

NETWORK CONNECTION



Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association

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NYSLAA UPDATES

Cat Wise

I'd like to a moment to introduce myself to you as the new President of The New York State Library Assistants' Association. I have big shoes to fill as I am following in the footsteps of **Michele Matthews**, an extraordinary woman who has served the NYSLAA organization proudly for many years. I am truly honored and excited to be leading such an important and professional organization. I look forward to collaborating with you to leverage new opportunities to increase membership value and growth for NYSLAA.

I was just appointed this month, so I am still getting settled and learning about the status of ongoing projects but wanted to share my thoughts about the future of NYSLAA.

As a member of NYSLAA I have had the opportunity to attend several of the NYSLAA conferences and am very familiar of the value these conferences bring to our members. Due to the pandemic our 2021 conference was cancelled. This was a big disappointment as I had planned to host that conference. During the last few years, we library workers have had to deal with so many challenges of enforcing various COVID-related policies, limited travel funds, and staff shortages. We continue this experience and with that I applaud your resiliency and remind you that NYSLAA is here to support you as we learn and grow together.

We still have the uncertainty of when we can meet as a group without the worry we will have to cancel unexpectedly. With that thought in mind we decided it would be best to postpone our conference until 2023. We tentatively have the conference to take place in Oneonta, NY, June 7-9. As future details become available, they will be posted to the listserv, Facebook, the website, and distributed via the newsletter.

Although we are not having a conference this year our committee is working to find creative ways to reach out to you. We plan to show more of a presence on listserv, Facebook, and the website. In addition, I would like to hear from you and what you want from NYSLAA as a member.

We recently did an online survey and I have read all the comments. Over the next few months, I hope to address those comments and discuss them in a positive light on social media. If members are interested in an online Library worker roundtable, I would love to plan a zoom meeting over the summer.

We have so many great people and so many opportunities. I want to engage you and want us to work collaboratively to grow the association and grow the awareness of the value of our work.

(continued on page 3)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2022

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Standing Committees

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Donations Chair
(vacant)

Public Relations Chair
(vacant)

**Certificate of Achievement
Review Board Coordinator**

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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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(continued from page 1)

Please look to the listserv, Facebook, and our website over the next year as we discuss conference planning, growing membership, fundraising goals and what our libraries are doing differently through COVID. I invite you all to share please share on FB or send to me to post. To submit contributions for future newsletters or FB to cathy.wise@oneonta.edu or just send me an email with any questions or comments. I want to hear from you all.

As I look ahead to the upcoming year and the challenges we will face, I would like to remind you there is tremendous power in the size of our membership and the many talents our members bring to this organization. Thank you for the opportunity as I am thrilled to be working with such an exceptional group.



2021 NYSLAA Election Results

Tammy Southard, Elections Chair

Serving as chair for the 2021 elections, I am excited to announce that we received nominations for the three officer positions.

The winners are:

Cat Wise, James M. Milne Library, SUNY College at Oneonta was nominated as the President

Melanie Castine, James M. Milne Library, SUNY College at Oneonta was nominated as Treasurer

Dawn Foland, Van Wagenen Library, SUNY College at Cobleskill was re-elected as Corresponding Secretary

Their terms will run from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

Congratulations to all and welcome to **Cat** and **Melanie!**

National Library Week

National Library Week will be April 3-9, 2022 for this year with the theme being “**Connect With Your Library.**” The theme is an invitation for communities to join, visit, or advocate for their local libraries. National Library Week was first sponsored in 1958 and is an annual observance by ALA and libraries across the country each April. ALA has announced that actress and comedian Molly Shannon will be the honorary chair of National Library Week. Molly will be releasing her memoir, *Hello Molly!* in April 2022.



Library Advocacy Day 2022

On March 2, 2022, #LibraryAdvocates across the state will join together virtually for NYLA’s Annual Library Advocacy Day. We cannot wait to join together to advocate for funding and policies that benefit and strengthen our libraries.

Please join (and share) the link:

[https://www.nyla.org/
lad2022/?menukey=advocacy](https://www.nyla.org/lad2022/?menukey=advocacy)

NYSLAA Annual Reports for 2021

Vice President

Kathy Rossello

This past year 2021 has flown by. I have missed seeing everyone at our annual conference. Hopefully the year 2023, will bring us all together again.

I have attended all our virtual NYSLAA Executive Council meetings. Council has made a difficult decision to postpone our 2021 NYSLAA Conference. Maintaining the archives by filing minutes and all other association documents, is one of my tasks. Posting updates and information to our Facebook page, to update members is another. I contacted the Chair of New York State Assembly's Library Committee to begin arrangements for the annual New York State Library Assistants' Recognition Day to be celebrated on the Thursday of National Library Week. This day was celebrated on April 8, 2021.

The Certificate of Achievement Review Board is another way in which I support library assistants. We awarded **Sheryl A. Saxby** her Certificate of Achievement, Level IV in Public Services. Sheryl is from the Geneva Public Library; she works in Youth Services. If you are interested in receiving your Certificate of Achievement, please reach out to the committee by contacting **Kathy Rossello**, COA Coordinator at rossek@eglibrary.org.

I have found it very rewarding to work with the rest of the Executive Council. It has also been a pleasure working with all the Conference Committee members over the past years. Please consider running for an office or joining one of our many committees of our organization.

Recording Secretary

Tammy Southard

We had a rather quiet year with NYSLAA in 2021. We did hold a few NYSLAA Executive Council meetings virtually during the year. I was able to record and submit all of the meeting minutes for the year. I typically compile and publish four issues of the newsletter each year, but with not having any NYSLAA functions, last January 2021 was our latest newsletter published. We are hoping to get NYSLAA going again this year, starting with this newsletter.

The 2021 NYSLAA Executive Council elections were held this year, of which I presided over. We welcome two new faces to the council. **Cat Wise** from SUNY Oneonta is our new President, **Melanie Castine**, also from SUNY Oneonta is our new Treasurer and **Dawn Foland** from SUNY Cobleskill has been re-elected as our Corresponding Secretary. Thank you for stepping up and filling positions to keep NYSLAA going.

Corresponding Secretary

Dawn Foland

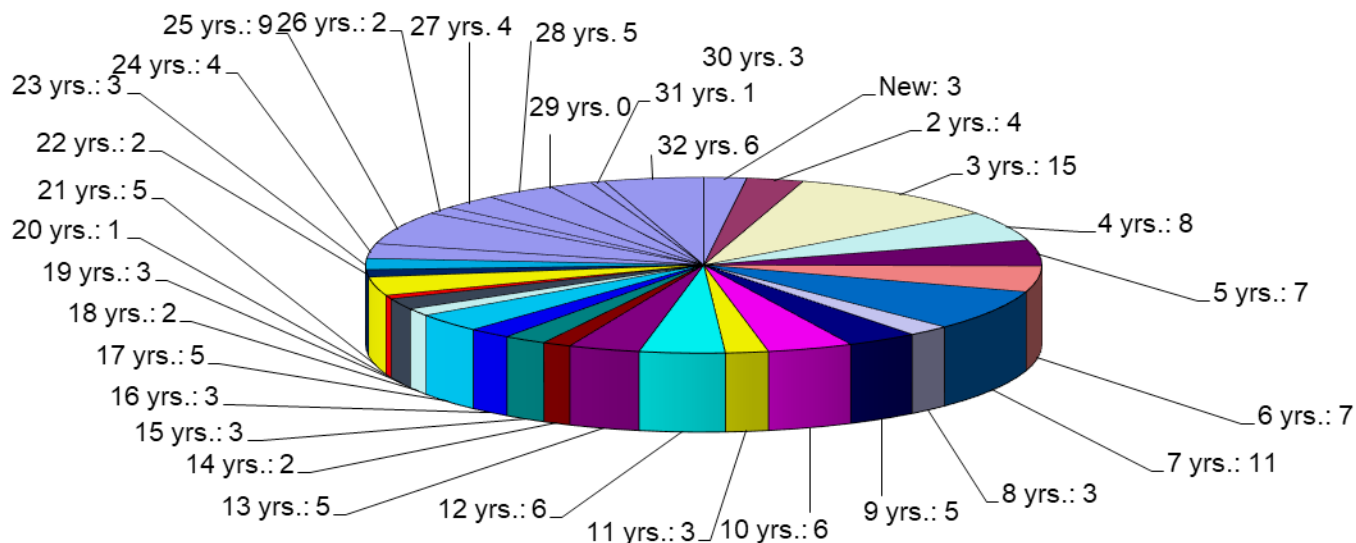
Because we did not have a conference this year, there was no Craig Koste Award Winner, Ray Murray Award winner, Degree Program Scholarship winner, Continuing Education Scholarship winner or Eileen Lemley Scholarship award winner.

I ran for re-election as the NYSLAA Corresponding Secretary unopposed in 2021 and was reinstated for another two-year term.

**Membership Secretary
Donna Hanna**

The 2021 membership year ended at 147 members.

Years of membership in NYSLAA for 2021 members



The regional distribution of members is:

- (1) Capital District Library Council—13 (12, 19, 15, 23, 21, 40)
- (2) Central New York Library Resources Council—10 (12, 22, 23, 28, 23, 32)
- (3) Long Island Library Resources Council—2 (5, 5, 8, 4, 6, 13)
- (4) Metropolitan New York Library Council—17 (20, 49, 53, 53, 58, 57)
- (5) Northern Country Library Council—10 (11, 16, 12, 15, 15, 17)
- (6) Rochester Regional Library Council—26 (34, 59, 36, 47, 57, 78)
- (7) South Central Research Library Council—33 (39, 48, 47, 44, 50, 54)
- (8) Southeastern New York Library Resources Council—16 (19, 26, 29, 29, 27, 34)
- (9) Western New York Library Resources Council—13 (15, 19, 18, 24, 37, 25)
- Out of state members—7 (7, 8, 8, 9, 9, 8)

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

- College and University—36 (43, 69, 56, 78, 81, 112)
- Junior College—9 (9, 15, 11, 10, 10, 15)
- Law—2 (2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)
- Medical—0 3 (4, 2, 4, 6, 5, 4)
- Non-library—26 (29, 32, 25, 25, 24, 23)
- Public—71 (82, 143, 147, 149, 169, 184)
- School—0 (1, 2, 1, 3, 5, 9)
- Special—3 (4, 4, 5, 3, 3, 2)

** Numbers in parenthesis are 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, and 2015 totals.*

This year, we again, saw a loss of membership.

The 2021 Membership directory has been started and should be ready for online viewing shortly. Printed copies will only be available upon request.

Conference Coordinator

Wendy Freier

Okay, so let's start by talking about the elephant in the room, Covid-19. This pandemic has disrupted many areas of our lives and our libraries. We have had to make decisions about the conference based on the policies of the conference site as well as the recommendations of the Governor, the counties in NYS, and the CDC.

Based on these parameters, we cancelled the conference scheduled for 2020 in Cobleskill. As we had all the speakers, the tours, and the activities planned the hope was to use that plan for the 2021. As we approached the time for contacting speakers for 2021, we realized that the Covid numbers were still too high and the venue was not scheduling any outside conferences. Once again we cancelled.

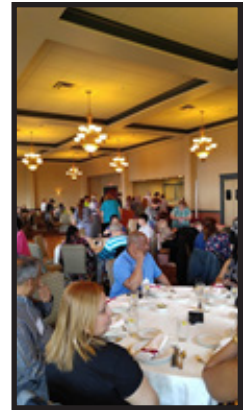
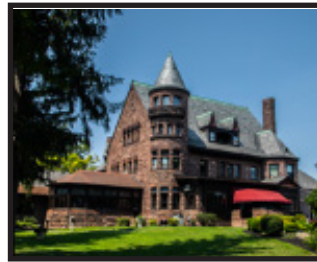
Since last year, many of the conference hosts at SUNY Cobleskill have moved on to other libraries, therefore, the executive Council started meeting to discuss this and were making plans to move forward with the 2022 conference when the omicron variant of Covid exploded making it difficult to feasibly maintain social distance at the conference. Impacting the tours, meals, workshops, and networking. The decision to cancel the 2022 conference was made reluctantly.

Moving forward, we will strive to keep everyone connected and informed via the listserv and facebook.

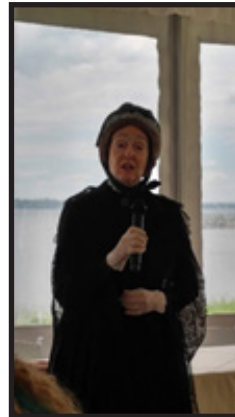
Looking back to happier times! Do you remember the 2019 conference held in Geneva? Our Wednesday night mixer was held at Ventosa Vineyards.



Thursday Evening dinner was held at Belhurst Castle.



Beautiful views and beautiful people at both venues.



We were honored by our keynote speaker, Eleanor Sterns as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Oh, the wonderful things we learned! In addition to these wonderful memories, there were the workshops, the tours, and the opportunity to reconnect with our friends from other libraries across the state.

We have enjoyed this look back and we are looking forward to next year and hoping that we will see each other in person!

This a wonderful association! Remember to renew your membership. I just renewed mine!

END OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

We've had sixty-six 2021 members renew for 2022 so far. Twenty of these members hold associate status. We also have four new members giving us a total of seventy members so far. All 2022 members have been sent their cards/letters for the current year, so if you have not received one please take a moment to renew now. Reminders for others will go out shortly.

Membership forms are available on our nyslaa.org website under the "Membership Application" on the right. You can fill out your renewal and mail it in with your check or you can renew via the "tools and resources" tab and following the directions. If you renew using this method, you do not need to send a membership form. I would just need to know if any of your information has changed. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are also mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

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 information.

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.



Welcome New Members for 2021!

Eric Foster	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich
Donna Lewis-Smith	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich
Julia Whitney	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich

Welcome New Members for 2022!

Abigail Connelly	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich
Amy Corey	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich
Kathleen Skellington	Guernsey Memorial Library, Norwich
Michael Schwartz	Greece Public Library

Library News

Laurie Schmidt

The Henrietta G. Lewis Library at Niagara County Community College is starting to return to normal with the restoration of two clerical positions and expanded library hours. Jenny Crandall spent the 2020-2021 academic year as a part-time clerk, but returned to her pre-COVID full-time role for 2021-2022. We welcomed back our evening clerk, Gil Certo in early 2022. The COVID-related staff losses forced us to reduce opening hours, but with these positions restored, we returned to an 8am-8pm schedule, plus Saturday hours. We continue to serve the college community.



Our Library secretary of over 30 years, **Barb Ruppel**, retired at the beginning of December. We miss her, but wish her all the best in her retirement. Barb was a longtime member of NYSLAA. This is a picture of Barb from our 2019 Conference in Geneva, where she received a Certificate of Achievement Level IV in Administrative/Management.

Gingerbread Jubilee

Cat Wise

As mentioned before, COVID has had our libraries go through many challenges to get creative on outreach projects that engage our students. Over the fall, our student employees worked together on a Gingerbread house and submitted the entry to Oneonta's Downtown Gingerbread contest and won first place for a group entry. The project was nice for our students as they could work on individual parts of the gingerbread independently while still collaborating as a team.

The Gingerbread project is put on by Destination Oneonta and all the entries were proudly displayed in the windows of downtown Oneonta. The 2021 Theme was **Deck the Palms: Sand is the New Snow**. We enjoyed it so much we are planning to make this an annual event.

