

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Library Assistants Salt of the Earth

Sue Garavelli

The 2008 New York State Library Assistants' Association's (NYSLAA) 30th Annual Conference will be hosted by the staff of Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool N.Y. We are excited to be welcoming Library Assistants from libraries all across New York State.



Nationally-known and regional speakers will present workshops covering a wide variety of topics for both professional and personal growth, including: computer skills, environmental and financial issues, healthy lifestyles, and long distance learning.

We will be offering an excursion to the Turning Stone Casino, and a guided tram tour explaining the history of Onondaga Lake. Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois will also offer a tour of the area where a French Mission once stood on the shores of Onondaga Lake. Please notice the reference to the local salt industry in

our conference logo. Photos in this issue are postcards from the area courtesy www.rootsweb.com.

Visit the Village of Liverpool, a delightful community on the north shore of Onondaga Lake with unique shops, spectacular restaurants and lovely lakeshore trails. This is the home of Liverpool Public Library which serves a community of 52,000 people.

Carousel Mall, only 3 miles away, is available for your shopping convenience and take a look at the model of the Destiny USA project featured inside the Carousel Mall.

We are looking forward to being your hosts June 4-6, 2008.



INSIDE: Annual Reports...Quest for a Webmaster...Membership Update...Membership Application.

2007 ANNUAL REPORTS

NYSLAA President

This is my second year serving as NYSLAA President and it has been an educational and enriching experience for me. Working with Executive Council members to assure the continued growth of NYSLAA has been a challenge well worth taking. 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 2006 Conference, mention was made of updating the NYSLAA Website. Ruth and Dean Oberg completed work on this amazing transformation in February. Our new website is fresh, contemporary and easier to navigate.

Since the NYSLAA treasury is now in much better financial shape we were able to purchase a Certificate of Deposit which will continue to grow in monetary value. Along with our improved finances we reinstated travel and lodging expenses. Dorothy Morgan, our tireless NYSLAA Ambassador, has not requested any reimbursement for her expenses. The Executive Council passed a motion to purchase a gift card as a token of our appreciation. Dorothy has been the “face of NYSLAA” for many years, representing us across the nation.

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

Vice President

The office went through some changes just prior to my taking office. The previous Vice President was unable to fulfill her term and it was vacant for the first year of the term. For the past 10 years the President and Vice Presidential terms were for the same 2-year period. It was decided by the Executive Council (EC) to change the VP term to run opposite the Presidential term. It was thought that staggering the terms would be better so both the officers would not be brand new. The membership voted on the bylaw change and we asked for nominations for the new VP. No one was nominated so on the last day that nominations could be submitted, the EC asked me to accept an appointment as VP.

As Vice President I attended every EC meeting during 2007, I participated in discussions and helped where I could. The archives were transferred to me. With the help of a volunteer, they were totally gone through, organized and inventoried. Many duplicate items were deleted and decisions regarding retention were made at an EC meeting. The treasury archive was merged into the regular archives. Older bank statements and checks were shredded after conferring with the accountant. Requests were made for missing items and the EC was able to fill all requests. The archives should be in good shape now. It is my hope that by the end of 2008, someone new will step up and take on this role. Attending meetings, helping with the conference, and filing the archives are the only specific duties. But the reward of working with this organization and the members of the Executive Council is priceless. Please consider running.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth V. Oberg, Vice President

Membership Secretary

The 2007 membership year ended with 439 members. Years with our organization for members are: 26 eighteen-year, 13 seventeen-year, 9 sixteen-year, 8 fifteen-year, 17 fourteen-year, 16 thirteen-year, 20 twelve-year, 33 eleven-year, 20 ten-year, 15 nine-year, 25 eight-year, 23 seven-year, 24 six-year, 21 five-year, 28 four-year, 35 three-year, 34 two-year and 72 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- -- 20 (19, 24, 24, 25, 21)
 - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council- -- 49 (49, 48, 53, 52, 58)
 - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council- -- 33 (42, 36, 36, 38, 33, 32)
 - (4) New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency- -- 84 (75, 54, 32, 43, 63)
 - (5) Northern Country Library Council- -- 20 (25, 29, 27, 31, 28)
 - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council- -- 91 (101, 128, 121, 93, 96)
 - (7) South Central Research Library Council- -- 66 (53, 77, 61, 72, 90)
 - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council- -- 30 (24, 24, 30, 36, 43)
 - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council- -- 34 (35, 42, 40, 50, 46)
- Out of state members- - 12 (13, 10, 8, 9, 10)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002 totals.*

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

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

- College and University- 128 (130, 146, 133, 152, 153)
Public- 197 (193, 213, 199, 189, 206)
Law- 41 (40, 37, 31, 28, 30)
Medical- 11 (12, 10, 8, 12, 20)
Junior College- 26 (19, 22, 18, 19, 27)
Special- 6 (16, 13, 13, 11, 16, 16)
School- 10 (11, 11, 15, 19, 23)
Non-library- 20 (15, 20, 14, 14, 13)
Religious- 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002 totals.*

These numbers show a comparison over the last 7 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 2007 Directory will be mailed to members along with the 2008 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; 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 2007 conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

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 M. Burnett, Treasurer

Corresponding Secretary

It is part of the responsibility and pleasure of the Corresponding Secretary to notify 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 experience it is to attend these conferences.

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

Serving on the NYSLAA Executive Council gives you the opportunity to meet people, travel, learn and experience what a dedicated membership can accomplish together. Please consider becoming an officer in your organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Hallahan, Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary

This is my fourth Annual Report and I enjoy being a part of this very active group more each year. My responsibilities to NYSLAA are: attending the Executive Council Meetings and recording the Minutes as well as being a part of the decision making for NYSLAA. The Minutes now include regular meeting minutes and the minutes for discussion and decisions the Executive Council makes via email. After compiling the Minutes, I circulate them to the rest of the Executive Council.

Editing, publishing and distributing the NYSLAA Newsletter *Network Connection*, is also my duty, along with the Newsletter Committee of Donna Hanna and Ruth Oberg. In 2008 I am looking forward to more photography in the Newsletter, with the hope that we can all get to know each other a little more.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen L. Hopkins, Recording Secretary

Ambassador

A year has already come and gone. Like everyone else I've been busy pushing my agenda for library support staff. Interestingly enough it's opened doors not only in New York State but also across avenues and intersections everywhere. The saying goes: "be careful what you ask for..." In my case I never stop asking!

In an effort to show the dynamic driving force of library support and show the connection, cooperation, and collaboration that support staff have to offer, I've been working on three issues: certification for library support staff, the Empowerment Conference, and the 30th Annual NYSLAA Conference being held in Liverpool, NY, June 4-6, 2008.

- ***National Certification***

My hope is that all these issues will help to identify support staff making efforts locally and nationally to further the enhancement of library workers in all types of libraries and across boundaries everywhere. Let me first share some highlights from the Minutes of a meeting that took place in Philadelphia during ALA's Midwinter Conference on *Certification*.

In June 2007, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded the American Library Association a three-year \$407,000 grant to pursue development of a Library Support Staff Certification Program (LSSCP). The project addresses the Library Support Staff community's need for a national certification program to help the profession standardize expectations for LSS; help support staff master critical job competencies; provide educators with guidance for training curricula; and help employers articulate job requirements.

- ***The Empowerment Conference.***

The *Empowerment Conference* in Anaheim, CA is **THE** national event for support staff in libraries! Take a look at some of the great programs on work-life balance, ergonomics, handling difficult people, workplace safety, and customer service specifically designed for library support staff. Wow, the keynote address features the professionals from Disney sharing their secrets of great customer service! In addition, there's a lunch and a breakfast included!

With about 250 participants, the *Empowerment Conference* provides the opportunity for individuals to network with other library staff in similar positions.

Explore the world's largest library vendor showcase with more than 900 exhibitors! With everything from books to databases, integrated library systems to library security, and architects to furniture suppliers, there is something for everyone to see!

Where else can you get a great deal like this one? For \$200 (non-ALA member early bird rate),

Better yet, *Empower Yourself in ALA!* Join ALA and LSSIRT (Library Support Staff Round Table) for \$52 and save \$23. That's an 11.5% savings over the ALA non-member rate!

- ***NYSLAA 30th Annual Conference***

All I ask is that you come and see me in Liverpool in June. Be prepared to take home memories you won't forget. Let's make this the best conference ever!

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Ambassador!

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Morgan, Ambassador

Certificate of Achievement

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

Eileen Lemley was approved by the Executive Council in June of 2007. She is an Information Processing Specialist I at the Schenectady County Community College Library.

In May of 2007 the CAP committee met at Guernsey Memorial Library to review packets. Two packets were received and all were approved for certificates. They were:

Heidi Jensen - Level IV in Administration/Management

Brian Doliver - Level IV in General Library Services

The certificates were awarded at NYSLAA's annual conference.

The CAP Review Board presented the Certificate of Achievement Workshop at the NYSLAA Annual Conference. Eleven people attended.

The Review Board has tried several times during the course of 2007 to retrieve the CAP archives from Dayna Cole in Plattsburg. If anyone is traveling in that area or could offer any help please contact one of us. Jane McManus was the only Review Board member able to meet with Executive Council in October. In November of 2007 the CAP Review Board met at Guernsey Memorial Library and reviewed two packets. Both were approved for certificates and want to receive them at NYSLAA's conference.

They are: LaVerne Sankey - Level IV in Public Services
Sheila Tshudy - Level IV in Technical Services.

At our meeting in November the Review Board began a discussion about possibly adding a Level V certificate. The discussion is in the very early stages. We are in the process of editing the guidelines for the NYSLAA website.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele A. Matthews, Review Board Coordinator

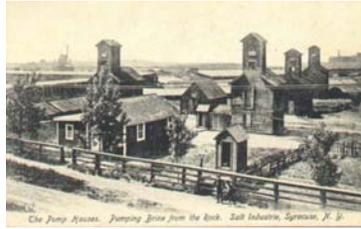
Conference Coordinator

The first half of 2007 was spent working on the conference planning that was started in 2006 with Scott Goodman and Karen Leight and their committee from the Guernsey Public Library. The 2007 conference was held in Norwich, NY. We stayed at the Howard Johnson's and the workshops were held at Morrisville State College. We enjoyed a Murder Mystery dinner where many of the committee, including myself, played the suspects. There was a very nice selection of workshops to choose from. The keynote address was given by Judith Wright, to whom we wished we could have given more time. The conference received very good reviews on the evaluation forms and it appears the conference was a success due mostly to the hard work of Scott and Karen. A large thank you goes to them.

In the second half of 2007 I began the planning for the 2008 conference with the Liverpool Library committee chaired by Sue Garavelli. I made a site visit in August with the Executive Council. A regular Executive Council meeting was held in Liverpool in November to meet with the committee again and to continue going over more conference details.

Carol Reppard from Troy Public Library approached me about hosting for 2009. We may be traveling to Sage College in Troy. It is never too early to put in a bid for 2010! I am always open to offers.

Respectfully submitted
Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator



Public Relations

In early 2007, I started to make arrangements with the office of Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington to have Thursday, April 19, 2007 proclaimed as New York State Library Assistants' Day. This was completed on April 5th. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this proclamation a success. I wrote a message NYSLAA-L reminding everyone about NYS Library Assistants' Day. I invited everyone to share their celebration on the listserv. We heard from many different libraries across the state. They were celebrating in many ways, some of which included, cake, cheese & crackers, luncheon's, gifts of appreciation. A special celebration was held in Norwich where the City of Norwich signed its own proclamation for the day.

In June, at the 29th annual conference, I had the honor of presenting the annual Craig Koste Award to Rita Gregory of Cohen Library, City College of New York and Jane McManus of the Rochester Public Library, Winton Branch. The Ray Murray Award went to Elly Dawson, Newark Public Library. I also presented the 5, 10 and 15 year membership awards.

This year for the annual conference, I asked the regional representatives to provide a written report of events that have taken place in their region. These reports were assembled in one packet and were handed out to each conference attendee.

Throughout the year I have been working with the Executive Council on different marketing ideas. I hope 2008 will provide NYSLAA with new members and new ideas for helping our great organization grow.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Jensen



Quest for Webmaster

Joy Piper

NYSLAA debuted a new version of its website last year (nyslaa.org). It has an exciting new look thanks to the hard work of Ruth and Dean Oberg. A webmaster is needed to keep the website fresh and up to date. The skills required to maintain our website include: Java Script, Cascading Style Sheets and HTML. I would love to see more photos included, especially of our past conferences. Taking an active part in NYSLAA will be rewarding and an excellent addition your resume. The updating would include items submitted by the Executive Council, posting newsletters, upcoming events, etc. The time commitment will be quite manageable. If you posses the skills needed and would like to volunteer some of your time, please contact: Joy Piper, jpiper@buffalo.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, 2008. If you have any questions, please contact Joy. Awards will be presented at the 2008 Conference in Liverpool.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership for 2007 closed at 439. So far we have 89 members that have renewed including seven 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. Jacalyn C. Spoon, MLS of Cornell is the manager of the list and reports that there are just 264 people signed up on the listserv. 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 years of NYSLAA membership for the Certificate of Achievement Program please let me know.

Welcome New Members!

Cindy Costa - Wadsworth Library-Geneseo, NY

Susan Flick - Geneva Public Library

Katherine Lee - Guernsey Memorial Library-Norwich, NY

Jean Olsen - Brooklyn Public Library, Park Scope Branch-Literacy Program

Tiffani Pearson - Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library

Jenna Winkler - Toronto Public Library, North York Central Library- Toronto, Ontario, Canada