



NYLA Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Saratoga Hilton/ Saratoga Ballroom

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 am by President Arlene Laverde.

President Arlene Laverde presided. Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon served as secretary of the meeting.

A quorum was established, and the following was adopted.

1. Adoption of the Rules

- a. Kelly Harris moved to adopt the Rules of Order for the meeting. Sara Kelly Johns seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Rakisha Kearns-White made the motion to approve the agenda. Frank McKenna seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes

- a. Approved by NYLA Council, December 15, 2022

4. Introduction of Council Members and Staff

5. President's Report

- a. President Arlene Laverde provided highlights from NYLA's work this year and concluded by thanking all for their hard work and for the opportunity to serve.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Kelly Harris provided an overview of 2022-2023 financials and reported on the continuing work of the Balanced Budget Task Force and upcoming audit.

7. Report on 2023 NYLA Elections

- a. President Arlene Laverde reported on the results of the 2023 elections:
Tim Spindler – President-Elect (2023-2024)/President (2024-2025)
Matthew Bollerman – Treasurer-Elect (2023-2025)/Treasurer (2025-2027)
Rakisha Kearns-White – Councilor-at-Large for Public Libraries (2023-2026)
Kerrie Burch – Councilor-at-Large for School Libraries (2023-2026)

8. Executive Director's Report

- a. Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon submitted a written report, and covered highlights in the following areas:
 - Advocacy
 - NYS Budget
 - Library Related Legislation
 - Membership
 - Professional Development
 - Operations

9. New Business

a. Recommended Revisions to Bylaws

President Arlene Laverde noted that the proposed changes to the NYLA by-laws were completed to bring them into agreement with the Balanced Budget Task Force recommendations that were approved by NYLA Council at the June 15, 2023 meeting. These revisions have been reviewed and approved by NYLA's legal counsel, and were approved by the NYLA Council at the September 15, 2023 meeting to move to a membership vote. The tracked changes and accepted changes version were both posted on the NYLA website and sent out in a membership blast on September 28, 2023, allowing the required 4 weeks of review by the general membership in advance of a vote to update the by-laws. We are seeking comments and questions on the revisions, and a vote to approve them after discussion. All members are eligible to vote.

Lisa Kropp made a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the NYLA by-laws. Michelle Isopo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Member Comments for the Good of the Order

Frank McKenna read a memorial resolution in honor of Sam Simon.

Memorial Resolution Honoring Samuel L. Simon

Whereas, Samuel L. Simon distinguished himself with more than 40 years of his service in the library profession beginning as a librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library, and subsequently holding directorships at The Merrick (NY) Library, the Long Beach (NY) Public Library, and the Finkelstein Memorial Library (Spring Valley, NY); and

Whereas, Samuel L. Simon was a graduate of George Washington University where he earned a degree in Government and Foreign Affairs, and subsequently received a Master's degree in Library Science from Syracuse University; and

Whereas, Samuel L. Simon served our Nation through active duty in the Army Air Force with training in electronics and service as a radio mechanic, and

Whereas throughout his life he demonstrated a passion for reading and libraries, and

Whereas his career included serving on many committees of the New York Library Association, highlighted by his Chairmanship of the Intellectual Freedom Committee where he oversaw and participated in the creation of the Association's Intellectual Freedom Manual and the annual awarding of the Intellectual Freedom Award, and being a founder and the first elected president of the Association's Public Library Section, and

Whereas he proposed and saw to fruition the founding of the American Library Association's Merritt Fund for librarians in financial distress due to their defense of intellectual freedom, and

Whereas Samuel L. Simon served as a mentor to many librarians throughout his long and distinguished career, many of his mentees subsequently served as leaders of NYLA, its sections, committees and roundtables, as well as in positions of leadership in their local libraries, and these individuals learned the core values of librarianship and most importantly, commitment to the profession, and

Whereas Samuel L. Simon was a trusted colleague and cherished friend, and

Whereas Samuel L. Simon continued to support the cause of libraries and other important civic-minded organizations until his passing, therefore be it

Resolved, that the New York Library Association, on behalf of its members,

1. recognizes the many important contributions of Samuel L. Simon to the library community; and
2. extends its sincere sympathy to his wife, Elaine Simon, his daughter, Kathy and Meg, and all the members of the family of Samuel L. Simon and expresses the high esteem in which we hold his life and his memory.

Art Friedman made the motion to accept this resolution. Frank McKenna seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the 2023 NYLA Annual Membership meeting was made by Kelly Harris and seconded by Joe Burke. The meeting adjourned at 8:39am by unanimous consent.