

NYSLAA Membership

A Regular Member is any person working as a library assistant (any library worker who does not hold the position of librarian) in a library in New York State.

An Associate Member is anyone who is interested in the professional growth and recognition of library assistants, but does not qualify as a Regular Member. This also includes out of state library assistants.

A membership application is on the website as a downloadable pdf at nyslaa.org.

Membership Benefits

An annual conference is held in June, moving to a different area of the state each year. It offers two and a half days of workshops, tours, keynote speakers, and general networking with other library assistants.

NYSLAA publishes a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to each member. This keeps the members informed, and promotes the activities of the organization.

The Certificate of Achievement is a voluntary program that recognizes library assistants (library workers who do not hold the position of librarian) for their contributions to libraries and the library profession. The overall purpose of the program is to acknowledge the achievements of the individual. Upon meeting the requirements of this program, NYSLAA awards them a Certificate of Achievement.

Every April, library assistants in New York State are recognized by a proclamation from the New York State Legislature that proclaims the Thursday of National Library Week as Library Assistants' Day.

We maintain both a listserv, NYSLAA-I, and a web site. Go to nyslaa.org for details.

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The New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA)

NYSLAA represents library workers from libraries across NYS. Whether your title is *library clerk*, *support staff*, *library technician*, *secretary* or another local title, this is your organization! Membership is open to all (in any area of the globe) who support the goals and objectives of the NYSLAA.

For more information go to:
nyslaa.org

Vision Statement

"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 will be a voice for New York's library assistants. We will lead the way in creating and supporting a system that will bring about real, positive change in the library community. Our Association shall be a place of competent professionalism and of community, where all our members can come secure in the knowledge that they will be welcomed for who they are; included actively and meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives; provided the quality services they need; and challenged to realize their best hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

Mission Statement

In carrying out that vision, the mission of the New York State Library Assistants' Association is:

- ❖ To enhance the professional image & status of NY State's library assistants.
- ❖ To further their professional growth.
- ❖ To provide a network for communication to our members and the profession on library and library assistant issues and trends.
- ❖ To network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national, and international levels.

NYSLAA Awards

Ray Murray Award

The Ray Murray Award was established in 1989 at the 11th annual conference. It is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, board members or others who have contributed to:

- ❖ promoting the recognition of library assistants
- ❖ promoting the professional growth of library assistants
- ❖ enhancing the status of library assistants.

The award was named in honor of Ray Murray, formerly of SUNY Oswego, who paved the way for the first conference held in New York State and laid the essential groundwork for the establishment of the Association.



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 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 is given to the recipient's library for collection development.

NYSLAA Scholarships

- ❖ The Continuing Education Scholarship is for members continuing their education in any field and not pursuing a degree at the time. The award is \$250.
- ❖ The Degree Program Scholarship is for members pursuing a degree in any field. The award is \$350.



Our History

NYSLAA is an organization whose roots began in 1977 at the first ever "library clerical conference" in New York State. From these humble beginnings, NYSLAA has grown as an independent organization, with over to 400 members. The goals of the Association were voted on and passed in 1988 at the 10th annual conference.

NYSLAA is run by library assistants, for library assistants and is comprised of individuals representing various types of libraries throughout New York State. NYSLAA has had members from several other states and Canada.

The governing body is the Executive Council which consists of six officers from academic, public, and corporate libraries. There are several committees under the Executive Council on which you may volunteer to serve.

NYSLAA has now hosted over 30 annual conferences moving them to different locations around the state each year.