

# NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

Jan.- Mar. 2019 Vol.31, No.1

---

## Library Assistants: Learning in the Heart of the Finger Lakes

*Wendy Freier, 2019 Conference Committee Chair*

Our 41st conference will be taking place on June 12-14, 2019 at the Ramada Inn, located on Seneca Lake in Geneva, NY. Plan on coming in early on Wednesday and participating in an afternoon tour. We have three great options! There will be a 3-hour winery/brewery/cidery tour. A 1 ½ hour tour of the Smith Opera House, one of the oldest operating performing arts theaters in the United States. Or a 1 ½ hour White Deer bus tour. On the tour you might see the white deer herd and visit the edge of “Q” area of the Seneca Army Depot, which “allegedly” housed nuclear weapons.

Finish off Wednesday night by attending the mixer located, at Ventosa Vineyards (a mere 3.7 miles from the Ramada Hotel). Network with your peers, share good food and drink, and a wonderful view! During the first hour, enjoy: complimentary wine tastings, have your questions about wines answered by a wine maker, and enjoy a vineyard tour (weather permitting). Buffet dinner to follow.

We have worked hard at finding a mix of workshops and presenters and are pleased with the variety. There will be some familiar faces as well as new ones!



Just a few of Thursday’s workshops include: Libraries are for Everyone, (or are They?), ComiCon and Beyond: Library Programming as a Gateway to Engagement, Searching for Genealogy in NYS, and Adult Programming: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

Take time to shop at the stores downtown and enjoy lunch on your own at a restaurant within blocks of the hotel.

Our Thursday night dinner will be at Belhurst Castle. Before or after dinner, walk the grounds, enjoy the terrace and take in the lake views. We are planning a sit down dinner in the Meritage Ballroom.

Just a few of Friday’s workshops include: Law Enforcement Response/Juvenile Procedures, Library Assistants and Workplace Stress: What’s Fact and What’s Fiction, Marketing Libraries with Canva, and Find It in the Finger Lakes.

Following Friday’s workshops, we will enjoy lunch and our keynote speaker, Eleanor Stearns. She will be giving a dramatic presentation on Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Then we will move right to the one of the highlights of day, the presenting of the awards and the basket raffle.

We look forward to welcoming you to the **HEART** of the Finger Lakes!

---

**INSIDE: Annual Reports... Fundraising...Donations...Distinguished Service Award...Virginia Conference... Membership...Craig Koste and Ray Murray Nominations...Eileen Lemley Scholarship**

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019

### **Michele Matthews**

President  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(518) 276-8330  
prendm@rpi.edu

### **Kathy Rosello**

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

### **Carrie Goetz**

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

### **Tammy Southard**

Recording Secretary  
SUNY Oneonta  
(607) 436-2727  
Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

### **Nora Renda**

Corresponding Secretary  
University at Buffalo  
(716) 645-8587  
nlrenda@buffalo.edu

### **Donna Hanna**

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

### **Ruth V. Oberg**

Conference Coordinator  
oberg@buffalo.edu

\*\*\*\*\*

## Standing Committees

**Community Outreach Chair**  
(vacant)

**Donations Chair**  
(vacant)

**Public Relations Chair**  
(vacant)

**Certificate of Achievement  
Review Board Coordinator** – and –  
**Ambassador**  
**Michele Matthews**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
(518) 276- 8330  
prendm@rpi.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.



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: Tammy Southard**

SUNY Oneonta, Milne Library  
Email: Tammy.Southard@oneonta.edu

Newsletter Committee: **Chair, Tammy Southard**, SUNY Oneonta  
**Taylor Domenick**, Newburgh Free Library  
**Erma Nieves**, Bronx Community College  
**Ruth V. Oberg**, Unaffiliated

Next publication date: *May 15, 2019*  
Submission deadline: *April 30, 2019*

# NYSLAA Annual Reports for 2018

## President

**Michele A. Matthews**

It is an honor to say that 2018 is my fifth 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.

There were no applications received for the NYSLAA's Degree Program Scholarship or our Continuing Education Scholarship. There was one application for the Eileen Lemley Conference Scholarship but due to circumstances the awardee was not able to attend.

The 40th Annual Conference was held at The Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY. **Sheila Tshudy** of the Corning Museum of Glass, stepped up and hosted her third conference, along with **Terry Berl** and **Holley Laudico** of SUNY Brockport. Thank you Sheila, Terry and Holley for a great conference!

**Terry Berl** received the Craig Koste Award. Terry was employed at SUNY Brockport until her retirement. Several letters written by colleagues and supervisors detailing Terry's involvement in the library community and in support of library assistants were received by the Executive Council. Congratulations, Terry!

There were no nominations for the Ray Murray Award.

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

The Public Relations Committee worked with the State Assembly Representatives to secure Thursday, April 13, 2018 as Library Assistants' Day. NYSLAA allowed library assistants to join for their first year of membership to NYSLAA for free during Library Week.

The Community Outreach Committee collected items for the Food Bank, pet items for Tanner's Paws, and onesie outfits for the Arnot Odgen's Neonatal Unit at the conference in June. They also collect homemade blankets from our members for the Linus Project for the Arnot Odgen's Pediatric Unit.

*It has been a pleasure to serve as your President.*

## Vice President

**Kathy Rossello**

This will be my 7th year as Vice President of NYSLAA. I have attended all Executive Council Meetings during 2018. I have maintained the archives by filing minutes and all other association documents. I have posted updates for NYSLAA on our 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 steer 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 joining one of the many committees of our organization. Let's continue to make NYSLAA successful in the future.

## Recording Secretary

**Tammy Southard**

This will be my fourth 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 **Michele Giuffre**, **Taylor Domenick**, **Erma Nieves**, **Jessica Skeldon**, and **Ruth Oberg**. Thank you all for your assistance with the newsletters! I appreciate all of the articles, announcements and photographs for events that you are hosting to be included in the newsletter. I try to promote what is going on with our members and their libraries and we like to hear what our fellow library assistants are accomplishing.

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 2018 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 it after our CPA has approved them, please contact me at [ceoberg@buffalo.edu](mailto:ceoberg@buffalo.edu).

Just a quick reminder that if there is a class or a workshop 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 for you just for writing a short paragraph. 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](http://nyslaa.org/scholarships.html).

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



## Corresponding Secretary

**Nora Renda**

This was my first year as corresponding secretary and I have to admit that I had a lot to learn. I would like to thank the council for their patience and **Tammy**, **Ruth** and **Carrie** for showing me the ropes.

One of my duties is to inform the winners of awards and scholarships. **Michelle Ann Hubbell** from Cornell University was the winner to attend the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum Conference held May 21, 2018. The Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service was awarded to **Terry Berl**.

This year as corresponding secretary I presided over the NYSLAA elections for the Executive Council for the following positions. Each of these candidates ran unopposed. The winners are:

Vice President: **Kathy Rossello**,  
East Greenbush Community Library  
Membership Secretary: **Donna Hanna**,  
Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo  
Recording Secretary: **Tammy Southard**,  
James M. Milne Library, SUNY Oneonta  
Conference Coordinator: **Ruth Oberg**,  
Retired from the University at Buffalo

NYSLAA is a wonderful organization and I'm glad to have been chosen to serve. Thank You.

## Certificate of Achievement

**Michele A. Matthews**

Current Committee members are **Michele Mathews**, Coordinator; **Christine Haven**, **Carrie Goetz**, **Kathy Rossello**, and **Melissa Tidd**.

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

**Jane Coane**

Level IV Technical Services

Huntington Public Library and Commack Public Library

**Timothy Finnigan**

Level IV Public Services

Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo

**Jose Antonio Rodriguez-Morell**

Level III General Library Services

Salvation Army-College for Officer Training



If you are interested in your certificate feel free to contact one of us, there is still time to receive your certificate at the 2019 conference.

The Certificate of Review Board would like to thank **Michele Giuffre** for all of her hard work on this committee and wish her well in her retirement.

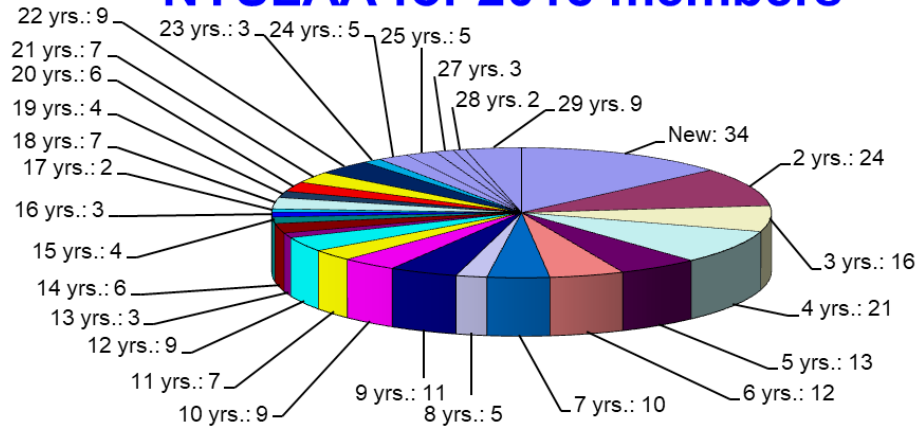


## Membership Secretary

Donna Hanna

The 2018 membership year ended with 249 members.

### Years of membership in NYSLAA for 2018 members



The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council — 15 (23, 21, 40, 29, 20, 23)
  - (2) Central New York Library Resources Council — 23 (28, 23, 32, 26, 27, 28)
  - (3) Long Island Library Resources Council — 8 (4, 6, 13, 9, 10, 33)
  - (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council — 53 (53, 58, 57, 63, 55, 67)
  - (5) Northern Country Library Council — 12 (15, 15, 17, 20, 23, 14)
  - (6) Rochester Regional Library Council — 36 (47, 57, 78, 53, 60, 77)
  - (7) South Central Research Library Council — 47 (44, 50, 54, 50, 46, 48)
  - (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council — 29 (29, 27, 34, 23, 26, 20)
  - (9) Western New York Library Resources Council — 18 (24, 37, 25, 21, 24, 48)
- Out of state members—8 (9, 9, 8, 7, 8, 9)

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

- College and University — 56 (78, 81, 112, 90, 94, 102)  
Junior College — 11 (10, 10, 15, 16, 15, 15)  
Law — 3 (4, 5, 7, 6, 5, 9)  
Medical — 2 (4, 6, 5, 4, 1, 5)  
Non-library — 25 (25, 24, 23, 25, 22, 19)  
Public — 147 (149, 169, 184, 153, 157, 195)  
School — 1 (3, 5, 9, 5, 3, 5, 6)  
Special — 4 (5, 3, 3, 2, 2, 6)

*\* Numbers in parenthesis are 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012 totals for comparison.*

The 2018 Membership directory is in the works and should be ready for online viewing shortly.  
Printed copies will only be available upon request.S

I would like to thank **Patty Hoffman**, SUNY Geneseo, for her assistance with the proofreading of registrations for the 2018 NYSLAA Conference.

## Conference Coordinator

Ruth V. Oberg

At the end of the 2016 conference I stepped down as Conference Coordinator after serving for 20 years in the position. After the 2017 conference, Executive Council found themselves again looking for a replacement. I offered to help out and was appointed as interim Conference Coordinator. I helped plan the 2018 Conference in Corning. At the end of 2018 I was nominated for another term since no one else had stepped up to fill the position. **Deanna Meadowcroft** has recently expressed interest in shadowing me and possibly filling this position. I am really grateful for her wanting to take on this position. It is a bit of work but also very gratifying to see a successful conference produced.

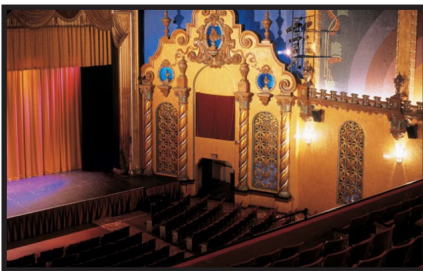
Corning, NY was the site of the 2018 Conference. It was hosted by **Sheila Tshudy**, (her third time hosting) from Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass, along with **Terry Berl** and **Holley Laudico**, both from Drake Memorial Library, SUNY Brockport. There were great workshops and nice events including a mixer at Park City where we were entertained by a fun mixer game.

There was dinner at the Watkins Glen International racetrack with pace car rides for those who wanted to partake. It all made for another wonderful conference. Instead of a keynote presenter at our lunch on Friday, **Sheila** organized NYSLAA members from around the state to deliver five-minute lightning talks about special activities they have helped with in their libraries.

I have been helping with the planning for the 2019 conference to be held at the Ramada, in Geneva, NY. **Wendy Freier** is chairing the committee along with **Debbie Elliotto** and **Trisha Kemp**, all from Geneva Public Library. We will have our mixer at Ventosa Winery and our Thursday dinner at Belhurst Castle. Seneca Lake is beautiful and you will have plenty of views from our venues. I am currently working on the conference brochure and it will be mailed by the end of February. Hope to see you there.

As I have stated many times before, NYSLAA is a wonderful association and I have always enjoyed working on the Executive Council. We really enjoy meeting almost monthly and networking and catching up with each other. It is a great group of people. Thank you for letting me serve you for so many years.

## End of Annual Reports



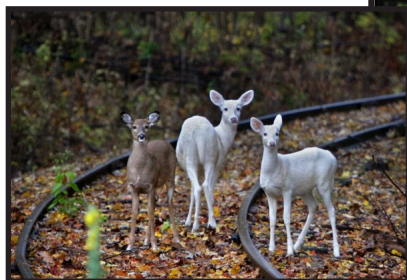
Interior of the Smith Opera House we will see on our tour  
June 12, 2019



Belhurst Castle  
Site of Thursday evening event  
June 13, 2019



Ventosa Vineyards  
with view below.  
Site of Wednesday Mixer  
June 12, 2019



White deer we hope to see on the Seneca Depot tour  
June 12, 2019



One of the wineries/distilleries/breweries we will visit on the tour  
June 12, 2019

## Fundraising

Wendy Freir

We are still in the midst of the Schwan's Cares fundraiser. We've raised \$266 to date. Thank you to the following people who participated:

**Ruth Oberg,**  
**Geraldine McCarthy,**  
Russell Tshudy  
**Sheila Tshudy,**  
**Tammy Southard,**  
**Wendy Freir,**  
**Jenean Roth,**  
**Donna Hanna,**  
**Pat Klaybor, Michele Matthews,**  
**Deanna Meadowcroft, Aesia Robinson,**  
**Carrie Goetz, Heather Bresee Gad, Laura Henry.**



We will earn 5% on food orders until March 15, 2019.

Just use the following link and ID:

Link: <https://www.schwans-cares.com/c/43410>

**NYSLAA**

**ID: 43410**

### Update from Schwan's for users:

*Starting February 14, 2019, supporters will no longer be able to manually type in your campaign ID when they checkout online at Schwans.com.*

- 1. New supporters who want to contribute to your fundraiser **must first** visit your campaign page then click the **SHOP** button to start their shopping online with Schwan's Home Service.*
- 2. Returning supporters, who have previously contributed to your campaign, will be recognized on Schwans.com and their purchase will be attributed to your campaign.*

Share the link with your friends and family on your social media pages.

Conferences are not cheap. Registration includes most of the meals in the cost and meals can add up. Join me in supporting this conference by contributing to a fundraiser, providing a basket for the raffle, or by giving a donation. A donate link has been added to the [NYSLAA.org](http://NYSLAA.org) home page. Remember to bring your cash to the conference for the basket raffles and all of the 50/50 opportunities. Last year the 50/50 raffle netted \$542, the basket raffle made \$1126 and the Lottery ticket sales made \$1117 for a grand total of \$2785 that we were able to use to offset conference costs. Thank you all for your support and I join you in saying that we have an awesome conference!

## Outreach for the Community

Wendy Freir

We will be collecting donations for the following local area agencies. If you have never heard about them, here is a little background information on each.

**Center of Concern** – For 40 years, the Geneva Center of Concern has been providing services while promoting dignity, respect and self-empowerment. For people with no other place to turn, The Center provides a safety net, offering a listening ear, a helping hand, and restoring a sense of worth to those it serves. The Center also operates a food pantry and store, both of which are vital sources of support to the Geneva community. We will be collecting **non-perishable foods** at the conference.

**Beverly Animal Shelter** – The BAS is a non-profit organization and no-kill facility. We do not euthanize animals to make space, nor do we pick or choose “optimal” animals to take in. For this reason, many animals may spend their entire life at our shelter. These are the special animals that many other shelters deem un-adoptable and would put down or not accept due to their behavioral or medical conditions.

We will be collecting **pet items (i.e. food, treats, collars, towels and cleaning supplies)** at the conference.

**Golisano Children's Hospital** - Helps families feel at home in the times of their greatest need. They do everything they can to help children reach their fullest potential. Help support the 85,000 children and families that visit the hospital each year.

We will be collecting **Children's books (tots through middle school, new and gently used)** and **Character Band-aids (NO Latex)** at the conference. *(Note: Amazon has better pricing and larger quantities than locally. Just be sure they are not made with latex.)*

**Linus Project** – Learn more about how Project Linus got started. I did not know and I have been knitting or crochet blankets for years!

We will be collecting **blankets (they must be handmade, i.e. knitted, crocheted, fleece tied)** at the conference.

See <https://www.projectlinus.org/about/> for details.

Donated items, along with cash, and checks (made payable to NYSLAA) will be accepted at the NYSLAA registration table. Please consider helping our host's area charities.



## Distinguished Service Award

The Syracuse University Libraries Assembly (SULA) Distinguished Service Award Committee has awarded the 2018 Distinguished Service Award to **Gerry McCarthy**, Office Supervisor in the Learning Commons at Bird Library. This award represents recognition by Gerry's peers of her significant contributions to Syracuse University Libraries and the Syracuse University community.

Gerry joined the library in 2007 as Office Supervisor for the Social Sciences and Area Studies department. In 2009, Gerry joined the Learning Commons and has been a key contributor in establishing it as a highly useful resource for the SU community and keeping it running smoothly. She has also been generous with her time and effort, lending her enthusiasm and deep competence to many projects outside her home department, including Outstanding Student Employee Awards, student appreciation efforts, Bird Beautification team, the Human Library, many search committees, the Libanalytics team, and Welcome Fest.

The many letter sent in support of Gerry's nomination praised her valuable personal qualities- tireless energy, a cheerful and upbeat attitude, and endless patience- as well as her outstanding professional abilities, her superb organizational talents, her strong dedication to service, and her skills as a supportive, attentive, and empowering supervisor.



*Gerry retired from the Bird Library as of Jan. 31, 2019. She received a certificate and monetary award from her library for this award. Her name will also be engraved on a plaque with past winners.*

***Congratulations Gerry!***

## Virginia Conference

The Virginia Library Association has decided to not do the VLAPAF conference this year. They will be doing focus groups across the state instead, with the hopes of revamping it and coming back as a two day conference in the near future. Therefore NYSLAA will not be participating in the reciprocal agreement with Virginia this year and it will be postponed until further notice.

## Membership Update

**Donna Hanna**

Memberships for 2019 is at 92 and 6 members are new. Renewal reminders have been sent out. Membership cards/letters for 2019 renewals are being mailed electronically and if you renewed before the 3rd week in February you will receive a hard copy along with your conference brochure.

If you move or your email has changed, 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](mailto:hanna@geneseo.edu).

**Welcome!**

## Welcome New Members!

**Donna Hanna**

**Allen, Hope**

SUNY Plattsburgh, Feinberg Library

**Bleaux, Jennifer**

SUNY Plattsburgh, Feinberg Library

**deGonzague, Karen**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Richard G. Folsom Library

**Drollette, Rebecca**

SUNY Plattsburgh, Feinberg Library

**Miller, Jaimi**

Brighton Memorial Library

**Saatman, Janine**

SUNY Cobleskill, Van Wagenen Library



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://nyslaa.org/scholarships.html).