security/Retirement,” “Financial Planning,” “Student Debt,” “Active Shooter,” and “Gender Diversity in the Workplace.”

Unfortunately, during March 2020, LASSA and the world was affected by the COVID19 pandemic, which took many lives. METRO shut down their office, all public events were canceled, and non-essential employees ceased to report to work on-site.

Our June 2020 monthly LASSA meetings were conducted via ZOOM. We discussed ways on how to move our group forward (possible virtual workshops) within society’s “new normal.”

LASSA-NYC Committee Titles:

**Valentin Colon** – Convener

**Cheryl Marriott** – Convener

**Sarah Davis** – Technology Coordinator

**Maxine Grandison** – MAL

**Deborah Green** – MAL

**Nina Manning** – Outreach Coordinator

**Christine Morrison** – MAL

**Arlene Quammie** – Secretary

**Nancy Rettagliata** – Treasurer

**Angela Reyes** – MAL

**Pamela Van Suyne** – Corporate/Vendor Donations

**Anthony Wyche** – Meetings & Event Coordinator

MAL=Member-at-Large



## End of Submitted Regional Reports



## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership renewals for 2020 are off to a slow start. Understandable in lieu of our current situation. We have 153 members who have renewed and six of our members are new.

Reminders were sent out via snail mail in May. Again, I am able to pick up mail twice weekly, so you can still mail your renewal to my campus address as usual. You can also renew via NYSLAA.org using the tools and resources tab on the right and following the directions. If you renew using this method you do not need to send a membership form. I would just need to know if any of your information has changed. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are also mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

If you've renewed and haven't received your membership card/letter electronically it will go out shortly. Please let me know if you've renewed and haven't received your membership confirmation.

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 information.

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).



## NYSLAA Elections

Dawn Foland 2020 Elections Chair



Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for officers. This October we will hold elections for **Vice President**, **Recording Secretary**, **Membership Secretary** and **Conference Coordinator**. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

Nominations need to be submitted by September 30, 2020. Each nomination needs to contain the signed acceptance form, which is with the nomination form located on our website, [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org), and a biography has to be included in the ballot. You can also find the duties for each of these positions in the bylaws on the NYSLAA website.

Please send your nominations to:

**Dawn Foland**

NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary

SUNY Cobleskill

Van Wagenen Library

142 Schenectady Avenue

Cobleskill, NY 12043

or submit electronically to:

[FolandDE@cobleskill.edu](mailto:FolandDE@cobleskill.edu)

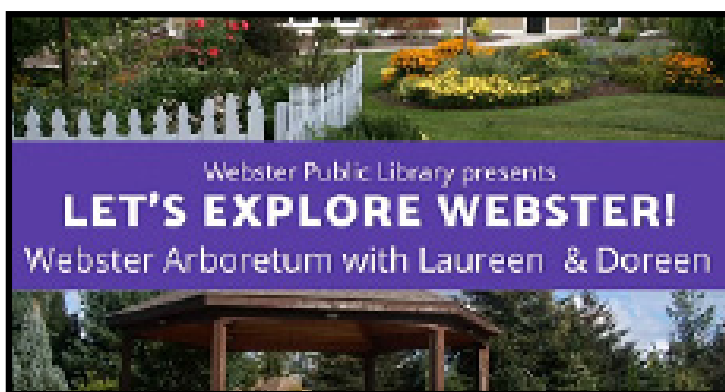
*We are also in need of a Treasurer as Carrie Goetz has stepped down.*

*Michele Matthews will be stepping down by the end of the year as Coordinator of the Review Board for the Certificate of Achievement Program.*



## Let's Explore Webster! Video Series on YouTube Laureen Anthony-Palmer

I am a member of the Adult Programming Committee at Webster Public Library. When the library closed and we realized that we wouldn't be offering in-person programs for quite a while, we started to discuss various options. We looked to see what other public libraries were offering for adults, and of course learned about using Zoom as that is how we were meeting. We scheduled a few Zoom presentations, but then started talking about creating videos that we could post. The library already had a YouTube channel that the Children's Department staff posted storytimes and craft videos on. We decided that we could film short book reviews and "how-to" library-related videos. For most of us, this was our first time videotaping ourselves. I suggested we start filming a series that would feature places of interest in our community. The "Let's Explore Webster!" video series was born! There is usually two staff who go out together and film using their phones and maybe a tripod – nothing expensive or fancy! It has been enjoyable and our community has responded positively. Take a peek at our videos on the Webster Public Library YouTube channel!  
[youtube.com/user/WebsterPublicLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/user/WebsterPublicLibrary)



## From the Spanish Flu to Covid-19 in Libraries Tammy Southard

Check out the article posted in the New England Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine back in October 2019 <https://news.nlm.gov/ner/2019/10/02/a-librarian-can-help-in-a-crisis>. It discusses the differences in how libraries during the Spanish Flu struggled with closures and dramatic drops in circulation versus the technological resources available from libraries today. This was written before the Covid-19 pandemic but lists resources relevant to today. Also cited in the article is a reference to Nora Quinlan's article *In Flew Enza* that is available on Jstor. She states, "When the flu pandemic hit, many libraries imposed limited access in response to quarantine orders. Across the country, circulation statistics dropped an average of 10%. Libraries already strapped by staff enlistments saw employees sickened, work time lost, and even the death of staff. Library buildings were utilized for projects for related to combating the pandemic, including meeting space and work areas for volunteers."

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have seen our libraries closed with no access to print materials, but library services and resources available online. The challenge now is to safely open with access to materials as well as the enormous task of providing many services online for students, faculty and patrons.

