

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Things You Need to Know for the 2009 NYSLAA Annual Conference in Troy, NY

PARKING: The City of Troy's Parking Regulations apply to ALL ON-STREET PARKING!



Conference attendees are to use the large parking lot between River Street, Liberty Street, First Street (1st Street on the map), and Division Street. Access is from Liberty or Division Streets. This is also where ALL BUSES should park unless they have made other arrangements. ***Please note the ONE-WAY streets on the map.***

For directions to Russell Sage College, please go to: <http://www.sage.edu/aboutsage/contact/>. Scroll down to the second map that contains the text box, 51 1st Street, Troy, NY 12180. Click on "To here" and fill in the address you will be coming from.

The Executive Council is striving to make NYSLAA as "Earth-Friendly" as possible and keep our expenses in check. For the first time, Donna Hanna is sending confirmations electronically to anyone who has listed an email address on their Membership Form or Conference Registration. If you have any problems opening them, please notify Donna at hanna@geneseo.edu. Your paper copy will be included in your registration packet when you arrive at the conference. Please look it over carefully and verify that all the information is as you requested. If you renewed your membership with your conference registration or around the same time, your membership card and letter will be included in your registration

packet along with your other conference material unless you are on Local or LAND delivery accessible from Geneseo.

Would you like to sign up for a NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement one-to-one consultation while you are at the conference? If so, please contact Scott Goodman at (607) 334-4034 or email him at no.scott@4cls.org.

The Capital Area Library Assistants are carrying on the ever popular lottery tree tradition. Bring a New York State Lottery scratch off ticket to put on the tree. More



tickets mean more fun and more potential for a big win! Ticket donors will receive one raffle ticket for each dollar value of the lottery ticket they donated.

Don't forget...if you purchased a NYSLAA permanent Name Badge Holder last year, bring it with you and please return the one in your packet to the Registration Table. If you would like to purchase one they will be available at the Registration Table for \$3.00

INSIDE: Regional Reports...Lobby Day...Library Assistants' Day...CAP Update...Membership Update

DRASTIC FUNDING CUTS FOR NEW YORK LIBRARIES

Ove Overmyer, NYSLAA Member
President, CSEA City of Rochester Library Workers 7420

NYSLAA 2009-2010 Legislative Update

April 20, 2009 -- The New York Library Association (NYLA) sponsored the annual Library Lobby Day on March 10 this year, which brought over 1,000 librarians, library assistants, trustees and patrons to Albany to ask the Legislature to restore the Governor's proposed \$18 million or 18% cut in Library Aid.

The event started with a Legislative Breakfast Reception for legislators and library leaders. At the early morning breakfast reception, 87 legislators had their photos taken for the very popular READ posters, which legislators can send to the libraries in their districts to promote the Statewide Summer Reading program.



Rochester area library supporters including Ove Overmyer(second from right) at the office of Senator Joe Robach (third from right), R-56th District on Lobby Day

Library advocates then met with legislators and their staffs in their offices, where they delivered the message that library funding should be a priority for restoration. The day culminated with a Library Rally at which State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Assembly member Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee, member and long-time library champion, Senator Hugh Farley all spoke in favor of restoring Library Aid.

Assembly member Amy Paulin, said, "We have been talking for years about the need for

increased advocacy, your advocacy today surpasses our highest expectations. Your loud voices mean so much in helping us restore the funding for our libraries around the state."

At the rally, Senator Oppenheimer said, "I can tell you that the Senate Democratic Conference met last night and we are going to restore the \$18 million cuts back into the budget."

Paulin also expressed support from the Assembly Majority. "There has been great support in the Assembly for full restoration for your services," said Paulin. "Together we will work to ensure libraries get what you need to ensure the important services you provide."

Senator Hugh Farley, a Republican, said, "There are thirty votes in my conference to restore the \$18 million. Libraries are non-partisan, it doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or Republican but you have to support libraries

Despite these lawmaker's good intentions, they could not convince their colleagues in the Assembly or Senate to restore the funding. The library community got wacked anyway.

Fortunately, the Legislature did restore some of the library aid that was slated to be cut by the Governor. **State funding for libraries and library systems equaled out to \$91.081 million for 2009-2010.** The Legislature restored \$10.581 million to the \$80.5 million originally proposed by the Governor.

The \$91 million is roughly an 8% reduction from last year's funding levels for each program, library system and library (including a roughly 8% reduction to the system supplementary aid). All library aid, including the "one-time" system supplementary aid program of \$8 million will be reduced by the same percentage to achieve the \$91 million funding level. **If funding were available for all of the formulas in the law, including the supplementary system aid, the total library aid for 2009-2010 would have been \$102 million.**

Public Library Construction Grants totaled \$14 million in Capital Funds for 2009-2010. The Governor and state legislature eliminated the \$800,000 annual public library construction grant program.

The state aid cuts this year primarily affect system services and central library budgets. Library Aid had already been reduced twice in 2008, dropping from \$102 million in 2007 to \$98.5 million at the end of 2008. Despite the partial restoration, and because of funding cuts, systems like the Monroe County Library System in the Rochester area has had to drop all its online database subscriptions except the

Democrat and Chronicle Newspaper, which all libraries receive through RRLC and NYS Regional Automation funding.

The library community was very disappointed that the state legislators did not restore full funding as promised at the NYLA Lobby Day Rally in March. **On top of this, mid-year cuts are again a possibility.** Library advocates are remaining vigilant. We are contacting our legislators to prevent future cuts. Library advocacy has become a year round operation.

The work begins today on getting full restoration of libraries mandated by public law.



Around the State...Regional Updates

Coleen Hopkins, NYSLAA Recording Secretary and *Network Connection* Editor

Regional Representatives should plan to present an oral report at the NYSLAA Annual Conference in Troy, NY, June 10-12, 2009 and it is helpful if you can provide a copy for me so I am able to listen to what is happening in your region, rather than trying to quickly take notes. If you are not attending the conference, please ask a member of your region to present it for you. We try to keep the Regional Representative list up-to-date, but occasionally are not notified when there is a change. Please forward this information to Ruth Mason at **no.libclerk1@4cls.org**.

I am always looking for information regarding the events in your library or your region. Let the membership know the terrific things you are doing. Contact me at **hopkinsc@geneseo.edu**.



Library Assistants' Day Celebrations

Posted by Joy Piper, President, on [nyslaa-1](#) on Library Assistants' Day:

Happy Library Assistants Day!

Today is the day we celebrate the work and accomplishments of library support staff that contribute to the smooth functioning of New York State Libraries. Library assistants are the roots that support all libraries.

NYSLAA wishes to thank Judy Sibio for her efforts in initiating this recognition and pursuing it as an annual day of honor

"NYS Assembly Resolution No.529...to proclaim April 15,1999 as New York Library Assistants' Day." The State has continued to recognize Library Assistant's Day during National Library Week.

Let the celebration begin!



Here at Ithaca College Library, our director paid for a lunch for all the library staff. Veggie sandwiches, raw vegetables and dip, chips, and a cake inscribed with "Happy National Library Week".



Our library flag (with the international library symbol on it) flew on the main quad's flag pole all week and each of the four service desks also gave out lollipops to patrons for the whole week. Lots of people walking around the library with sticks hanging out of their mouths!

Judith Andrew,
Ithaca College

Library Assistants at Plattsburgh Public Library were treated to a special luncheon by the Friends of The Library on Thursday the 16th. They had a variety of delicious salads and drinks for us to enjoy on our lunch hour. Dessert was provided by our Board of Directors. It is nice to be appreciated for all the work assistants do to keep a library going and this made it a special day for us here at Plattsburgh Public Library.



Mary Heffernan-
Library Clerk/Cataloging



I would like to publicly thank Ruth Oberg, Donna Hanna, Coleen Hopkins, and Judith Andrew for a wonderful presentation on the history of NYSLAA and the Certificate of Achievement Program at our first "Library Assistant's Day Celebration," at The Rakow Library. She did a terrific job and generated a lot of enthusiasm among participants!

SCRLC who was kind enough to work with us on this program has compiled the information from the evaluation forms and I'm pleased to say that the presentation scored mostly 'excellent' with a few 'very goods' across the board.

So thank you to Ruth, Donna, Coleen and Judith for making our workshop a success and for getting the word out!
(see picture on the next page)

Sheila Tshudy
Cataloging Specialist
The Rakow Library
The Corning Museum of Glass



Sheila Tshudy,
Our hostess for Library Assistants' Day



Judith Andrew
Presenting at The Rakow Library



Library Assistants' Day at Rakow Library



NYSLAA's display at Rakow Library



Certificate of Achievement

Scott Goodman, Coordinator, Guernsey Memorial Library

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board will be meeting on May 8, 2009, and as of this writing there are two packets that will be discussed. We, of course, would like to see more packets coming in. It is really something that can make you realize the accomplishments you have achieved over the years. We all do many things in life, but until we have everything in front of us we do not realize how great the accomplishments in life are.



Please take the time to start your packet. Any of the review board members will be more than happy to help. Perhaps there is someone in your library that has

a certificate that can help you. Once you start it will really make you feel better about yourself!

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board is pleased to announce that Dorothy Morgan, NYSLAA Ambassador from Liverpool Public Library is coming back on the Review Board. We would also like to welcome Sheila Tshudy, Rakow Library, Corning Museum of Glass and Karen Ricketson, Plattsburgh Public Library as new members of the Board. Thank you to the three of you and bring on those packets!!!

Pam Rogers of Southern Tier Library System says about her Certificate of Achievement, "I know I'm proud of mine!!!! I'd do it all over again!"

Membership Update

Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary

Membership for 2009 is at 316. Of the 316 there are 32 new members! Of course, this means there are still 144 members that need to renew from 2008 so please encourage your co-worker to get theirs sent in.

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. Other information such as job title, work phone etc. should be updated before December 1st of this year to insure accuracy in the directory.

Are you on NYSLAA-L? This is a great avenue to share 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.

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.



Welcome New Members!

Carrie Allmendinger - Sienna College, J. Spence & Patricia Standish Library
Shevawn Anderson - Queens Borough Public Library, Queens Library
Edgar Barbot - New York Public Library, Mid-manhattan Library
Leslee Barkley - Union College, Schaffer Library
Virginia Battista - SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, F. Franklin Moon Library
Linda Becker - SUNY Brockport, Drake Memorial Library
Michele Bintz - Voorheesville Central School District, Clayton A. Bouton High School Library
Margaret Borders - New York Public Library, Clason's Point
Marta Costello - Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library
Deanna Curren - Odessa-Montour Central School District, Odessa-Montour Middle/High School Library
Marlaine DesChamps - Union College, Schaffer Library
Constance Ebner - Baldwinsville Public Library
Debra Elliotto - Geneva Public Library
Stuart Finch - Chemung County Library District, Steele Memorial Library
Wendy Freier - Geneva Public Library
Brenda Gouvin - City University of New York, Mina Rees Library
Joan Gran - Sage Colleges, James Wheelock Clark Library
Kathy Koehler - Macedon Public Library
Tanya Koval - Sage Colleges, James Wheelock Clark Library
Pamela Lee - Southern Tier Library System
Gail Merian - Guernsey Memorial Library
Brett Murphy - Guernsey Memorial Library
Mae Niles - Massena Public Library
Barbara Orinski - Guernsey Memorial Library
Mary Phillipson - Arcade Free Library
Vicki Raphael - Guernsey Memorial Library
Rosdelia Redwood - Sage Colleges, James Wheelock Clark Library
Dianne Roosa - Sage Colleges, James Wheelock Clark Library
Barbara Ruland - SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill, Van Wagenen Library
Abigail Stambach - Sage Colleges, Albany Campus Library
Jacki Willoughby - New York Public Library, Interlibrary Loan Cooperative Services
Ling Zhang - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Richard Gilman Folsom Library