

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Jan.-Mar. 2007 Vol.19, no.1

“...Chance has put in our way a most singular and whimsical problem, and its solution is its own reward.”

Sherlock Holmes- The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

...And what a reward we will all receive by attending the 2007 NYSLAA Annual Conference

**June 6th, 7th & 8th
Norwich, NY!**

Whodunnit? We Did!

Library Assistants - Magnifying our Accomplishments!

Karen Leight

Singularly we all have had celebrated *some* accomplishments. And collectively, with NYSLAA, we've climbed stairs, climbed hills, soared high, put down roots, celebrated a 25th Anniversary, considered proposals (ALA), and even given birth (to the Certificate of Achievement Program) *and the list can go on and on!*

You will find in your upcoming program brochure that we have 32 scheduled workshops, some adding to our ever growing computer, database, and library knowledge, or unwinding with crafting, leisure and hobby workshops.

But as for anything else we shan't give you another *clue!* What we can say is that you are coming to central NY! When you arrive Wednesday, you may stroll our quaint and quiet city streets on one of our two architectural tours of some of the old original homes in Norwich. Or, you can visit our three featured points of interest including our renowned Classic Car Museum! Finish up the day by relaxing at the mixer in the Howard Johnson ballroom.



Now don't let the words "city" fool you- we are just rural enough for you to think 'Cows' (after all we are 'Guernsey' Memorial Library!) and our central location, in the heart of NY State in Chenango County, means easy access from all points of the state!

So...“Come at once if convenient, if inconvenient come all the same!”

Sherlock Holmes-The Adventure of the Creeping Man

Let's take this advice and make haste! Come and join us this year as we all reflect on what we have learned, how we have grown and what we have accomplished within our association!

INSIDE: Annual Reports—Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees...Call for nominations for the Craig Koste and Ray Murray Awards...Message from CAP...Virginia Conference Announcement...Membership Update

2006 Annual Reports

NYSLAA President's Report

Serving as NYSLAA President has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have learned how a statewide organization is run. I have been able to attend every Executive Council meeting this year and work with Council members to assure the continued growth of NYSLAA. Along with setting the meetings, preparing an agenda and running the Executive Council meetings, I also collect annual reports from each Council member and Committee chair.

NYSLAA had a very successful year. The biggest achievement this year financially was to settle matters with the IRS concerning tax penalties. Ruth Oberg worked tirelessly on behalf of the organization to secure a sound financial footing for NYSLAA. Ruth and our new accountant have cleared all monies owed to the IRS and set up guidelines to keep our treasury up to date on our tax filing status.

Our Annual Conference held at St. John's in New York was an outstanding success. Thank you to Louie Smith-Jones and her incredible planning committee for putting on a fantastic Conference. The workshops were first rate and our dinner at the Bourne Mansion was a blast.

The Executive Council took up the matter of changing the year in which the Vice President is elected. This issue had come up before, but was never sent to the membership for a vote. By an overwhelming majority the by-law was passed. The Vice President is now elected in odd years, instead of even years.

Heidi Jensen, our Public Relations chair, suggested that NYSLAA have a handout detailing what the organization is about and the benefits of becoming a member. I'm happy to report that the Executive Council, with Heidi's assistance, developed a tri-fold that is ideal to present to prospective members at workshops, conferences, etc.

NYSLAA has been working on a new web site during the last year. Hopefully, it will be up and running in the next couple of months. The new look and feel will be fresh and exciting. There will be more information available and we will be able to update the site more easily.

The NYSLAA scholarship programs have been reinstated this year (applications are at nyslaa.org). We would like to see our members take advantage of this opportunity.

A new year is beginning, let's hope for another year that is successful for NYSLAA and will bring new opportunities for library assistants across the state.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Piper, President

NYSLAA Vice President's Report

This office was vacant for 2006 and there is no report.

Treasurer

The Treasurer's Annual Report is not intended for viewing on the world wide web. 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 Burnett, Treasurer

NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary's Report

As I have reported in previous annual reports, it is exciting to watch NYSLAA's growth, over the years, and an honor to be apart of this great organization.

As Corresponding Secretary, I have the pleasure of notifying the winners and runners-up, from the membership, who were chosen to receive free registrations to the New York, New Jersey and Virginia Conferences. If you wish to be entered in the drawings mark the appropriate spaces on your NYSLAA membership application. I'm sure past recipients would tell you what a great opportunity it is to attend these conferences to learn, share, and network with other libraries.

I also had the privilege of notifying the 2006 winners of the NYSLAA Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service and the Ray Murray Award.

Serving on the NYSLAA Executive Council has given me the opportunity to meet people, travel, learn and experience what a dedicated membership can accomplish together. Please consider becoming an officer it's a rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Hallahan, Corresponding Secretary

NYSLAA Recording Secretary's Report

It is my responsibility and pleasure to record the Minutes for the NYSLAA Executive Council meetings and to edit and publish the NYSLAA newsletter *Network Connection*. I have enjoyed working with the other members of the Executive Council in decision making and then recording and bringing it to the membership. This year has been an active year and we have seen several changes that will make a positive effect on our organization.

Starting in 2007, we will send the January/March *Network Connection* to all members of the past year. This will ensure that all members get the Annual Reports of the year in which they had a paid membership. I am also planning to reach out to the membership for more assistance in gathering information to be published in the newsletter. The Executive Council has also decided to start putting the current newsletter on the webpage as soon as it has been mailed to the membership. This change will go into effect as soon as the new webpage is up and running.

I look forward to serving this organization for another two years and would appreciate and welcome any suggestions you might have. A special thanks to Donna Hanna and Ruth Oberg for their proofreading, publishing, and mailing assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Coleen Hopkins, Recording Secretary

NYSLAA Membership Secretary's Report

The 2006 membership year ended with 436 members. Years with our organization for members are: 29 seventeen-year, 12 sixteen-year, 11 fifteen-year, 8 fourteen-year, 18 thirteen-year, 17 twelve-year, 22 eleven-year, 32 ten-year, 20 nine-year, 15 eight-year, 28 seven-year, 25 six-year, 26 five-year, 22 four-year, 33 three-year, 41 two-year and 77 of our members were new. Associate status is held by 46 of our members.

The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council -- 19 (24, 24, 25, 21, 20)
 - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council -- 49 (48, 53, 52, 58, 56)
 - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council -- 42 (36, 36, 38, 33, 32)
 - (4) NY Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency -- 75 (54, 32, 43, 63, 94)
 - (5) Northern Country Library Council -- 25 (29, 27, 31, 28, 28)
 - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council -- 101 (128, 121, 93, 96, 109)
 - (7) South Central Research Library Council -- 53 (77, 61, 72, 90, 87)
 - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council -- 24 (24, 30, 36, 43, 48)
 - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council -- 35 (42, 40, 50, 46, 50)
- Out of state members -- 13 (10, 8, 9, 10, 14)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, & 2001 totals.*

The 2006 conference was held at St. John's University in Queens, NY. This aided in the increase in the membership for Region 4, with slight increases in Regions 2 and 3. We also had a slight increase in out of state memberships, partly due to retirements. Region 8 held steady, but all other regional numbers showed a decline in membership.

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

- College and University -- 130 (146, 133, 152, 153, 166)
- Public -- 193 (213, 199, 189, 206, 237)
- Law -- 40 (37, 31, 28, 30, 30)
- Medical -- 12 (10, 8, 12, 20, 21)
- Junior College -- 19 (22, 18, 19, 27, 31)
- Special -- 16 (13, 13, 11, 16, 16, 19)
- School -- 11 (11, 15, 19, 23, 21)
- Non-library -- 15 (20, 14, 14, 13, 14)
- Religious -- 0 (0, 2)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002 & 2001 totals.*

These numbers show a comparison over the last 6 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 2006 Directory will be mailed to members along with the 2007 conference brochures, membership letters/cards, newsletters and renewal reminders where applicable. I would like to thank Heidi Jensen, Pioneer Library System; Kathy Martel, Rochester Public Library; Sheila Hallahan, Horseheads Free Library, Joy Piper and Ruth Oberg, both from University at Buffalo 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 2006 conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

NYSLAA Ambassador's Report

PROGRESS

Movement towards a goal. **Development** unfolding. Steady **improvement**. That is how I found 2006 when **Progress** was made in small steps by support staff.

The work that you and I continue to put into each committee we work on has contributed to the progress made on a local, state, and national level. If not for your work and my involvement with NYSLAA as Ambassador there would not be an ALA component. The fact that support staff were offered tracks at the ALA Empowerment Conference is progress. In the past, ALA didn't even include support staff in any of its brochures now there is a definite inclusiveness - that's progress.

The fact that we are taken as serious members of the library field - that's progress. The fact that ALA is considering a national certification program is progress. Seems like 2006 was a pretty good year and the start of an even better 2007!

Our involvement with the local and state organizations has led us down the path to the ALA contributions that we have made on a national level. There may not have been much physical movement with speaking engagements but that didn't mean that progress wasn't being made.

We fight everyday, maybe even unaware that we are doing it, on a state level for salary equity, equality and education. That's where we start and then we move to a national level, always keeping in mind our contributions to the library community. We believe in ourselves and each other. That's important.

Although progress has been made, there is still much work to do. Last year there wasn't much said about National Certification. We are moving in that direction for 2007.

Can support staff work towards their own empowerment? Sure. You do that everyday. How can we do that? Maybe by joining local state groups like NYSLAA. Maybe by contributing to the NYSLAA listserv, maybe by keeping abreast of national certification efforts. What steps do you take toward your own personal goals?

Last year I wrote and I must repeat again - Do you remember your mission and goals? You can only meet those goals and visions if you accept each other and work together for a brighter future, not just for yourself but also for everyone working in libraries. What we do today will impact our future.

Working together means building relationships. It means looking at accepting change and asking yourself how you view each other. What impact are you, and will you make for your library for your life. For most of us our libraries are a very important piece of our life.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Morgan, NYSLAA Ambassador

Certificate of Achievement Coordinator's Report

Current committee members are Michele Matthews, Coordinator, Jane McManus and Scott Goodman. Tracey LaBarge resigned in June, 2006 and Dayna Cole resigned in December, 2006. In May 2006 the CAP Review Board consisting of Tracey LaBarge, Coordinator; Michele Matthews, Jane McManus and Dayna Cole met in Albany at the Capital District Library Council to review packets. Five packets were received and all were approved for certificates. They were:

Vicki Button	Level IV in Technical Services
Dayna Cole	Level IV in Public Services
Pamela Gilbert	Level IV in Administration/Management
W. Scott Goodman	Level IV in Technical Services
Pamela Rogers	Level IV in Technical Services

The certificates were awarded at NYSLAA's Annual Conference at St. John's University.

The CAP Review Board presented the Certificate of Achievement Workshop at the NYSLAA Annual Conference with sixteen people attending. Jane McManus represented the Review Board at the semi-annual meeting with the Executive Council held at the Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool, NY.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele A. Matthews, Review Board Coordinator

NYSLAA Conference Coordinator's Report

In early 2006, I continued the conference planning that was started in 2005 with Louie Smith-Jones and her committee from the Library Assistants, Support Staff and Associates (LASSA) Special Interest Group of the Metropolitan NY Library Council (METRO). The conference was held June 7-9 at St. John's University. The conference received very good reviews on the evaluation forms. We enjoyed a lovely evening held at the Bourne Mansion on Long Island. There was a very nice selection of workshops offered. The inspiring keynote address was given by LaRoi Lawton. The conference was a success.

The 2007 conference will be held in Norwich, NY. We will be staying at the Howard Johnson's with workshops being held at Morrisville State College. Planning began with a site visit in August by several Executive Council members and me. I made another visit in November and met with Scott Goodman and Karen Leight to continue planning.

I am looking for a host for 2008. Syracuse and Niagara Falls have been mentioned as possibilities. I am always open to other offers or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted
Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator

Public Relations Chairperson's Report

In early 2006, I started to make arrangements with the office of Assemblywoman Sandra Galef to have Thursday, April 6, 2006 proclaimed as New York State Library Assistants' Day. This was completed on April 6th. Thank you for everyone who helped to make this proclamation a success. As Library Assistants, we should all be proud of the hard work that we do each and every day. In the April – June 2006 Network Connections, I wrote an article about different events that took place across New York State to celebrate this special day.

In June, I had the honor of presenting the annual Craig Koste award to Karen Ricketson of the Plattsburgh Public Library and the Ray Murray award to The Metropolitan New York Library Council. I also presented the 5, 10 and 15 year membership awards.

Throughout the year, I have been working with the Executive Council on different marketing ideas. One of the ideas was to create a tri-fold brochure that contains information about NYSLAA. This brochure has been completed and is available for anyone to use to promote NYSLAA. If you are having a workshop or a different event for library assistants and would like to hand out information, please contact me.

I have talked in the past about having NYSLAA merchandise available for members to purchase, I hope to have these items available for 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Jensen, Public Relations Chairperson

A Message from the CAP Review Board

Michele Matthews

The Review Board wants to let our members know that we are available to answer any questions about the Certificate of Achievement. We would like to offer our help with the completion of their certificate packet. Please feel free to contact us. The board currently has only three members: Jane McManus (jmcmamus@mcls.rochester.lib.ny.us), Scott Goodman (no.officeman@4cls.org), and Michele Matthews (prendm@rpi.edu). Each of us, as well as any NYSLAA member who has received their certificate would be willing to help or mentor you as you strive to complete your paperwork. We will be accepting packets until May 15, 2007.

Virginia Conference

Exploring New Worlds of Library Service

May 20-22, 2007

Holiday Inn Select/Koger South Conference Center, Richmond, VA
Watch for information coming soon at www.vla.org/ParaPro/index.htm

Marie Carter	(434) 924-3081	fhc@virginia.edu
Carole Copeland Lohman	(434) 924-7039	cc15u@virginia.edu

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.

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.

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

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, 2007**. If you have any questions, please contact Joy. Awards will be presented at the 2007 Conference in Norwich.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2006 closed at 437. So far we have 104 members that have renewed including six new members! Please take a minute to renew your membership if you have not done so. 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 don’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.

If you have a question regarding your membership or if you need a letter verifying your years of NYSLAA membership for CAP please let me know.

Welcome New Members!

Corrie Anderson	Jamestown Community College, Hultquist Library
Mary Anne Huber	Guernsey Memorial Library
Sharon McGreevy	Pawling Free Library
Carrie Oberg	University at Buffalo, Library Annex
Leslie Potter	Horseheads Free Library
Patricia Spencer	Guernsey Memorial Library