

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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Saratoga Springs in 2014

Michele Matthews, Conference Co-Chair



Turn at Saratoga. Courtesy NYRA/Adam Coglianese

The 36th Annual NYSLAA Conference, **Racing Forward with Technology** will take place June 4-6, 2014, at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The committee is currently working on workshops, gathering information for tours of this historical area, and planning an overall wonderful conference experience.

We are selling lottery tickets (see page 6) and requesting vendors sponsor events such as meals to help offset the cost of the conference.

Conference Co-Chairs:

Michele Giuffre – Bethlehem Public Library and
Michele Matthews - Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute

Committee:

Colleen Abbott – NYS Court of Claims Law Lib.
Adrienne Birchler – Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Nancy Davis – University at Albany
Jay Kibby – College of St. Rose
Kathy Rossello – East Greenbush Regional Lib.
LaVerne Sankey – Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Ling Zhang – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Start planning and saving. We look forward to seeing you in June!



National Museum of Racing

INSIDE: NYSLAA Election Results... Bios... CAP... Membership... Scholarships

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**Ambassador
(Vacant)**

Community Outreach Committee
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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:

To enhance the professional image and status of NY State’s library assistants.

To further their professional growth.

To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues.

To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.”

CHECK OUT NYSLAA’S WEBSITE: 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, click on “Join Our Email List” and follow the instructions.

To follow us on Facebook search for
New York State Library Assistants' Association.



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Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

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NYSLAA Election Results

Coleen Hopkins, 2013 Elections Chair

It has been my responsibility to call for nominations for the 2013 NYSLAA Elections. On the odd years we elect the President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

This year we had only one nomination for each of the offices. That being said, according to the By-Laws:

“In the event of a totally unopposed slate of nominees, the Chair of the Election Committee shall inform the membership before the end of the year, and shall declare those nominees to be the new officers in January.”

President:

Michele Matthews,
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Treasurer:

Carrie Goetz,
University at Buffalo

Corresponding Secretary:

Donna Kuhner,
Gloversville Public Library

Thank you Michele, Carrie and Donna.



Bios for Executive Council Officers-Elect



Michele Matthews President

Michele Matthews has worked at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Research Library for 25 years and has been a NYSLAA member for 22 years.

She received her Certificate of Achievement Level IV in Public Services in 2001. Michele has been on the CAP Review Board since 2001 and now serves as the Review Board Coordinator. Through CAP, Michele empowers library assistants to realize their contributions and accomplishments.

Michele is also a member of the NYSLAA Community Outreach Committee. A committee she encouraged the Executive Council to establish.

Michele was the co-chair of the 2009 NYSLAA Conference held in Troy, NY. Again this year, Michele stepped up to co-chair the 2014

NYSLAA Annual Conference to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Michele has been a tireless advocate for library assistants at both the state and local levels for many years. She has been an inspiration as well as a mentor. Michele is hard working, intelligent, professional, innovative, fair and funny. Michele will bring these attributes as well as many others to the position of NYSLAA President.



Carrie Goetz Treasurer

Carrie Goetz has worked at the University at Buffalo Libraries Annex for just over seven years as a Staff Assistant. She is extremely knowledgeable in the operations of the Annex as she has been there since its inception.

Carrie works closely with the student employees training them in all aspects of Interlibrary Loan and circulation services.

Carrie has been a NYSLAA member for seven years and has served on the Certificate of Achievement Review Board for two years. She is currently working on her own Certificate.

At the 2013 conference she received the NYSLAA Executive Council Award for Special Achievement for her work setting up the conference evaluations on Survey Monkey, setting up our PayPal account and designing a CaféPress site for NYSLAA logo sales. She introduced the use of Google Drive to help streamline the Certificate of Achievement Review Board's process of reviewing packets.

Carrie has volunteered for conference set-up since she became a member. The 2012 Niagara Falls conference logo was designed by Carrie and she was on the conference planning committee that year.

At UB Carrie served on the Professional Executive Committee (PEC) as Recording Secretary for two years and is currently on the PEC Elections Committee.

Outside UB she has served as the Treasurer for her paternal family reunion for six years. Carrie is active in the Western New York chapter of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) since 2003.



**Donna Kuhner
Corresponding Secretary**

Donna Kuhner is the Assistant to the Director of the Gloversville Public Library where she has worked since 2004.

Prior to working at Gloversville she was employed at the Southern Tier Library System in Corning, NY for 25 years. Donna also worked at Corning Inc., in the Technical Information Center for one year.

She has been a NYSLAA member for 15 years and has served as the NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary since 2008.

Donna is a member of CALA (Capital Area Library Assistants), serves on both the JA Operations Committee and Outreach Advisory Council for Mohawk Valley Library System.

She is a native of Corning, NY, but has lived in Gloversville with her family and her dachshunds since 2002.



Bios for Executive Council Officers-Terms Ending 12/2014



**Kathy Rossello
Vice President**

Kathy is employed as a Library Clerk in Technical Services at the East Greenbush Community Library where she has worked for 15 years. She has been a member of NYSLAA since 2010 and has served as the Vice President since 2012.

Kathy is also on the Certificate of Achievement Review Board and received her own Certificate in Technical Services Level IV in 2011.

This year Kathy has joined the 2014 NYSLAA Annual Conference committee.

Kathy has been an Assistant Girl Scout Leader for over 20 years and participated as Committee Chair at many neighborhood and Girl Scout Council events. She assisted with many programs for Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Leaders.

Additionally, Kathy is President of her choral group, Capital Community Voices. Her favorite hobbies are reading, hiking and traveling with her husband of 33 years.



Donna Hanna
Membership Secretary

Donna Hanna has worked at SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library in the Technical Services for 34 years. She has been a member of NYSLAA for 24 years and served as its Membership Secretary since 1992. Donna was a recipient of

the Craig Koste Award in 1998 and in 2000 received NYSLAA's Certificate of Achievement at Level IV in Technical Service. She was also the winner of the 2013 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Classified Staff.

Donna assisted in the planning of our NYSLAA Conference in 1987, 1998, 1999 & 2000 and has helped with the volunteer and registration aspects for our conferences 2001 through 2013. In 2011, she co-hosted the 33rd Annual NYSLAA Conference at SUNY Geneseo.

She has also served on the Rochester Regional Library Council Library Assistants' Planning Committee, 1990 to present. This group is responsible for the planning of a spring and fall half-day workshop, as well as Monday night programs six-eight times during the year. Donna also volunteered to manage the planning, monetary donations, purchasing and food preparation for the dinners that the Library Assistants' Group provides for guests at the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester, NY, three to four times a year.



Coleen Hopkins
Recording Secretary

Coleen Hopkins has been employed at Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo since 2001. She spent her first ten years in the Technical Services area and has been in Access Services as Service Desk supervision since 2011.

Coleen has been a NYSLAA member for over twelve years and has served at the Recording Secretary since 2004. She has worked on several NYSLAA Annual Conferences and co-chaired the 2011 conference at SUNY Geneseo with Donna Hanna. In 2011, Coleen was awarded the Craig Koste Award and she earned her Certificate of Achievement Level IV in Public Services in 2013.

She also served on the local planning committee for the 2006 SUNYLA Conference held at SUNY Geneseo. As a member of Milne's Communications and Marketing Committee she has helped to plan such events as the Alumni Reunion and the Grand Opening of the Special Collections Glass Room.

In the past, Coleen has chaired the RRLC Library Assistants' Group and the Kathy Martel Honorary Grace Urban Ministries Collection.

Coleen has also served on her Church Board, as Sunday School Superintendant and on her local Historical Society.

Coleen is retiring October 24, 2013 but will be volunteering in the Rushford Free Library, Rushford, NY, and will complete her term as Recording Secretary which expires on 12/31/14.

Congress Park, Saratoga Springs



Certificate of Achievement

Michele Matthews
Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator

Please join the Certificate of Achievement Review Board in congratulating Betty Albright of the Bethlehem Public Library for achieving a Level IV in Public Services and Lisa Grant from the College of St. Rose for achieving a Level IV in Technical Services.

We were pleased to award certificates to five members of the staff at Florida Public Library earlier this year. Last year was a banner year and we hope to continue this year.

I traveled to SUNY Plattsburg in July and presented a CAP workshop for several staff members. I am also making arrangement for presentations at SUNY Oneonta and Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC). I am also scheduled to do a CAP workshop at the Library Assistants' Day in Syracuse in April, 2014.

If you would like assistance with your packet or to schedule a Certificate of Achievement workshop in your area please contact me at prendm@rpi.edu.



Get Your NYSLAA Lottery Tickets!

The 2014 NYSLAA Conference Committee is offering the lottery tickets as a fundraiser for the conference to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY, June 4-6, 2014.

The tickets are a mere \$5.00 each.
The numbers are based on the New York State Lottery's daily evening drawing.
The daily winnings are \$25.00 and on **Valentine's Day** it is \$50.00.



These tickets make great stocking stuffers!
Contact Michele Matthews for tickets at prendm@rpi.edu

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2013 is at 294 and 53 members are new.

If you move, please be sure to alert me that you have a new address. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership mailings.

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.

Information on joining or renewing may be found at <http://www.nyslaa.org/membership.html>

Join the Fun...Get Involved in NYSLAA

Coleen Hopkins

Did you ever wonder how you might become more involved in NYSLAA? Most members are aware of the annual elections but there are so many ways you can serve this organization. We are always looking for members who wish to volunteer and your involvement can really move NYSLAA forward.

Ambassador: This position is presently vacant. The Ambassador speaks to groups about NYSLAA by invitation. In New York State travel is covered by NYSLAA after approval from the Executive Council. If the Ambassador receives a request from outside the State, the host organization would cover the travel expense. Michele Matthews is presently doing engagements for CAP and NYSLAA and this would be an excellent opportunity to work together.

Donations Chair/Committee: In this position you would work with the local conference committee to contact vendors for donations. The committee would design letter(s) of request (with Executive Council approval) and make follow-up phone calls to speak to the person in charge of making the donation.

Community Outreach Committee: This is a new committee and the desire is to increase and organize NYSLAA's philanthropic endeavors. Michele Matthews has volunteered to chair this committee but she is in need of members to aid in its development and operation.

Conference Coordinator: Ruth Oberg is looking for an assistant to help her plan the annual conferences. She may be retiring in the near future and would love to train someone before she leaves. You get to work with the hotels to plan the space and meals for the conference. You work with the local hosting committee to keep all the details on track, work up the budget, and design and prepare the conference registration brochure and program. Yes, it is a lot of work, but it is an enjoyable challenge!



NYSLAA Scholarships

Continuing Education Scholarship

NYSLAA will award one scholarship up to \$250

To qualify for the NYSLAA Continuing Education Scholarship, you must be:

- * A regular member of NYSLAA for at least two years
- * Continuing your professional development in a non-matriculated program

To apply for a scholarship submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- * Complete the application form found at nyslaa.org
- * Write a statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- * Include a letter from the Registrar's office or a receipt that you are enrolled
- * The cost of the course

Please note:

- * Applications must be sent to Sally McMaster and postmarked no later than December 31, 2013.

First consideration will be given to applicants who have not received a NYSLAA scholarship in the past.

The Degree Program Scholarship

NYSLAA will award one scholarship in the amount of \$350

To qualify for the NYSLAA Degree Program Scholarship, you must be:

- * A regular member of NYSLAA for at least two years
- * Actively pursuing a matriculated degree at an accredited educational institution

To apply for a scholarship submit the following to the NYSLAA President:

- * Complete the application form found at nyslaa.org
- * Write a statement of 150 to 300 words explaining your goals and how this scholarship will aid you
- * Include a *copy* of your transcript, or letter from the Registrar's office citing the number of credit hours taken

Please note:

- * Applications must be sent to Sally McMaster and postmarked no later than December 31, 2013.

Applicants may receive this scholarship only once. Previous winners may not apply.



At the Olympic Center, Lake Placid, NY

