

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Jan.-Mar. 2014 Vol.26, no.1

## Library Assistants: Racing Forward with Technology

Michele Matthews, Conference Chair



The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual NYSLAA Conference, **Racing Forward with Technology**, will be held at the Holiday Inn in

Saratoga Springs, NY, June 4-6, 2014.

The Conference Committee has chosen two great options for the Wednesday afternoon tours.

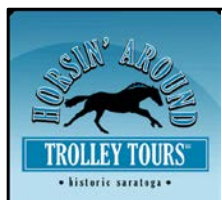
### Roosevelt Baths & Spa

This tour is conducted by Saratoga's Water Witch, Amie' Millet. For NYSLAA members who wish to partake in a mineral bath, the spa is offering a reduced price of \$20.00.

([www.RooseveltbathsAndSpa.com](http://www.RooseveltbathsAndSpa.com)) Make your appointment ahead if you want a spa time.



### Horsing Around Trolley Tours



NYSLAA members can take a 90 minute tour of the different sites of Saratoga Springs. See the historic Saratoga Race Track and many other sites.

(<http://www.horsintours.com>)

We are very excited about the wide array of workshops being offered from Geocaching to Computer Security. The committee has really worked hard to bring you a worthwhile program.

Our Thursday night dinner is being held at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. We will be able to tour the museum and visit their gift shop. ([www.racingmuseum.org](http://www.racingmuseum.org))



Now all we need are the baskets to raffle off. If you would like to donate a basket or one of your handmade items we would be happy to accept it. Please contact Adrienne Birchler. ([birchla@rpi.edu](mailto:birchla@rpi.edu))

Can't wait to see everyone again, be sure to sign up early.

Michele & Committee



---

**INSIDE:** Annual Reports...NYSLAA Essay Contest...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Award Nominations...etc.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2014

### **Michele Matthews**

President  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(518) 276- 8337  
prendm@rpi.edu

### **Kathy Rosello**

Vice-President  
East Greenbush Community Library  
(518) 477-7476 ext. 108  
rossek@eastgreenbushlibrary.org

### **Carrie Goetz**

Treasurer  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-5113  
ceoberg@buffalo.edu

### **Coleen Hopkins**

Recording Secretary  
Rushford Free Library  
hopkinsc@geneseo.edu

### **Donna Kuhner**

Corresponding Secretary  
Gloversville Public Library  
(518) 725-2819  
dkuhner@sals.edu

### **Donna Hanna**

Membership Secretary  
SUNY Geneseo  
(585) 245-5508  
hanna@geneseo.edu

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Standing Committees**

### **Public Relations Chair**

Nancy Davis  
University at Albany  
(518) 442-3616  
ndavis@albany.edu

### **Donations Chair (Vacant)**

### **Conference Coordinator**

Ruth V. Oberg  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-1336  
oberg@buffalo.edu

### **Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator**

Michele Matthews  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(518) 276- 8337  
prendm@rpi.edu

### **Ambassador (Vacant))**

### **Community Outreach Committee**

Nancy Davis  
University at Albany  
(518) 422- 3616  
ndavis@albany.edu

“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](http://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](http://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.

---

The *NYSLAA Network Connection* is published four times a year by the New York State Library Assistants’ Association. Articles may be reprinted with the permission of the editor.

## **Editor: Coleen Hopkins**

*Volunteer Rushford Free Library*

*Email: [hopkinsc@geneseo.edu](mailto:hopkinsc@geneseo.edu)*

*Newsletter Committee: Chair, Coleen Hopkins, Rushford Free Library;  
Donna Hanna, SUNY Geneseo; Ruth V. Oberg, University at Buffalo*

*Next publication date: May 15, 2014*

*Submission deadline: April 30, 2014*

## NYSLAA ANNUAL REPORTS

### President

I completed my second term and it has been a pleasure to serve the NYSLAA membership. My duties included setting the agenda for Executive Council meetings and presiding over the general session at the Annual Conference.

The Executive Council welcomed Kathy Rossello, from East Greenbush Community Library, as Vice President, the other offices were unopposed. Ruth Oberg, continues on as Conference Coordinator. Thank you Ruth for a job well done!

We continued to use Skype for the members who wanted to reach us online during the open portion of Executive Council meetings.

For 2013 there were no applications for either of our scholarships. I recommended that the money be sent to the New York State Libraries Disaster Fund in the amount of \$600.00. As I wrote in the newsletter, we are proud to support libraries in need, as they work to serve their communities.

NYSLAA continues its affiliation with Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) and were pleased when member Karen Strang from Brunswick Community Library won their award.

The Conference Contest winner was Lisa B. Prichard, from the Lee-Whedon Memorial Library in Medina. If your library is unable to provide funding for the NYSLAA Annual Conference, I encourage you to write an essay to apply for this award.

Our regional groups are very active. Keep up the good work. Workshops and networking are important to ALL Library Support Staff. Encourage your regional sections and take advantage of their activities.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Lake Placid was a great success thanks to the hard work of Darlene Strack, SUNY Plattsburgh and her committee under the guidance of Ruth Oberg. The workshops and venues were wonderful.

A special thank you goes to John Hammond, Executive Director of the Northern New York Library Network for donating the monies for the backpacks. John continues to be a great supporter of NYSLAA.

Evelyn (Butrico) Neale, Director at East Greenbush Community Library was awarded the Ray Murray Award. Evelyn has always been a strong advocate for her support staff and NYSLAA. Thank you Evelyn.

Thank you for selecting me as the Craig Koste Award recipient. I work in Interlibrary Loan, as did Craig, making it an even greater honor to receive this award. A special thank you also goes to Patty Bentley for her personal account of just who Craig Koste was and what he did for library assistants.

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board had a banner year in 2013. They have streamlined the process using technology and continue to guide us through the process of earning our own Certificate. I can proudly say that I am actively working on mine.

We received a recommendation from a member that we honor another member for their outstanding service to NYSLAA. The Executive Council wanted a randomly given award based on merit. It was our pleasure to award the NYSLAA Executive Council Award for Special Achievement to Carrie Goetz. She designed and activated the online evaluations, the Cafe Press site and set-up our PayPal account. Carrie also introduced the use of Google Drive for the Certificate of Achievement Review Board's process.

The Community Outreach Committee set up donation boxes for food banks and animal shelters in the Plattsburgh area.

The NYSLAA/NYLA merger discussion/survey directed the Executive Council to remove the option of becoming a section of NYLA from our agenda. We continue to be an affiliate of NYLA, the New York Library Association.

## President *(continued)*

The slate for the 2013 Elections ran unopposed and brought on two members who are new to the Executive Council. Your incoming officers are: President, Michele Matthews, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Treasurer, Carrie Goetz, University at Buffalo. Donna Kuhner is continuing as Corresponding Secretary. Our organization has a devoted Executive Council who will lead the way into the next chapter of NYSLAA.

As I said it has been a pleasure to serve on the Executive Council and the NYSLAA membership. Thank you for making this a great four years. I encourage other members to take that leap of faith. Yes I was scared, but I am glad I had the opportunity to be your President.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally McMaster



## Vice President

My first year as Vice President was very exciting. I have attended every Executive Council meeting during 2013. I maintain the Archives by filing minutes and all other association documents. Attending meetings, helping with the conference and filing the Archives are just some of the specific duties. I have found it very rewarding to work with the Executive Council and to continue to make NYSLAA successful in the future.

I am also serving on the Conference Planning Committee for 2014 and the Certificate of Achievement Review Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Rossello

## Corresponding Secretary

My duties as Corresponding Secretary of NYSLAA include notifying the winners of the various awards. The winner of the 2013 Virginia Conference was not able to attend. Ruth Oberg was a runner-up and attended as our representative. Michele Matthews won the New Jersey drawing but was unable to attend since it fell just before our conference. I was also able to inform Lisa Pritchard of the Lee-Whedon Library of Medina, New York that her essay was the winner of the Conference Contest which includes conference registration and one night lodging for the 2013 NYSLAA Conference in Lake Placid.

It was also my pleasure to inform Sally McMaster, University of Rochester that she was the recipient of the Craig Koste Award. And again it was a pleasure to inform Evelyn (Butrico) Neale that she was the recipient of the Ray Murray Award. Congratulations to these two very deserving women for their respective awards.

As I complete my third term as Corresponding Secretary it is my pleasure to serve as an officer on the Executive Council. Please consider running for an office or serving on one of the many committees of our great organization. Remember, NYSLAA is run by Library Assistants for Library Assistants. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a great organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Kuhner



## Membership Secretary

The 2013 membership year ended at 300 members. Years with our organization are: 14 twenty-four year, 15 twenty-three year, 3 twenty-two year, 1 twenty-one year; 9 twenty year; 10 nineteen year, 8 eighteen year, 15 seventeen year, 12 sixteen year, 9 fifteen year, 10 fourteen year, 8 thirteen year, 7 twelve year, 9 eleven year, 8 ten year, 8 nine year, 7 eight year, 14 seven year, 10 six year, 20 five year, 19 four year, 12 three year, 26 two year and 54 members were new. Associate status is held by 36 members.

### The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council—20 (23, 21, 20, 35, 23, 20)
  - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council—27 (28, 28, 31, 39, 53, 49)
  - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council—10 (33, 12, 23, 19, 26, 33)
  - (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council—55 (67, 31, 36, 62, 82, 84)
  - (5) Northern Country Library Council—23 (14, 15, 17, 15, 18, 20)
  - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council—60 (77, 79, 85, 88, 94, 91)
  - (7) South Central Research Library Council—46 (48, 56, 63, 63, 62, 66)
  - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council—26 (20, 19, 27, 22, 25, 30)
  - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council—24 (48, 26, 27, 28, 34, 34)
- Out of state members—8 (9, 8, 10, 11, 11, 12)

*\*Numbers in parenthesis are 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007 totals.*

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

- College and University- 94 (102, 90, 103, 120, 131, 128)  
Junior College- 15 (15, 14, 18, 20, 26, 26)  
Law- 5 (9, 6, 9, 12, 26, 41)  
Medical- 1 (5, 3, 8, 8, 10, 11)  
Non-library- 22 (19, 18, 17, 13, 17, 20)  
Public- 157 (195, 151, 165, 187, 206, 197)  
School- 3 (5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 10, 11)  
Special- 2 (6, 7, 11, 11, 6, 6)

*\*Numbers in parenthesis are 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007 totals.*

This year with the conference in Lake Placid they were able to add 9 new members. Unfortunately, we did not retain the gain in membership for region 9 after having doubled in 2012.

The 2013 Membership directory is in progress and should be ready for online viewing shortly. Printed copies will only be available upon request.

I would like to thank Beverly Murphy, SUNY Geneseo, for her assistance in processing the registrations for the 2013 conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Hanna





## Recording Secretary

It has been my pleasure to serve as NYSLAA's Recording Secretary for nine and a half years. As a member of the Executive Council I am a voting member in decisions that are critical to the operation of this wonderful organization.

My responsibilities also include but are not limited to recording and distributing the Minutes of all Executive Council Meetings and the Town Meeting at the NYSLAA Annual Conference.

The Recording Secretary also compiles, edits, publishes and distributes the *NYSLAA Network Connection* with assistance from the Newsletter Committee. I would like to thank Donna Hanna and Ruth Oberg for all their assistance in putting together a polished, professional publication. This year we were pleased to move the newsletter from a printed issue to an online format, allowing us to use color and an unlimited number of pages. This has also resulted in considerable savings for NYSLAA.

I retired from Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo in October 2013, and have been enjoying my volunteer work at Rushford Free Library while I complete my final year and term on the Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted;  
Coleen Hopkins



**The Inn at Saratoga**  
(Our mixer will be held here in June.)

## Treasurer

Since the *Network Connection Newsletter* is only available online and we do not want our financial business posted on the web, the 2013 Treasurer's Report will be mailed out to all members.



## Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee is comprised of several NYSLAA members across the state. This committee was started to aid the community where our annual conference is being held. It is a way for NYSLAA members to give back to those less fortunate. Nancy Davis of the University at Albany has graciously offered to serve as the Coordinator in 2014.

At the 2013 conference in Lake Placid, attendees donated cash and several boxes of food items. This was donated to two local food banks, JCEO (Joint Council for Economic Opportunity) and Plattsburgh Interfaith Food Shelf. Cash and many pet items were collected and then donated to the Adirondack Humane Society and the Elmore SPCA. Thank you for your generosity towards our host communities.

This year's charity is the Shelters of Saratoga, which helps many people in need. Please consider helping this year. Visit their web site ([www.sheltersofsaratoga.com](http://www.sheltersofsaratoga.com)). You will be hearing more about it in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele A. Matthews

## Conference Coordinator

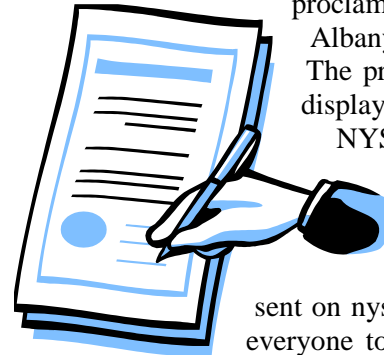
The first half of 2013 was spent working on the conference planning that was started in 2012. The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held at the High Peaks Resort, in Lake Placid, NY. Darlene Strack headed the committee from SUNY Plattsburg to organize the workshops and speakers. I worked with the hotel for the catering and other onsite arrangements. We offered a boat tour of Lake Placid and a walking tour of High Falls Gorge. There was a wonderful selection of workshops. Thursday dinner was held at the Olympic Center and included a ride up the chairlift and an elevator to the top of the ski jumps. The view was fantastic. We were entertained by a group of skiers demonstrating how they learn to high jump by first landing in a swimming pool. Then another group jumped from the high jump and landed on special grass. The keynote address was given by Photographer Carl Heilman who presented a slideshow of his photographs showing the beauty of the Adirondacks. The conference received good reviews on the evaluations and was rated a success. One issue was the weather. We can never control it, and for the most part, the rain did not interfere with our events, except for a short shower during the mixer. A huge thank you goes to Darlene Strack for helping me put together another great NYSLAA conference.

In June, I began the planning for the 2014 conference to be held in Saratoga Springs, NY. I had no host prior to the 2013 conference when Michele Mathews and her group approached me. I spoke to different hotels and booked the Holiday Inn. I arranged a site visit in October with the Executive Council and the local committee. The planning continues and we expect to have another great conference

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth V. Oberg

## Public Relations

Arrangements were begun in January with the office of New York State Assemblyman Micah Fellner to have Thursday, April 11, 2013, proclaimed New York State Library Assistants' Day. This year we received two copies of the



proclamation from Albany in early April. The proclamation was displayed at the NYSLAA Annual Conference information table. A message was sent on nyslAA-l reminding everyone to celebrate New

York State Library Assistants' Day. Members did respond and shared the activities that were planned in their libraries. Festivities ranged from luncheons and special snacks, gifts of appreciation, a workshop day, and several public open houses.

Regional representatives were asked to submit a brief written report of the events held in their region over the last year at conference time. Those in attendance gave a synopsis to the membership at the Town Meeting.

The Associates magazine published an exceedingly interesting article in the November 2013 issue. Kim Barbato, Touro Law School Library, described her experience helping to “uncover” and restore an abandoned cemetery on the new property of the law school. Kim’s article included several photos of the service project in various stages of “discovery.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Mason



## End of Annual Reports



## Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Membership renewals for 2014 are at 65 and 5 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](mailto:hanna@geneseo.edu).



## Welcome New Members!

<b>Coleen Abbott</b>	New York State Unified Court System, Court of Claims Law Library
<b>Linda Costa</b>	Le Moyne College, Noreen Real Falcone Library
<b>Lisa Grant</b>	College of Saint Rose, Neil Hellman Library
<b>Carl Haynes</b>	Bronx Community College Library
<b>Carole Schultz</b>	East Syracuse Minoa Central School District, Fremont Elementary School Library



**Secretariat statue at the Racing Museum**  
*(Our dinner will be held here in June.)*



## Craig Koste Award

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.

---

*Lists of prior recipients for both awards can be found on [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org).*

---

## 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.

Supporting letters and documentation are encouraged along with the nomination letter for either award. For the Craig Koste Award, please include the name of the nominee’s supervisor for notification. The deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2014**. If you have any questions, please contact Michele. Awards will be presented at the 2014 Conference in Saratoga Springs. Find the nominating form at [nyslaa.org](http://nyslaa.org)

### To nominate:

Send a letter of nomination for *either* award to:  
Michele A. Matthews  
(*See information below*)



## NYSLAA Conference Contest



The Executive Council annually presents one NYSLAA member an award allowing them to attend the conference for free! The recipient will receive full conference registration and one night’s lodging. (Tours, mixer and apparel are on your own.) This year, because we did not receive an application for the Continuing Education Scholarship, we will award *two* conference awards!

To qualify you must be a current member and will *NOT* be receiving any funding from your library to attend the conference. Write a statement of 150 to 300 words on “What NYSLAA means to me and why I would love to attend the conference in Saratoga Springs.”

Deadline for this year’s contest is **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### Please send your essay and your Ray and Craig nominations to:

Michele A. Matthews  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Richard G. Folsom Library  
110 8th Street  
Troy, NY 12180  
Phone: (518) 276-8330  
FAX: (518) 276-2044

## Supporting NYSLAA

The Executive Council was pleased to receive on-going support from Cyril Oberlander, Director, Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo. Mr. Oberlander recently sent this email to the SUNY Library Director's Council on our behalf.

*Hello SCLD, I want to share the attached information (the 2014 NYSLAA Annual Conference brochure) and encourage a great opportunity for professional development/training and knowledge sharing for our wonderful library assistants. Love their theme "Racing into the Future" The New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) workshops June 4-6 in Saratoga Springs have a variety of great and useful sessions; RDA, trends, effective meetings, technology; mobile, social media, student and volunteer workers, digitization, computer security, and more. Looks like NYSLAA is doing outstanding work supporting our library community, I encourage your support and information sharing. Cyril*

Thank you, Mr. Oberlander, for your efforts to encourage others to support their support staff, NYSLAA and the NYSLAA Conference.

How about you? Can you spread the word and encourage your co-workers to join and attend? Think about what you can do for NYSLAA and we will look forward to seeing you in June with some new faces!

## My Library Career Continues

Coleen Hopkins

In June, 2001, I was hired at SUNY Geneseo's, Milne Library with no experience in a library. Fortunately for me, my supervisor was excellent and I was surrounded by wonderful colleagues. It didn't take long to fall in love with my job!

Donna Hanna encouraged me to join NYSLAA and in 2002, I attended my first conference at SUNY Oneonta. She nominated me for the position of NYSLAA Recording Secretary in 2004 and opened another door. My NYSLAA service brought a very interesting and exciting opportunity to my "accidental" career.

October 2013, brought retirement but I wanted to complete my final term as Recording Secretary. I knew I could retain my Regular Membership and my office by volunteering in a library. I made a call to my small hometown library, Rushford Free Library and was able to take on a scanning project for their local history area. Again, I have fallen into a terrific experience and heartily encourage others to use your knowledge and expertise even after retirement.



**Check out NYSLAA.org for the membership directory and the conference brochure which will be posted soon.**

