

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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NYSLAA: Past, Present and Future

Sheila Tshudy, 2018 Conference Committee Chair

It's the start of a new year, and the countdown is on to NYSLAA's 40th annual conference, June 6-8, 2018 at The Radisson Hotel Corning in Corning, NY!

The conference committee has been busy selecting and scheduling workshops and events and hope you will be as happy with the results as we are. We're confident we've selected workshops that will aid in your personal development as well as providing social events to encourage peer networking.

To kick off the conference, we are offering 3 separate tours on Wednesday afternoon, all within walking distance of The Radisson: The Corning Museum of Glass, Christ Episcopal Church of Corning (with 85 stained glass windows), and for those feeling inspired a fun-filled painting class at Wine & Design. Later that evening we will be traveling to the Center (a five-minute drive) where we'll enjoy a casual dinner with a variety of pizzas, stuffed mushrooms, meatballs, sliders, chips, dips, fresh fruit and more, with a cash bar. To celebrate our 40th conference, we'll also have some entertaining games with some great prizes too!

Thursday morning we'll start with our town meeting and are hoping for a good discussion on NYSLAA: its structure, committees, goals, benefits, memberships, etc. Please plan on attending and participating in the discussion with your comments, concerns and suggestions.

After the morning workshops, head out to the streets of Corning for lunch on your own – the choices are endless! As a special gift to celebrate our 40th conference, hurry on back to the hotel where NYSLAA will have Corning's famous Hokey Pokey ice cream truck waiting to serve you (from 12:45-1:45)!



*Photo courtesy of Hokey Pokey,
Corning, NY*

After a busy day of workshops, we'll drive to The Watkins Glen International raceway for our evening dinner (a 30-minute drive). As we've noted before, for a \$10 fee (must be paid with your conference registration) you'll be able to ride around the racetrack in an official Watkins Glen International Pace Car. A rare opportunity for those who like the fast lane!

Our awards banquet and the infamous raffle basket will top off the conference early Friday afternoon. In lieu of a keynote speaker, we are focusing on and featuring our own members by scheduling 3-minute time slots for members to speak on a special accomplishment, an award, their career, whatever they'd like to share—an uplifting end to another great NYSLAA conference. We'll see you in Corning!

INSIDE: Annual Reports... Membership Update... Donations Requested... Craig Koste and Ray Murray Nominations...Eileen Lemley Scholarship

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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’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.



Search for: **New York State Library Assistants’ Association**

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NYSLAA Annual Reports for 2017

President

Michele A. Matthews

This was my fourth year as president of NYSLAA. My duties included setting the agenda for the Executive Council meetings and presiding over the general session of members at the annual conference.

The Executive Council said goodbye to **Rose Flickner**, our Conference Coordinator, who stepped down in October. **Ruth Oberg** graciously came out of retirement to serve as interim Conference Coordinator. Ruth began volunteering in her local public library. The Executive Council voted unanimously on her appointment. Thank you, Ruth.

There were no applications received for the NYSLAA's Degree Program Scholarship or our Continuing Education Scholarship.

The Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship was awarded to **Bonnie Sakow** of Newburgh Free Library and **Karen Strang** of Brunswick Community Library.

The 39th Annual Conference was held at The Holiday Inn, Electronics Parkway. **Anna Dobkowski** helped the Executive Council with the preparation of the conference. Thank you, Anna!

Tammy Southard received the Craig Koste Award. Tammy is employed at SUNY Oneonta. Several letters written by colleagues and supervisors detailing Tammy's involvement in the library community and in support of library assistants were received by the Executive Council. Congratulations, Tammy!

Mary Ann Mavrincac, Dean of River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester, was awarded the Ray Murray Award. Mary Ann has been a supporter of library assistants for quite a while. Congratulations, Mary Ann!

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board awarded four certificates this year. They continue to guide anyone interested in earning a certificate.

The Donations Committee with **Sheila Tshudy** as the chair ran a Flower Power campaign and raised over

\$1000.00. The money from this campaign was used to defray some of our yearly conference costs. Sheila also secured several items which were raffled off at our conference.

The Public Relations Committee worked with the State Assembly Representatives to secure Thursday, April 13, 2017 as Library Assistants' Day. NYSLAA also allowed library assistants to join NYSLAA for free during Library Week.

The Community Outreach Committee collected items for the Food Bank of CNY, Golisano Children's Hospital, and the CNYSPCA conference in June. They also collected homemade blankets from our members for the Linus Project in Buffalo and Albany.

It has been an honor to serve as your President.

Vice President

Kathy Rossello

I can't believe I am entering my 6th year of being Vice President of NYSLAA. I have attended all Executive Council meetings during 2017. I maintain the archives by filing minutes and all other association documents. I post updates for NYSLAA on their Facebook page as well. The Certificate of Achievement Review Board is another way in which I support library assistants. If you haven't received your Library Assistant Certificate of Achievement please contact me and I will point you in the right direction. I have found it very rewarding to work with the rest of the Executive Council. Please consider running for an office or one of the many committees of our great organization. Let's continue to make NYSLAA successful in the future.



Take a ride around the track in an official pace car at the Thursday night event for \$10. See registration form.

Recording Secretary

Tammy Southard

This is my third year as Recording Secretary for the NYSLAA Executive Council. As the Recording Secretary my duties have been to record and submit all of the minutes from the Executive Council Meetings and the Town Hall Meeting at the NYSLAA Conference.

The Recording Secretary also compiles, edits and publishes the NYSLAA Network Connections Newsletter four times a year with the assistance of the Newsletter Committee. This year the Newsletter Committee consisted of **Ruth Oberg, Michele Giuffre, Taylor Domenick, Erma Nieves, and Jessica Skeldon. Laureen Anthony-Palmer** was also on the committee for most of the year until she took on the Community Outreach Chair position for NYSLAA. Thank you all for your assistance with the newsletters! And thank you to all that have sent me articles and pictures to be included in the newsletter. We like to see what's going on in everyone's libraries and what we all are accomplishing.

I also chaired the NYSLAA Elections Committee this year with the offices of President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary up for nominations. Election ballots were mailed and tallied in the fall with **Michele Matthews** winning the election and continuing as President for another term. **Carrie Goetz** ran unopposed and will serve her third term as Treasurer. **Nora Renda** ran unopposed and is starting her first term as Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to all who volunteer to hold office for NYSLAA.

The NYSLAA Executive Council and the Conference Committee are a very devoted and dedicated group of people that work hard all year to have the very best conference every year for our members.

Please consider volunteering in any capacity and getting involved with NYSLAA. It truly is a rewarding experience being a part of this organization.



Treasurer

Carrie Goetz

Since the Network Connection Newsletter is only available online, we will not post our financial report on the web. The 2017 Treasurer's Annual Report is subject to our CPA's approval in May/June. Our books will be finalized in the next few months and taxes are filed in May/June. All NYSLAA members are entitled to see a full report. If you are interested in seeing the report after our CPA has approved it, please contact me at ceoberg@buffalo.edu.

Again this year I was sad to see no one applied for our scholarships. If there is a class you would like to take and your institution will not pay for it, let us know why you want to go and we would be happy to help. If you haven't applied before, it is free money that we offer to you. The **Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship** is also still available if you would like to come to the conference but receive no funding from your institution. The information can be found on our scholarship page, nyslaa.org/scholarships.html.

I am looking forward to the conference this year in Corning, NY. See you all soon!

Conference Coordinator

Ruth V. Oberg

I stepped down as Conference Coordinator after the 2016 Conference. **Rose Flickner** took on the position and organized the 2017 conference held in the Syracuse area. There were great workshops and nice events including a dinner at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo that made for another wonderful conference. **Nate Hill**, Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York Library Council, was our keynote presenter. He spoke of his inspirational projects and library spaces. After the conference Rose had to step down as coordinator. While the Executive Council is looking for a replacement, I offered to help out as interim Coordinator.

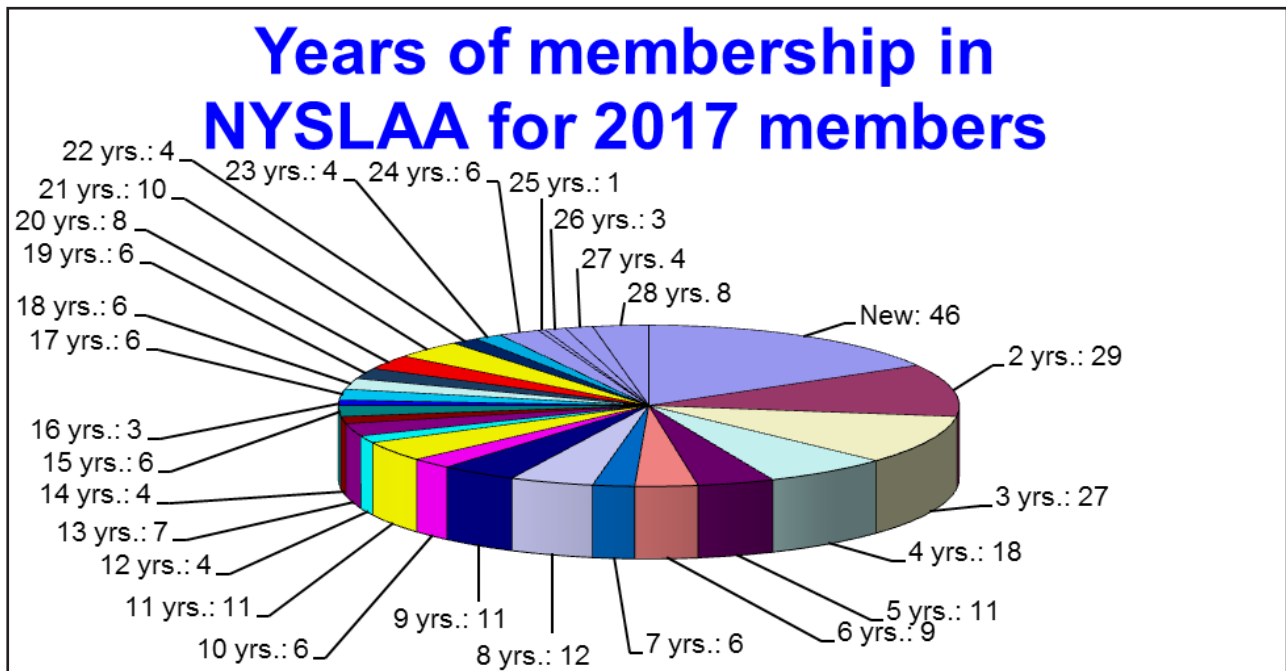
I have been helping with the 2018 conference to be held at the Radisson, in Corning, NY. **Sheila Tshudy** is chairing the committee along with **Terry Berl** and **Holley Laudico** to organize the workshops and donations. Since this is Sheila's third time hosting, she, Terry and Holley have done most of the work. I just finished the conference brochure and it will be mailed by the end of February. Hope to see you there.

We need someone to take over this position to continue to provide fine quality conferences. Please consider. You always have great support and help in planning.

Membership Secretary

Donna Hanna

The 2017 membership year ended at 276 members.



The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council—23 (21, 40, 29, 20, 23, 21)
 - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council—28 (23, 32, 26, 27, 28, 28)
 - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council—4 (6, 13, 9, 10, 33, 12)
 - (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council—53 (58, 57, 63, 55, 67, 31)
 - (5) Northern Country Library Council—15 (15, 17, 20, 23, 14, 15)
 - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council—47 (57, 78, 53, 60, 77, 79)
 - (7) South Central Research Library Council—44 (50, 54, 50, 46, 48, 56)
 - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council—29 (27, 34, 23, 26, 20, 19)
 - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council—24 (37, 25, 21, 24, 48, 26)
- Out of state members—9 (9, 8, 7, 8, 9, 8)

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

- College and University—78 (81, 112, 90, 94, 102, 90)
- Junior College—10 (10, 15, 16, 15, 15, 14)
- Law—4 (5, 7, 6, 5, 9, 6)
- Medical—4 (6, 5, 4, 1, 5, 3)
- Non-library—25 (24, 23, 25, 22, 19, 18)
- Public—149 (169, 184, 153, 157, 195, 151)
- School—3 (5, 9, 5, 3, 5, 6, 7)
- Special—5 (3, 3, 2, 2, 6, 7)

** Numbers in parenthesis are 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011 totals.*

The 2017 Membership directory is in the works and should be ready for online viewing shortly. Printed copies will only be available upon request.

I would like to thank **Chris**, SUNY Geneseo, for her assistance with the proofreading of registrations for the 2017 NYSLAA Conference.

Donations Committee

Sheila Tshudy, Chair; **Terry Berl** and **Holley Laudico**, Committee Members

In the Spring of 2017, we introduced a new online fundraiser through Flower Power, selling flower bulbs and plants. NYSLAA earned 50% of all sales and when it was all said and done, earned \$1,072! That was the good news. We later learned our fundraising efforts need to change as our tax status limits our fundraising to selling items with the NYSLAA logo. So now it's time to rethink what we need to do.

As you know fundraising is an essential part of our organization. It's what allows us to do many of the extras we do during the conference and helps to keep the conference affordable. Without this extra income, conference costs (or the conference as we know it) will need to change. Is there something you'd like to see NYSLAA sell with our logo? Let us know and we'll see what we can do!

In addition to fundraisers, we also rely heavily on ticket sales from raffle baskets, and 50-50 raffles during the conference. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who generously donated a raffle basket at last year's conference and for all those who purchased raffle tickets. We are indebted to the many businesses, organizations, and individuals who support NYSLAA by donating items for our conference bags, raffle items, and those presenting workshops at our conference.

It has been a pleasure serving as Donations Committee Chair these past few years, but it is time for me to step aside after our 2018 conference. If you are interested in this position, please contact me or a member of NYSLAA's Executive Council.

Certificate of Achievement

Michele A. Matthews

Current Committee members are **Michele Mathews**, Coordinator, **Terry Berl**, **Sergei Domashanko**, **Christine Havens**, **Michele Giuffre**, **Carrie Goetz**, **Kathy Rossello** and **Melissa Tidd**.

Three people were awarded certificates at this year's conference. They are:

Jeff Jeffords, Four County Library System
Level IV – Administration/Management

Jenean Roth, Ahira Hall Memorial Library
Level IV – General Library Services

Angela Taylor, Guernsey Memorial Library
Level III – Public Services

So far in 2018 there is one person who has received their certificate:

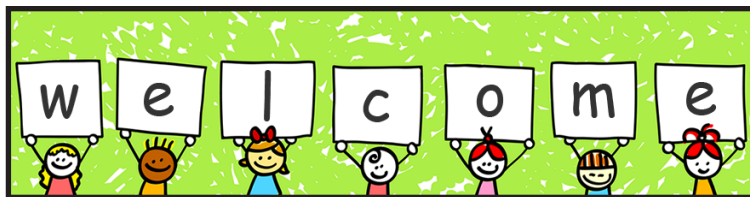
Jane Coane, Huntington Public Library
Level IV – Technical Services

Congratulations!



If you are interested in your certificate feel free to contact one of us, there is still time to receive your certificate at the 2018 conference.

End of Annual Reports



Welcome New Members!

Liliana Ferreira
Linda LaRosa
Amanda Mills
Maria Psaras
Sandra Spellen

Guernsey Memorial Library
Guernsey Memorial Library
Guernsey Memorial Library
Guernsey Memorial Library
Guernsey Memorial Library

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

Memberships for 2018 is at 67 and 5 members are new.

Renewal reminders will go out shortly. Membership cards/letters for 2018 renewals are being mailed electronically, so if you haven't received yours, you will shortly. If you believe you have renewed and don't receive a card/letter by the end of February, let me know and I will check into it for you.

If you change your address or your email, please be sure to alert me of these changes. This will help avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your membership notifications.

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.

Help Needed!

Sheila Tshudy, Donations Committee

Each year the Donations Committee reaches out to different businesses and organizations, requesting donations for the conference: items to be raffled, door prizes, and items to place in the conference bags. In the past few years it has become more difficult to secure these types of donations so members of the Executive Council and the Conference Committees have stepped up to supply the majority of the baskets raffled at the conferences. We are pleased and fortunate to have had some very generous members who provide baskets each year.

As you know, NYSLAA counts on funds raised from this raffle to pay for many of the conference extras we've come to expect and love! The Donations Committee would like to encourage all of you to consider providing a basket for the raffle this year. If you will be providing anything for the raffle, please contact one of us so we can add your name to our donor list! Thank you.

Sheila Tshudy tshudysa@cmog.org

Terry Berl tberl@brockport.edu

Holley Laudico hlaudico@brockport.edu



Member News: Workforce Development Institute

The Workforce Development Institute (WDI) develops, supports, and enriches the workforce throughout New York State through collaboration and funding initiatives with businesses, unions, nonprofits, educational institutions, and government.

WDI put out a 2017 calendar with the title "Women Working 2017." Our own NYSLAA member, **Louise Stamp** was featured for November. Her bio reads "Louise has worked for the New York Public Library since 1978 and currently works in Outreach Services allowing her to provide books and reading materials

to inmates of the Department of Corrections and residents of many homeless shelters. She has been very active in Local 1930 and has served in numerous service and leadership positions. Louise has also been an active member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) for over 20 years and is an engaged and committed volunteer in her community." The 2017 Women Working Calendar is a project of the WDI. In partnership with the NYS AFL-CIO, Area Labor Federations, Building Trades and Central Labor Councils, WDI works to advance the dialogue around women and work.

Designated Donations for the June 2018 Conference

Lauren Anthony-Palmer, Community Outreach Chair

After researching and collaborating with the Conference Committee, the following five donation categories have been selected that will benefit community members in the Corning area.

1. Homemade blankets (following the Project Linus guidelines) for Arnot Ogden's Pediatrics Unit <http://www.projectlinus.org/patterns/>
2. New long sleeved onesies/outfits (premie & newborn size; no zippers) for Arnot Ogden's NICU at <http://www.arnothealth.org/arnot-ogden-medical-center>.
3. New and gently used books (toddlers to teens) for the Red Book Shelf program which offers free books in public places throughout Steuben and Yates counties <http://proactioninc.org/resilient-children-and-families/#family-literacy-and-development>
4. Food and toiletries distributed to local residents by <https://corningfoodpantry.com/> .
Under the "give" tab, see "give food", "give other items."
These are the food items we need the most: Boxed dry foods such as pasta, rice and instant potatoes
Canned proteins such as salmon and tuna
Nuts, peanut butter and other nut butters
Canned fruits, beans, soups and vegetables
Crackers
Baby food

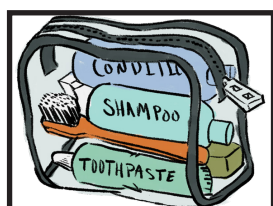
Clothing: We accept new or gently used clothing, including coats and blankets for the winter months, all sizes.
Personal Care Items: Deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, mouthwash, and feminine hygiene items
All sizes of disposable baby diapers
Items for our homeless project, such as can openers, blankets, plastic utensils, paper plates, hand sanitizer, moist towelettes

5. Cleaning items for Tanner's P.A.W.S. www.tannerspaws.org.
paper towels, bleach, Clorox concentrated cleaner, Mrs. Meyers concentrated Household Cleaner.

We will also be accepting monetary donations for any of the above named organizations as well.

Contact Lauren at lanthony@libraryweb.org with any questions.

Start collecting now!



Corning Community Food Pantry

Award Nominations

Each year, NYSLAA seeks nominations from its members for each of these awards. The Executive Council reviews the nominations in April of each year and notifies the recipients. The awards are presented at the annual conference in June.

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. Its name was changed in 1995 to honor Craig Koste, a library assistant who passed away 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

The Ray Murray Award was established in 1989 to recognize a librarian, library director, trustee, board member or any individual who has demonstrated outstanding support to library assistants.

Ray Murray began his library career at the University of Minnesota in 1961. He started at circulation and later transferred to acquisitions. While at Minnesota, Ray attended library school. He came to SUNY Oswego in 1975. With Ray’s help, a planning committee from SUNY Oswego, SUNY Cortland, and the University of Rochester brought about the 1977 conference, laying the groundwork for NYSLAA.

Ray left New York in 1980 where he had been the library director at Upsala College in New Jersey and Cardinal Stretch College in Milwaukee. He became the director of the Essex-Hudson Regional Library Cooperative in Newark, New Jersey in 1986. The New Jersey Cooperative is very similar to New York’s Three R’s Organization. One of Ray’s first projects in New Jersey was to bring about a conference for library assistants at Seton Hall in 1987.

To nominate someone for either award, please compile a packet including: your nomination letter, supporting letters, and any other pertinent documentation. The deadline for the submission is March 31st. See nyslaa.org for more information.

Send nomination packets (or questions) for either award to the NYSLAA President. (See page 2.) For full information go to: nyslaa.org/awardsnominations.html.



Apply for the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship

The **Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship** (ELCS), previously known as the NYSLAA Conference Contest, was renamed to honor the memory of **Eileen Lemley** who passed away while attending the 2014 conference. Eileen loved working in the library and attending NYSLAA conferences. The recipient will receive a full conference registration, up to two night’s lodging, the mixer, and one tour of your choice. Entries will be accepted from March 1st to March 31st. Applicants must complete a form and write an essay on “what NYSLAA means to me and why I want to attend the annual conference.” Only members who do not receive any funding from their library may apply.

The application form for the scholarship and more information on the web at: nyslaa.org/scholarships.html.