NETWORK CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of the New York State Library Assistants' Association *July-September 2025 Vol.37, No.3*

Annual NYSLAA Conference

Library Workers: Taking a Ride into Learning, Imagination, and Adventure.

Cheryl Marriott, NYSLAA President

Thank you for a successful 44th Annual NYSLAA Conference!

What an incredible experience the 44th Annual NYSLAA Conference was! We had an amazing time, and this engaging, informative, and invaluable networking opportunity simply wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of several key groups. A huge thank you to our host, Guernsey Memorial Library and Shai-ana Bess, for providing such a wonderful venue and support throughout the event. Your efforts were instrumental in creating a welcoming and productive environment for everyone. To the Executive Council, it is truly my privilege to lead such a talented and hardworking group. Your tireless efforts, meticulous planning, and unwavering commitment were the backbone of this conference's success. Your dedication made all the difference!

And finally, to all the participants – thank you for joining us! Your enthusiasm, active participation, and willingness to connect and share made this conference a vibrant and memorable event. We hope you found it as rewarding as we did.

We're already looking forward to next year's conference and the opportunities it will bring!

See more conference photos on Facebook at:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYSLAA



Keynote speaker - 50/50 raffles - Gift Baskets galore!



Member awards for 5, 10, and 15 years of membership!



NYSLAA Executive Council - come join us!

INSIDE: Regional Reports... Membership Update… Nominations… Conference... and more!

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

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

Next publication date: December 1, 2025
Submission deadline: November 21, 2025

Regional Reports from Library Resource Councils

Central NY Library Resources Council:

CLRC is dedicated to supporting library staff like you and your invaluable contributions. Does your library need an extra pair of hands for a special project? CLRC offers up to 15 hours of hands-on support through their Project Assistance Service. You can find details and apply at clrc.org.

Looking to boost your skills or attend a professional event? CLRC offers Professional Development Awards of up to $700 to help you cover costs for conferences, workshops, or online courses. Plus, CLRC provides free access to popular on-demand learning platforms like Skillshare and Treehouse. CLRC's free Annual Conference will be held at Hamilton College on Thursday, October 16. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with peers, hear practical presentations from CLRC members, and gather innovative ideas from various types of libraries and cultural heritage organizations.

Thank you!

Ryan Perry (he/him/his)
Executive Director
Central NY Library Resources Council (CLRC)
5710 Commons Park Drive - East Syracuse, NY 13057
rperry@clrc.org - 315.446.5446 x1



Long Island Library Resources Council:

LILRC offers free and low cost continuing education programs to all library workers on Long Island. Topics include librarian wellness, skill building, and emerging issues. Summer program highlights:

Temple Grandin: How I Learned to Read
Tuesday, August 19, 10:00am

How to Effectively Manage Difficult Conversations and Personalities in the Workplace
Friday, August 22, 1:00pm

Tim Spindler (he/him)
Executive Director - Long Island Library Resources Council
President - New York Library Association
Sustainability Team Member
tspindler@lilrc.org | 631-675-1570 x2000

South Central Regional Library Council

Although SCRLC staff was unable to attend the June conference, we want to ensure that library assistants working in the region know about the many opportunities available to engage in SCRLC activities and leadership. These opportunities are open to library assistants working in members of regional public library systems and school library systems, as well as to those employed by organizations that are direct members of SCRLC.

The opportunities include a plethora of continuing education events, which are offered at no cost and typically held via Zoom. Many programs are recorded and available On Demand (see under our Education tab at scrlc.org). Topics vary widely, and we always appreciate suggestions for future learning opportunities. Because we are part of the Empire State Librarian Network, ESLN's learning opportunities are also available at no charge.

Library assistants are also encouraged to get involved with SCRLC by serving on one of the seven advisory committees or task groups, or by participating in or leading one of our learning circles. While we have a designated Library Assistants' Circle, it has been inactive for quite some time. We would love to see it revitalized and are looking for an individual or small group to help with this. The Circle could have regular Zoom meetups focused on topics of shared interest--this would be entirely up to the group members!

We encourage all library workers to keep up-to-date with SCRLC happenings by subscribing to the mailing list. It doesn't have a lot of traffic but includes the biweekly newsletter. Regional library assistants are also welcome to subscribe to our Tech-Talk. Email Jessica Philippe at jphilippe@scrlc.org if you are interested.

If you are interested in revitalizing the Learning Assistants' Circle or have ideas to share, please reach out to Mary-Carol Lindbloom at mclindbloom@scrlc.org. We'd love to hear from you!

Best,

Mary-Carol Lindbloom (she/her/hers)
Executive Director
South Central Regional Library Council
Phone: 607-273-9106 ext. 203
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Regional Reports from Library Resource Councils

Western New York Library Resource Council

WNYLRC Library Support Staff Committee
Committee Liaison: Jennifer Northup Chair: Hailey Oldham

Our committee has spent the last few years providing networking and educational opportunities for Support Staff in Niagara, Erie, Orleans, Genesee, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. These include in person networking events, online classes focused on a specific topic, and the providing of grant money to help staff attend various conferences across the state.

A. Networking Opportunities and Sponsorships:
We provide library support staff the opportunity to network and explore other libraries. We also provide sponsorships to support staff who otherwise are not given the opportunity to go to larger conferences across the state. We hope to continue providing these opportunities to staff in the near future. For example:

Tool Library Tour: On June 23rd, 2025 we are hosting a tour of the Tool Library. Located in Buffalo along main street, this tour will provide an opportunity for support staff to learn how a different kind of library operates. Meanwhile, they can meet and network with other support staff as well as members of the tool library.

B. Online Classes:
The WNYLRC Library Support Staff Committee has and continues to host various workshops. The goal of these workshops are to teach skills that support staff often do not have. For example:

Cataloging Webinar: By the fall of 2025, we are planning on hiring a librarian to give a class on the core principles of cataloging. We felt that this could be an opportunity for support staff to acquire skills that could make their job difficult.

C. Professional Development Survey:
Over the course of 2024, we developed two professional development surveys to distribute among staff. One survey focused on support staff while the second one was targeted at library directors and managers. The survey was held from December 2024 thru January 2025. The following spring was dedicated to analyzing the results. Here are the highlights we presented to WNYLRC to consider when making their plan of action for the next five years:

1. *Careers in Libraries -*
   - Over half of respondents have been in their positions for over a decade, further supported by statements that they view their position as long-term careers rather than “stepping stones.”
   - Very few support staff respondents currently have an MLS or equivalent degree, and less than 50% expressed interest in obtaining one.
   - Those that were interested cited increased pay and advancement as their primary motivations.

2. *Outlook and Motivation*
   - Most respondents worked in a library where opportunities for advancement were either limited or nonexistent. However, over 75% of support staff respondents stated that they are, “satisfied in their current role.”
   - Support staff overwhelmingly value learning on the job and are open to more training, especially when it contributes to confidence, skill-building, or advancement.
   - Managers broadly agree that professional development improves job performance and have generally encouraged participation, though they also recognize limited pathways for advancement

3. *Funding and Time*
   - Responses were mixed regarding whether they have time or regular opportunities to train. 50% of managers said that funding for professional development is provided, which matches the experiences of support staff.
   - While some support staff have access to funding and paid release time, over 50% were unsure of opportunities available and many noted that only some roles partake in training opportunities.

4. *Preferences*
   - Networking opportunities and virtual training were noted as appreciated, especially when flexible scheduling is a concern.

We plan on using these results to help tackle the needs of support staff in the coming years.

Membership Update

Donna Hanna

We have 150 members so far for 2025. Twenty-five of our members hold associate status. Forty-five of our members are new this year so far! Membership cards/letters have been sent to all members who have renewed or joined so far, so if you did not receive yours, please let me know.

Renewal reminder will be sent out to 2024 members shortly.

Membership forms are available on our nyslaa.org website under the heading "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. If you have questions about your membership, 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.

Volunteer to Help NYSLAA

Patty Jackman

Your NYSLAA council was pleased to hear that so many members enjoyed the conference in June. The town hall meeting, held at the conference, included a lively discussion of future fundraising ideas. It gives us hope that NYSLAA members, like yourself, are looking to have a more active role in our organization. Have you already held, or do you plan on holding, a fund-raising event for NYSLAA in the next three months? Please let us know what your plans are and how we can help you!

Being a member of NYSLAA has many benefits. Did you know that NYSLAA offers several awards and scholarships to its members? Information can be found on our website https://www.nyslaa.org/scholarships.html. Each year we have a fun and educational conference dedicated to library clerks, assistants, and other library workers. Did you know that NYSLAA offers a "Certificate of Achievement" program? https://www.nyslaa.org/certificateprogram.html. It is a great way to receive recognition for the wonderful library work you have done.

NYSLAA would love to continue to offer these benefits and programs. But we can't do it without you! We need members to step up and be part of the Executive Council.

This year, the positions of President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary are up for nomination. Would you be interested in running for any of these positions? President (Cheryl Marriott) and Corresponding Secretary (Cheryl Paine) are not running for office. However, they each would be willing to stay on for one year to mentor you. Would you like their assistance in the role of President or Corresponding Secretary?

The position of Vice President is still vacant. Since it is not a normal year for that office, the person would be appointed until nominations and elections in 2026. Would you like to step in and fill this position?

In addition, Membership Secretary (Donna Hanna) and Conference Coordinator (Wendy Freier) have already stayed in their positions for an extra year. They would like to mentor you in their position for 2026. Would you like to work alongside Donna or Wendy in either of these positions?

Please use the nominations form on the following page. We look forward to hearing from you!

Call for Nomination 2025

NYSLAA Executive Council Elections Chair
Patty Jackman

Each year NYSLAA seeks nominations for three officers. This October we will hold elections for President, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. NYSLAA officers serve a two-year term and shall submit a written annual report to the President in January.

Executive Council Officer Nomination Form

I nominate _____ for the office of:

_____ President _____ Treasurer _____ Corresponding Secretary

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: Patty Jackman, Middle Country Public Library, 101 Eastwood Boulevard Centereach, NY 11720 or send by email to: jackmanpatricia@mcplibrary.org

Nominations must be received by October 20, 2025

- 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. • The nomination form is online at nyslaa.org.

Annual NYSLAA Conference 2025

Library Workers: Taking a Ride into Learning, Imagination, and Adventure.

Raffles, Gifts, and More!

Did you enjoy the NYSLAA basket raffle? Thank you to everyone that donated such amazing baskets for our conference fundraiser! And a big thank you to all our members for buying raffle tickets! You all helped us raise $240.



We had some big winners in the 50/50! Thanks to everyone who participated, we raised $525.





In addition, NYSLAA sold candy, tote bags, and badge holders. All of the fundraising dollars help to lower our costs for future conferences.

We appreciate your help fundraising throughout the year. Please contact a council member if you would like assistance with your local fundraiser to support NYSLAA. We can't continue to have conferences without your help!

NYSLAA Conference Donations

Thank you for helping our host's area charity. **Identity Youth Center** https://www.idyouth.org/ is an affiliate of the Southern Tier AIDS Program. It is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization, that offers programs and support for the youngest generation of LGBTQ+ people.

On behalf of NYSLAA, we were able to donate $100 to the Identity Youth Center.

identity

Our network for communication is open to all our members. Please use it to connect with us and each other across the state.

Visit our website at nyslaa.org to find more information on awards, scholarships, and our certificate program.

Join our group on Facebook to see what's new!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYSLAA

Or visit our website at nyslaa.org and click the link to Facebook in the top banner.

Join NYSLAA's electronic listserv (NYSLAA-L)

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the NYSLAA listserv, simply go to nyslaa.org, click on "Join Our Email List" and follow the instructions.