

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Jan.-Mar. 2010 Vol.22, no.1

Save the Date! June 9-11, 2010, Corning, NY

Tracy Savard, The Rakow Library Conference Committee Member

While enduring what seems to be one of the coldest winters in recent memory, no doubt many of us look longingly toward spring: the promise of warmer weather, the blossoming of flowers, and – of course – the Annual NYSLAA Conference! What we have in store for the 32nd annual conference is sure not to disappoint! Our conference planning committee has been working tirelessly to organize an informative, current, and fun event where library assistants can come together to gather new information and share ideas



Hosted by library assistants at The Rakow Research Library of The Corning Museum of Glass, this year's conference will take advantage of both the Museum and the city of Corning. Join us to kickoff the conference at the Wednesday evening mixer which will take place in the beautiful Corning Incorporated Headquarters Building. The evening will feature music, guided walking tours of commissioned glass sculptures throughout the building, a cash bar for all drinks, a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres, and wine tastings from local vineyards. As long as the weather is pleasant,

we will be able to mix and mingle out onto the veranda overlooking a gorgeous view of the river.

Thursday morning will begin a day full of exciting workshops. We have a great list of speakers who are sure to provide engaging, interesting, and thought-provoking workshops that will appeal to everyone's diverse interests and needs! Taking advantage of our proximity to The Corning Museum of Glass, we even offer a glass fusing workshop where you can create your own fused glass project! We will wrap up the day with live Hot Glass Shows at The Corning Museum of Glass leading up to dinner in the Museum's auditorium. Perhaps *your* design will be the one selected to be made into glass during one of our two private "You Design It; We Make It!" Hot Glass Shows. If so, you'll even get to keep it! Following the two live shows will be a delicious dinner with another chance to connect with library assistants across the state. Don't plan on leaving right after dinner though – you wouldn't want to miss an evening full of music and karaoke!

Friday morning will feature another round of exciting workshops and will wrap up with the Awards Luncheon at the Radisson. (*cont'd on pg. 10*)

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“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

Join NYSLAA-L, NYSLAA’s Electronic Forum

To subscribe, send the following command to listproc@cornell.edu
Subscribe nyslaa-l <first name><last name>. Do not include a subject.

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2009 NYSLAA Annual Reports



President

My term as President concluded with 2009. It has been an educational and enriching experience for me. I have witnessed the continued growth and improvement of our NYSLAA organization and am grateful I had the opportunity to serve as President for two terms.

The biggest achievement for NYSLAA in the past four years has been the improvement in our finances due to the hard work of the Executive Council.

The past year brought about new and exciting changes for our organization. NYSLAA members have become more involved, giving their time and talents to making NYSLAA a better organization.

Susan Flick volunteered to be our Donations Chair and has begun to develop a database with vendor information, which will facilitate the raising of money and donations for future conferences.

Dorothy Morgan has taken on the responsibility of Coordinator the Certificate of Achievement Program Review Board. The CAP Review Board has also added new members. They have undertaken the task of clarifying the process for earning the Certificate of Achievement for NYSLAA members.

Thank you all for the honor of serving as NYSLAA President. It has been a rewarding experience to work with the Executive Council and NYSLAA members to continually improve and enhance our organization.

Welcome to our new President, Sally McMaster. She will bring her own unique ideas and talents to NYSLAA. I look forward to her fresh outlook and insights for improving our organization.

Respectfully submitted
Joy Piper, President



Vice President

As Vice President I attended every Executive Council meeting during 2009, I participated in discussions and helped where I could. I maintain the archives by filing minutes and other association documents. It is my hope that by the end of 2010, when nominations are requested, 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 for this organization and with the members of the Executive Council is priceless. Please consider running for Vice President in the fall.

Respectfully submitted
Ruth V. Oberg, Vice President



Suncatchers made in a glass fusing workshop at the Corning Museum of Glass.



Treasurer

Since the newsletter is now only being posted online, the Treasurer's Annual Report will *not* be included as part of this newsletter. The Official Treasurer's Report will be printed and filed in the NYSLAA Archives. A copy is available to any member by submitting a request to NYSLAA's Treasurer (see nyslaa.org for contact information.) The Executive Council apologizes for any inconvenience but does not feel that it is appropriate to post the organization's financial information on the web site.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Burnett, Treasurer

This report is subject to change after review by our internal auditor and accountant.



Corresponding Secretary

I have just completed my first term as Corresponding Secretary. It has been a rewarding two years and I look forward to what lies ahead.

As Corresponding Secretary, it is one of my duties to notify the winners and runners-up chosen from those who indicated they would like to attend the New York, Virginia, and New Jersey conferences. The recipients of these drawings have enjoyed the opportunity to attend conferences and the chance to network and learn new ways of doing our jobs which is an invaluable tool. The 2009 winners were: Ruth Oberg, Virginia; and Natividad Maxcy, New York. None of the winners drawn for New Jersey were able to attend. Congratulations to the winners.

Another duty of the Corresponding Secretary is to notify those individuals selected to receive the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service and the Ray Murray Award. The recipients of these awards are honored at our annual conference each year. These awards and how they were established can be found on the NYSLAA website. This year's award winners were: Deborah Emerson for the Ray Murray Award; and Michele Matthews and Louise Smith-Jones for the Craig Koste Award. Congratulations to the winners.

Remember this is "your" organization. Please take an active role no matter how small or large, NYSLAA depends on each and every one of us to continue this organization.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Kuhner, Corresponding Secretary



Membership Secretary

The 2009 membership year ended with 382 members. Years with our organization for members are: 21 twenty-year; 11 nineteen-year,

8 eighteen-year, 5 seventeen-year, 14 sixteen-year, 15 fifteen-year, 14 fourteen-year, 26 thirteen-year, 17 twelve-year, 11 eleven-year, 21 ten-year, 14 nine-year, 17 eight-year, 11 seven-year, 18 six-year, 21 five-year, 16 four-year, 40 three-year, 37 two-year and 45 of our members were new. Associate status is held by 34 of our members.

The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council- -- 35 (23, 20, 19, 24, 24)
 - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council- -- 39 (53, 49, 49, 48, 53)
 - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council- -- 19 (26, 33, 42, 36, 36, 38, 33)
 - (4) New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency- -- 62 (82, 84, 75, 54, 32, 43)
 - (5) Northern Country Library Council- -- 15 (18, 20, 25, 29, 27)
 - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council- -- 88 (94, 91, 101, 128, 121)
 - (7) South Central Research Library Council- -- 63 (62, 66, 53, 77, 61)
 - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council- -- 22 (25, 30, 24, 24, 30)
 - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council- -- 28 (34, 34, 35, 42, 40)
- Out of state members- - 11 (11, 12, 13, 10, 8, 9)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, and 2004 totals.*

Region 1 had an increase, probably a reflection of hosting the conference. Region 7 had a slight increase and the out of state membership held steady. All other regions showed a decline.

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

- College/University- 120 (131, 128, 130, 146, 133)
- Junior College- 20 (26, 26, 19, 22, 18)
- Law- 12 (26, 41, 40, 37, 31)
- Medical- 10 (10, 11, 12, 10, 8)
- Non-library- 13 (17, 20, 15, 20, 14)
- Public- 187 (206, 197, 193, 213, 199)
- School- 9 (10, 10, 11, 11, 15)
- Special- 11 (6, 6, 16, 13, 13, 11)

**Numbers in parenthesis are 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 totals.*

Special library's membership advanced nicely and Medical libraries held steady. All other types reflected a decline.

Unfortunately, our membership numbers are way down from 2008. In fact, we lost 46 members; or 91 if you count the fact that 45 of our members are brand new. I'm not sure why our numbers have declined, but I do know that some of the institutions that renewed memberships for their whole staff did not do so this year. In 2010, we will have to focus on actively bringing members back into the fold and recruiting new members as well.

As we've done the past several years, the 2009 Directory will be mailed to members along with the 2010 conference brochures, membership letters/cards, newsletters and renewal reminders, where applicable. I would like to thank Sally McMaster, University of Rochester; Coleen Hopkins and Bev Murphy both from SUNY Geneseo and Ruth Oberg, University at Buffalo for their help in proofreading the 2009 directory.

I would also like to thank Coleen Hopkins and Beverly Murphy for helping with the numerous preliminary details that went into getting people registered for the 2009 conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary



Recording Secretary

It has been my pleasure to continue to serve on the New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) Executive Council as the Recording Secretary. I enjoy being a participant in the decision making and direction for the future of NYSLAA and look forward to 2010 being another exciting and interesting year.

The Minutes, including the email minutes for all Executive Council Meetings, Executive Council/Standing Committee Meetings and the Town Meeting are available to any member with a simple request. Contact information can be

found on our web-page, nyslaa.org, or on page two of the *Network Connection* Newsletter.

The *Network Connection* newsletter continues to evolve and I find it very enjoyable. As this is the only contact many of our members have with the organization, I am striving to include more information on what members are doing around the State. Please send the news in your library or regional group and don't forget to include photographs if they are available.

I look forward to another term as your Recording Secretary and would like to encourage anyone who is able to get involved in our dynamic organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Coleen Hopkins, Recording Secretary



Ambassador and Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator

At a recent meeting those in attendance were boasting about their organizations, and when it came to me I yelled out "Well, I'm from NYSLAA the greatest association ever." I mean that in all sincerity. Not much more I can say about that so I'll move on.

2009 opened with great new challenges for me. My work changed as the Liverpool Library acquired a new director. My responsibilities increased as the Administrator for Business as well as Personnel. It has been a pleasure working for Jean Armour Polly. If you remember she was our keynote speaker at our NYSLAA Conference in Liverpool.

Certificate of Achievement Program

A stronger effort was made to reach out to NYSLAA membership on the benefits of achieving their certificate. There are so many of you that have continued your dedication and commitment to libraries. We want to acknowledge that work. We want to encourage and recognize your continued contributions.

As NYSLAA members, we know our commitment to our work doesn't stop when the going gets tough and the workload seems insurmountable. The Review Board is determined to find creative ways to make sure everyone has an opportunity to become involved and aware of this great certificate program. We have introduced some new ideas that hopefully will help to generate more program submittals. We organized ideas to give people opportunities to get involved. Our work reminds me of building a house from its foundation up. We started with our membership. The Review Board did not work in a vacuum, but communicated and reached out to our membership throughout the process listening to what they wanted. We found that many people just weren't aware of what the program was truly all about. They were willing to do it, but they just needed a little help.

The effort, we, the Review Board hopes will act as a catalyst and encourage more of you to work on and complete the program.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Morgan, NYSLAA Ambassador and Coordinator of the Certificate of Achievement Review Board

Conference Coordinator

The first half of 2009 was spent working on the conference planning that was started in 2008 with Carol Reppard and Michele Matthews and the committee from Troy and the Capital Area Library Assistants. The 2009 conference was held at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY with a few workshops being held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. We enjoyed a wonderful evening aboard The Captain JP for dinner with a cruise on the Hudson where we were entertained by a DJ and lots of dancing. There was a very nice selection of workshops. The keynote address was given by Sister Anne Bryan Smollin. She was a wonderful wrap up to the conference with her message and her unexpected comedic delivery. The conference received good reviews on the evaluation forms and was rated a success. A large thank you goes to the local planning committee for all their commitment and hard

work putting together another great NYSLAA conference.

In the second half of 2009 I began the planning for the 2010 conference with Sheila Tshudy and her committee from the Rakow Library at the Corning Museum of Glass, along with two others from the Southern Tier Library System. I made a site visit in August with the Executive Council. The conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel Corning and evening activities on the Corning Museum grounds. The planning continues over the phone and email.

I'm working with someone who may put in a bid for 2011!

Respectfully submitted
Ruth V. Oberg, Conference Coordinator



Donations Chair

It has been my honor to be first to serve as Donations Chair for the New York State Library Assistants' Association. I have enjoyed being involved in the efforts of NYSLAA thus far, and hope to continue as Donations Chair in the coming year.

I have sent approximately 75 emails to various library supply companies, publishers, book distributors, etc. requesting donations for the 2010 annual conference in Corning. In addition, I have mailed approximately 50 letters to the vendors that had not responded.

I continue to send reminder emails and letters on a weekly basis in the hope that I remain in the thoughts of the vendors and in an effort to build a strong working relationship with them.

Although much more intensive than I had assumed, I continue to enjoy my role in NYSLAA, and look forward to learning more and becoming a better advocate of the organization in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan J. Flick, Donations Chair



Public Relations

In January of 2009, I contacted Assemblywoman Amy Paulin's office requesting Thursday, April 16, 2009 be proclaimed New York State Library Assistants' Day. Follow-up phone conversations and duplicate faxes followed in April, June, and September. I was then informed that it was too late for a proclamation to be issued for that calendar year. Assemblywoman Amy Paulin was no longer on the Library Committee and I was encouraged to contact the new Library Committee chairperson. (This will be done in January 2010.)

Ads were placed in publications (March Associates' magazine and NYSLAA newsletter) announcing the 31st Annual NYSLAA Conference. The NYSLAA listserv was used to

remind members of the upcoming conference in Troy, New York, June 19-12, 2009.

Two articles were submitted for the April-June edition of the *Network Connection*. One described my experiences traveling with the Four County group to Albany on March 10 to participate in Lobby Day. The second concerned different ways members celebrated Library Assistants' Day on April 16.

Pre-arrangements were made for the two Craig Koste Awards and the Ray Murray Award which I presented in Troy along with the 5, 10, 15, and for the first time, 20 year membership awards. I also contacted Regional Representatives asking them to provide a brief report of events from their area to be delivered at the Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth A. Mason, Public Relations Chair

~~ End of Annual Reports ~~

Morning Glory Moss Orb at the Corning



Museum of Glass GlassMarket.

Message from Our New President



Hello everyone. Let me introduce myself for those who do not know me. I am Sally McMaster and I am the NYSLAA President for the next two years. I have worked at the University of Rochester, Interlibrary Loan Office for the past 30 years and have been a member of NYSLAA for 16 of those years. I have attended many conferences and have met a group of wonderful people.

This year's conference in Corning looks like it will be another great one. The people from the Rakow Library, Corning Museum of Glass, and Ruth Oberg, Conference Coordinator, are hard at work planning this event. I hope that many of you can attend this year. For those members whose library is not funding your attendance to

the conference, we are having an award to pay your registration fee and one night's lodging (see NYSLAA Conference Award article).

I also encourage you to invite your non-member co-workers to join NYSLAA. We are a great organization. Take a look at the Vision and Mission statements on nyslaa.org to see what we are about. We need to be our own advocate and as a group we are stronger; but to do this we need our membership to grow.

I look forward to working with the Executive Council this year. But we need to know what you want from NYSLAA. Drop any of the Executive Council an email or even give us a phone call. Our email addresses and phone numbers are on the website or on page two of this newsletter.

NYSLAA Conference Award

This year we would like to present one NYSLAA member an award allowing them to attend the 2010 conference for free! The recipient will receive full conference registration and one night's lodging. (Tours, mixer and shirts are on your own.)

To qualify for this you must be a current NYSLAA member and will NOT be receiving any funding from your library to attend the conference.

To qualify, just write a statement of 150 to 300 words on "What NYSLAA means to me and why I would love to attend this year's conference in Corning NY."

Please send your essay to
Sally McMaster, NYSLAA President
University of Rochester Library
755 Library Rd
Rochester, NY 14627
FAX: (585) 273-5309
smcmaster@library.rochester.edu

Deadline date for entering to be eligible for this year's conference is April 1st.

Scholarship Award

Coleen Hopkins

The Executive Council received a Continuing Education Scholarship Application from Jennifer Gaston, State University of New York at Oneonta. Jennifer is a two year member of NYSLAA and states that she is currently taking classes and plans to open her own part-time practice as a Licensed Massage Therapist. It was our pleasure to award Jennifer the \$250.00 scholarship to continue her education by training at the CNW School of Massage.

NYSLAA has the ability to award one Continuing Education Scholarship of \$250.00 and one Degree Program Scholarship of \$350.00 annually if we receive applications! The Call for Applicants is in the October-December Newsletter. More information and application forms are on nyslaa.org.

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 your nomination for either award to:
Sally McMaster
University of Rochester
Rush Rhees Library
775 Library Road
Rochester, NY 14627
FAX: (585) 273-5309
smcmaster@library.rochester.edu

Along with your letter of nomination, supporting letters and documentation from supervisors and co-workers are encouraged. Please include the name of the nominee's supervisor for notification. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Sally. Awards will be presented at the 2010 Conference in Corning.



Birds at the Corning GlassMarket

ALA's Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC)

Dorothy Morgan, Ambassador

The Midwinter meeting in Boston offered some great educational opportunities for listening to some inspiring authors. Al Gore was the featured speaker. One of the main reasons for my attendance at the ALA Conference in Boston is the responsibility I have on the National Library Support Staff Certification Advisory Committee. The committee meetings were conducted throughout the four days starting on Thursday, January 14. We needed to make sure we had everything worked out including portfolio evaluations, mentoring programs, course providers, a second grant proposal, etc. We held an Evaluator Training Program, and a Q & A Program.

A support staff certification program planned by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) has been launched in early 2010, a year ahead of schedule. The actual certification program started on January 1 with candidates who had volunteered to be part of a field test. On January 25 it opened to all library support staff. The following information has been taken from a marketing brochure:

LSSC is for Library Support Staff who have a high-school degree or its equivalent and worked (paid or unpaid) in libraries for at least one year and want to:

- ◆ Achieve recognition for your work
- ◆ Enhance your service
- ◆ Increase your skills and knowledge

Glass blower



What do you need to do to receive certification? After ALA-APA evaluates your application, you will receive access to an online Candidate Achievement Record (CAR). The CAR allows you to develop portfolios that demonstrate that you have achieved the required competencies or allows you to show that you have completed approved courses. For more information see:

www.ala-apa.org/lsscp

www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6619749.html



Free shuttle-bus service to:

- The Corning Museum of Glass
- The Rockwell Museum of Western Art
- Historic Market Street in Corning's Gaffer District

Save the Date!

(Cont'd from front page.)

The 32nd annual NYSLAA conference is one you will not want to miss! Corning is a beautiful city rich with history and art. Walk right out of The Radisson Hotel and shop your way down historic Market Street, take a peek in The Rockwell Museum of Western Art, or take a stroll across the pedestrian bridge to visit The Corning Museum of Glass. Regardless of the workshops you attend or the leisure time activities you get involved in, you are sure to have a great time! Furthermore, all of our workshops and events are within walking distance so strap on those sneakers and join us in Corning for this year's NYSLAA Conference.

[Ed. Note: *Some images courtesy of The Corning Museum of Glass web site.*]

