NETWORK CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association *April– August. 2026 Vol.38, No.2*

NYSLAA: Celebrating 45 Years
Empowering Library Workers to Lead, Learn, and Excel
Hosted by the NYSLAA Executive Council
Held at the Radisson Hotel in Corning, NY

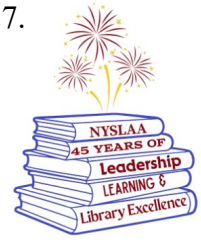
Wendy Freier
Conference Cordinator

Wow, forty-five years! The time goes by so quickly. Each conference is unique and each is a wonderful opportunity to, grow in knowledge, to make connections, and enjoy a new part of NYS.

This year we returned to Corning, NY. I enjoyed the Corning Museum of Glass, although, I wish I had more time! I walked up and down Market Street and enjoyed window shopping and the food. We had a great variety of workshops, something for everyone. I took the AI class and learned more than I could absorb, I did not know much about the topic and was glad that it was addressed. We will be seeing more AI in our work as the years go on and, once again, NYSLAA wants to expand our knowledge base so we are able to assist our patrons. There were so many good workshops and I wanted to attend them all. Maybe we can bring some back another year!

We have been looking into several different areas for our 2027 conference. No location has yet been chosen. We are looking into the Buffalo area, the Albany area, and SUNY Maritime. Anyone in those areas, who want to step forward to help, would make our decision easier.

We are looking forward to another great conference in 2027.



NYSLAA: Celebrating 45 Years
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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.

Find us on Facebook

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

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Newsletter Committee: **Cheryl Paine**, Gorham Free Library; **Heather Gad**, SUNY Oneonta; **Patty Jackman**, Middle Country Public Library.

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Stepping into a New Season: Encouragement for the Workplace

Cheryl Marriott

NYSLAA President

As summer winds down, our library work environments are shifting gears. Preparing for higher foot traffic, adjusting shift schedules, and meeting new departmental demands brings a fresh start to our daily routines.

In the middle of this busy operational reset, remember the vital role you play on the team:

- **Acknowledge Your Value:** From frontline desk coverage to technical processing, your day-to-day work keeps the entire facility running efficiently.
- **Optimize Workflows:** Use this seasonal transition to organize workspaces, test updated digital tools, and streamline daily task routines.
- **Rely on Team Support:** Communicate openly across shifts, share best practices, and collaborate closely with your colleagues.
- **Pace Daily Demands:** Balance high-volume patron service with backend assignments to maintain steady productivity and manageable stress levels.

Step into this new quarter with confidence in your skills and pride in your contributions. Thank you for your continued professionalism, hard work, and support for the entire team. Wishing everyone a smooth and successful season ahead.

Introducing NYSLAA's new Public Relations Chairperson

John Cordovez

Greetings!

I am the current Vice President of Library Technical Assistants for Library Guild Local 1930, representing library workers at the New York Public Library. I have been a library worker for more than 20 years and have been actively involved in our Local for many of those years. Currently, I serve as an Executive Board member, advocating for better wages, improving working conditions, and fostering a supportive environment where both new and experienced staff can excel in their respective roles at their local sites through information sharing.

Throughout my tenure as Vice President and Heritage Committee Chair for Local 1930, I have helped create programming designed to entertain, educate, and inspire activism within our Local. I have brought like minded individuals to speak to the membership, including authors, religious leaders, hip-hop pioneers, city council members, and District Council 37 staff. Each has shared their stories and helped strengthen our Local through the knowledge they graciously imparted.

I look forward to providing any assistance within my capacity to the work of the New York State Library Assistants Association and the Public Relations Committee as its new chair. Most of all, I look forward to working alongside many of you in advocating for and championing the work you do at your local sites every day. Should you have any questions or just want to connect, please feel free to email me at vplta@local1930.net

Your Growth, Your Journey: Discover, Connect, and Shine

Le'Andre Peoples
NYSLAA Vice-President

In public libraries, academic libraries, in school libraries, and in special libraries, paraprofessionals are helping to shape the library experience every day. Whether they are helping patrons and students or supporting various programs, services, technology, and outreach efforts, their contributions are an important factor in making libraries successful. Since the library profession is still growing and changing, there are now even more opportunities for paraprofessionals to **learn, to connect with one another, to develop new skills, and to find out where their talents can lead them**.

A great thing that you can do for yourself is to leave room **for your own development. Become interested in the things that appeal to you, explore your abilities, ask questions, and give something new a try. Professional growth needn't involve a major step; it can start** with one workshop, one conversation, one new connection, or simply by saying, "I'*d like to learn more about that."*

The job title gives part of your story; the rest is told by your talents, ideas, and possibilities.

A wide variety of resources are available to assist you on your journey. Consider joining professional associations, attending webinars and workshops, applying for scholarships, taking part in mentorship programs, becoming involved with committees, and taking advantage of training opportunities. Find out about the resources that your own organization has to offer and get in touch with colleagues who can provide you with information and share their experiences. **You can never tell what opportunity might be ahead of you.**

I particularly urge you to go to **conferences whenever you can. They are excellent opportunities to learn, to refresh yourself, to come across new ideas, and to meet others who are just as enthusiastic about library work as you are**. Attend a session which appeals to you, even if it is not directly related to your normal duties. As a result, you might find a new interest or ability that takes you in an exciting direction.

Be sure to **network and establish relationships**. You can start networking by saying hello to a new person and asking them, "What kind of work do you do?" Then share your own ideas, swap contact details and keep in touch. The library profession is community and from one another we can learn a great deal.

A single conversation, a single connection, or a single new experience could prove to be the thing that opens the way to something amazing.

You should also consider the abilities that you already possess. For example, could you organize a program? Take part in outreach activities? Join a committee? Take on the leadership of a project? Share your skills with your colleagues? Develop a partnership with a community? The interests you have beyond your regular duties might well **become some of your most important professional strengths.**

Above all, allow yourself to grow at your own speed. At the same time as you appreciate all that you currently have to offer the profession, stay open to what lies ahead.

You have the potential to develop, to contribute, to take on a leadership role, and to excel. The next chance opening for you might be nearer than you believe.

Fundraising and Donations
Heather Gad

The fundraising at our annual conference this year was a great success!

The organization was able to raise $535 in basket raffles and $405 in fifty-fifty raffles. Congratulations to all the winners! In addition, we were able to raise $86 in candy sales and $33 for badge/lanyard sales. Thank you to all the attendees who enthusiastically supported NYSLAA by purchasing raffles tickets and more!

We collected non-perishable items and $150 for Corning Food Pantry. The local animal rescue Pawz and Purrz was glad to receive the pet food and $110 donated by NYSLAA members.

The money raised for NYSLAA will help us bring more events to our membership in the future.

The role of Recording Secretary is waiting for You!

If anyone is considering the position of Recording Secretary, now would be a great time to let your Executive Council know of your interest. It is a great way to be part of NYSLAA!

Our monthly meetings are via Zoom at a date/time that is convenient to everyone.

Take some notes, type it up, and email it to council members.

The Network Connections newsletter is quarterly and Patty Jackman is happy to mentor you!

Nominate yourself today! See page 9.

Find us on Facebook

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

Stay connected with your colleagues at NYSLAA by joining our Facebook group.

Check the group for upcoming events, trainings, and fundraisers throughout the year!

Certificate of Achievement Review Board

Melissa Tidd



The NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Review Board is looking for many members to join! If you like helping people, now is your chance to help them work toward their goals!

Meetings would be conducted either by email or Zoom. For further questions or if you are interested, please reach out to Review Board Coordinator Melissa Tidd at mtidd@suffernfreelibrary.org

Membership Update

Membership Update
Donna Hanna

We have 132 members who have renewed for 2026 so far. Twenty-four of our members hold associate status. Membership cards/letters have been sent to all members who have renewed, so if you did not receive yours, please let me know.

Membership renewal reminders for 2026 were recently sent electronically to 62 members for those I have emails for.

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. Just email me if any of your information has changed. As a reminder, membership cards/letters are mailed electronically to anyone who has an email.

We still offer the NYSLAA Membership Year Buy-Back program. For this program you would be able to buy back years of NYSLAA membership where you have had a gap and missed renewing for a particular year. The only stipulation is that you cannot buy membership for years prior to the first year you were a NYSLAA member. Please contact me, hanna@geneseo.edu, to find out what years you are missing and how to go about buying them back.

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!

Isabell Berger
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

Tamy Nunciato
Western NY Library Resources Council



A Future Roll in NYSLAA is Waiting for You!

If anyone would like to be (or is), considering the position of Corresponding Secretary at the end of 2027, now would be a great time to let your Executive Council know of your interest and you can be a shadow at our next conference.

Regional Reports from Library Resource Councils

Central NY Library Resources Council

Ryan Perry

Director

CLRC thanks all the dedicated library assistants and support staff who make their libraries vibrant community centers.

There are a few services to highlight from CLRC. First, our Professional Development Awards support attendance at conferences and online learning opportunities up to $500 (or $700 if you're presenting). We also offer on-demand learning platforms like Skillshare and Treehouse, in addition to our continuing education webinars.

Our Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at LeMoyne College, featuring presentations from our members and excellent opportunities for networking and visiting with colleagues across the region.

Our Project Assistance Service offers a helping hand if your library needs assistance with a program or initiative. We will be opening nominations for our Library Awards soon--it's always great to see library assistants recognized for our Staff All-Star award so please consider nominating your colleagues.

If you would like more information, please reach out to the Central NY Resources Council in East Syracuse at 315-446-5446.

Rochester Regional Library Council

Laura Schiefer

Executive Director

RRLC has three New York Heritage traveling exhibits available for members to borrow and host at their organizations. These physical exhibits are available for a one-month loan period. Each exhibit has a companion, online exhibit as well.

- ***Urban Renewal in New York State***
- ***Immigration in New York State, 1650-1950***
- ***Recognizing Women's Right to Vote in New York State***

Please check their website for more information and request forms. https://rrlc.org/new-york-heritage-traveling-exhibits/

Upcoming Continuing Education sessions are open to Library Assistants from the Rochester region and around the state.

Expert Voices Together: Basic Digital Safety for Library Staff

Wednesday, August 26 at 1:30pm

Join the Empire State Library Network and Expert Voices Together (EVT) for an interactive training with tools to lower online risk, protect your digital footprint, repond to harassment or doxing, and continue your important work safely, confidently, and without fear.

Register at https://rrlc.org/events/

Regional Reports from Library Resource Councils

Western New York Library Resource Council
WNYLRC Library Support Staff Committee
Committee Liaison: Tammy Nunciato
Chair: Hailey Oldham

Over the past year our committee has been working together to increase the footprint of support staff in libraries and to demonstrate the impact that our front-line positions have on our library community. We are reaching out to support staff in libraries in the Western New York area and researching their needs through networking events and online information sessions.

Networking Opportunities: The WNYLRC Support Staff Committee organized visits to libraries around Western New York. These included tours of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, the Buffalo Museum of Science Research Library and Archives, the Rare Book Room at the Central branch of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, and the one-room schoolhouse Lily Dale Museum and the Marion H. Skidmore Library located in Lily Dale, New York. These tours were open to all library staff, allowing members of the Library Support Staff Committee to network and socialize with others in the library field. The committee has future visits to libraries planned.

Online Information Sessions: Over the past year, the Committee planned a cataloging webinar, held for library support staff based on interest from Committee members. The webinar was well attended, and the Committee wants to expand its offerings. Committee members have been working hard brainstorming ideas and reaching out to the librarian community to coordinate future webinars on reader's advisory and more.

Long Island Library Resource Council
Sally Steiglitz
Communications & Outreach Coordinator

LILRC's continuing education programs are open to all library workers. If your library is a member, then you are too!

A Conversation on Holocaust Memory and the Power of First-Person Testimony
Wednesday, September 23 at 1:00pm

Reflective Leadership: Developing Clear Expectations and Stronger Teams, Session 2
Thursday, September 24 at 11:00am

35th Annual Conference on Libraries and the Future: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Manage AI
Friday, October 16 from 8:00am-3:00pm

In person at Heritage Club at Bethpage

Murder on 34th Street: Macy's Parade History and Author Talk with Mariah Fredericks
Monday, November 16 at 2:00pm

To register for upcoming events, pleases visit the LILRC website
https://lilrc.org/events/event_list.asp

Call for Nominations Even Years

NYSLAA Executive Council Elections Chair, Cheryl Paine (2026)

Nominations must be received by October 1, 2026

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers.

This October we will hold elections for Vice President, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Conference Coordinator.

NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report in January.

The **Vice President** shall:

1. Perform the duties of the President in the President's absence
2. Serve as the Association's archivist;
3. Perform other such duties as may be required

The **Membership Secretary** shall:

1. Receive and process membership applications
2. Maintain a list of correct names and addresses of active (both regular and associate) members of the Association
3. Supply the Election Committee with a current list of regular members
4. Chair Membership Committee
5. Perform such other duties as required

The **Recording Secretary** shall:

1. Keep and distribute the official record of the monthly meetings of the Executive Council
2. Chair the Newsletter Committee
3. Chair the Election Committee in odd years
4. Perform such other duties as may be required

The **Conference Coordinator** shall:

1. Coordinate annual conference planning
2. Oversee creation of conference forms, programs and logo clothing
3. Negotiate conference facilities agreements
4. Perform such other duties as may be required

Step-Up for NYSLAA! • Run for an office or nominate a colleague! • Take an active part in NYSLAA's future. • Serving as an Officer can be a rewarding experience. •

Please use the nomination form on the following page. The form is also available at https://www.nyslaa.org/nominations.html

Call for Nomination 2026

NYSLAA Elections Committee Chair
Cheryl Paine

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for officers. This October we will hold elections for Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Conference Coordinator.

NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term, attend monthly meetings (via a Zoom link) and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

Executive Council Officer Nomination Form

I nominate _____ for the office of:

_____ Vice-President _____ Recording Secretary _____ Membership Secretary _____ Conference Coordinator

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____Email: _____

Please be sure to include a brief bio of the nominee with this form.

Candidate Acceptance Form I accept the above nomination.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return to: Cheryl Paine Gorham Free Library, PO Box 211, Gorham, NY 14461

or send by email to: cpaine@owwl.org

Nominations must be received by October 1, 2026

- Step-Up for NYSLAA!

• Run for an office or nominate a colleague! • Take an active part in NYSLAA's future. • Serving as an Officer is very rewarding. •