

**2014 - 2015  
Annual Report**



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NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*The Voice of the Library Community*



**New York Library Association**

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Jeremy Johannesen

**Director of Membership Services**

Lois Powell

**Director of Finance**

Galina Tsvaygenbaum

**Director of Government  
Relations & Advocacy**

Michael Neppi

**Communications &  
Marketing Manager**

Dana Willbanks

**NYLA Round Tables**

Visit NYLA.org to learn how to become involved.

- BIRT** Bibliographic Instruction Round Table
- CORT** Correctional and Outreach Resource Team
- ESRT** Ethnic Services Round Table
- FILM** Finding Inspiration in Literature & Movies
- GIRT** Government Information Round Table
- IFRT** Intellectual Freedom Round Table
- MSRT** Making and STEAM Round Table
- NMES** New Member Engagement Subcommittee
- PCRT** Pop Culture Round Table
- PLRT** ParaLibrarians Round Table
- RRT** Retiree Round Table
- RLRT** Rural Libraries Round Table
- RLSP** Round Table on Library Service to Special Populations
- SRRT** Social Responsibilities Round Table

## Help the New York Library Association Celebrate 125 years!

### Support the NYLA125 Capital Campaign!

In 1890, Melville Dewey wrote The Library Journal of the need for a library association in New York State, arguing that it would "give organized assistance to the University [of the State of New York] in its efforts to make the libraries of the State more useful".

Later that year the Association was established with the express goal of working alongside SUNY to promote successful libraries across the State.

Today, NYLA's mission remains close to that original goal:

"NYLA leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community."

*We need your help to continue to be able to achieve this goal.*

Your support helps to ensure that the library community of tomorrow has the infrastructure to connect, communicate, and collaborate for the advancement of libraries as a force for community improvement.

If you believe in:

- a future where libraries continue to be a vehicle for social improvement and a benefit to the human condition;
- a future where libraries benefit from a means of sharing excellence; and
- a future where libraries continue to need a convening and leading voice for advocacy,

then join a passionate group of library professionals and community members in supporting NYLA!

To show our appreciation of your support, contributions at the following levels will receive a thank you gift:

- \$25: 3D Printed Bookmark**
- \$50: Heavy Canvas Tote Bag**
- \$125: Full Colour Lapel Pin**
- \$250: Silver Lapel Pin**
- \$500: Gold Lapel Pin**
- \$1000+: NYLA125 Bookends**

The campaign will run from July 2015 through June 2016.



## Geoff Kirkpatrick – NYLA President – 2014 – 2015

In my first e-Bulletin column as NYLA President, I said that “NYLA is us, and advocating for libraries is our responsibility.” This belief has endured through my entire term as President, and is truer now than ever before.

Expanding our advocacy base beyond library employees and trustees is an ongoing major goal for our organization. Advocacy Day 2015 had the biggest response ever to this call, and should continue to grow each year. Each of us has a voice, and it matters. Your elected officials need to hear from you. They need to know that you, your family members, and your friends feel that funding for libraries should be a priority. Visit the NYLA website today and take action. The process is simple and more critical than ever.

Beyond our advocacy efforts, NYLA had a very successful year. The creation of a new Section, two new Roundtables, and two new student chapters at University at Albany and Syracuse University emphasize our continued growth and commitment to truly representing the entire New York library community.

In honor of NYLA’s 125th year, we have kicked off a capital campaign with the goal of bolstering the financial stability of the Association by paying down the mortgage on the NYLA office. Already Council members, Sections, and individuals have made generous donations to help ensure a vibrant and viable NYLA in the future. The Association is us, and we all have a responsibility to help make sure that future generations of our library community have a strong voice statewide. Please consider making a contribution to the NYLA125 capital campaign.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the members of NYLA; I thank you for the opportunity. I know there are great things ahead for all of us. Thank you too, to all the members of the Council, the hardworking NYLA staff, and to the many members whose efforts helped make this year a success.



## Debby Emerson – NYLA President – 2015 – 2016

I’m honored, and challenged, to be elected President of NYLA. We have a brand new set of Bylaws which were approved at NYLA’s annual membership meeting. This is a first step toward modernizing our policies and procedures, making sure we’re in compliance with the Non-Profit Revitalization Act, and making sure our organization runs the way our members need it to run. Council’s next step will be to draft a strategic plan. Last year we crafted a new mission statement and a strategic vision; now we will work on the plan to make that vision a reality.

NYLA’s theme for its 125<sup>th</sup> year was Explore, Learn, Grow. Now that we’ve spent a year exploring, learning, and growing – we’ve become Strong, Strategic and Sustainable.

**Strong**, because libraries ARE strong. People use their libraries. We bounce back from disasters. We are there, and open, and providing services when no one else is. We are the centers of our communities, and people rely on us to be there and know things. We fill in the gaps.

**Strategic**, because we plan. We obsess about planning. We budget, and we work within our budgets. We study our communities, we talk to our stakeholders, and we anticipate their needs. We make new plans based on what we learn from our communities, and we offer new and unexpected services before our users even know they want them.

**Sustainable**, because libraries are the original example of sustainability. We share. One book is shared by hundreds of readers. One magazine can be read by hundreds of users. One database subscription reaches everyone affiliated with an institution, on and off campus. We work with our communities to offer what they need. On a good day that might be meeting space for a Lego group or a poetry slam. On a more challenging day that might be warmth and electricity. We adapt to the changing needs of our users; in fact, that’s part of our plan.

Strong, strategic and sustainable. That’s what libraries are, and it’s also what we want our professional organization to be. NYLA is strong. With a growing membership, updated bylaws and official documents, NYLA continues to move forward. There are lots of opportunities for member involvement and lots of new members getting involved. NYLA is strategic. With a new mission, updated bylaws, a new leadership manual, and a strategic plan in the works, we’re making sure we have the structure in place to keep us moving in the right direction. And NYLA is sustainable. With all of you working for the organization in so many different ways, giving your input and reminding us that NYLA exists for its members, NYLA is guaranteed to remain sustainable.

## Membership

NYLA ended the 2014-15 Fiscal Year with 3,705 members, a slight decrease from the previous year.

Several new Sections and Roundtables were created, including the Friends of Libraries Section (FLS); a new roundtable for those interested in the maker movement and STEAM education, the Making and Steam Roundtable (MSRT); a new roundtable for those interested in pop culture, the Pop Culture Roundtable (PCRT); and new NYLA Student Chapters at Syracuse University and University at Albany.



With “Open Libraries, Open Minds” as his and the conference’s central theme, keynote speaker and community change expert Rich Harwood urged listeners to “turn outward, not inward, when seeking to implement change.” Harwood’s speech segued into two and a half days of more than 70 workshops, luncheons, and other special events designed to keep attendees at the cutting edge of their profession with topics ranging from MakerSpaces to serving diverse/unique populations to new and emerging technologies.

Once again, we were fortunate to have events filled with award-winning authors. PLS Author! Author! featured New York Times bestselling author Gary Shteyngart, who spoke to a sold-out audience at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The Empire State Center for the Book held its 3rd Annual Literary Luncheon with authors Kevin Fitzpatrick, Steven Kellogg, and Patricia MacLachlan. RASS hosted renowned author Julia Spencer Fleming at the Noted Author Luncheon, and YSS presented Jacqueline Woodson with its 2014 Empire State Award for Excellence and Literature for Young People. YSS also hosted award-winning author/poet/photographer Charles R. Smith, Jr. at its membership meeting, while SSL had award-winning illustrator Bryan Collier holding court at its booth as well as presenting at its membership meeting.

To add a new flavor to the 2014 Conference, Christian Zabriskie and Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich hosted our First Annual Battle Decks Competition. The competitors each took the stage for a 4-minute presentation, using slides they had never seen before. Kudos to Meg VanPatten for her win! Urban Librarians Unite hosted the 4th Annual Disaster Relief Fundraiser at Harvey’s Restaurant. Over \$1,100 was raised at the Charlie & the Chocolate Factory themed event.

## Congratulations to the 2014 NYLA Award Winners

### 2014 Outstanding Advocate of Libraries Award

Robert Hubsher, Ramapo Catskill Library System

### 2014 Outstanding Service to Libraries Award

Matthew Bollerman, Hauppauge Public Library

### Mary Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award

Patricia Uttaro, Rochester Public Library

### NYLA Dewey Fellows

Kristin Charles-Scaringi, Kingston Library

*representing LAMS*

Laura Dickerson, Shelter Island Public Library Society

*representing PLS*

Sarah Maximiek, Binghamton University

*representing SMART*

## Center for the Book

The Center for the Book held another successful annual NYS Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, inducting Isaac Asimov, Allen Ginsberg, Dawn Powell, Francine Prose, David Remnick, and Colm Tóibín in 2014. The Center also administered the Letters about Literature writing contest, and dedicated three new literary landmarks.

## Digital Literacy

The Digital Literacy Project was completed and implemented, delivering 50 workshops that reached over 1000 participants from 393 NYS libraries and trained public librarians on state approved Digital Literacy Standards.

## SAVE THE DATE

2016 Annual Conference & Trade Show

.....  
Strong. Strategic. Sustainable.  
.....

November 2 - 5, 2016  
Saratoga Springs, NY

# Academic & Special Libraries Section (ASLS)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	389	440
Fund Balance	\$18,175.11	\$20,911.00

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Karen Gardner-Athey

#### Vice President

Marcy Strong

#### Past President

Elaine Lasda Bergman

#### Secretary

Kim Myers

#### Treasurer

Jonathan Coe

#### Legislative Committee Rep

Debby Emerson

#### Membership Committee Rep

Suz Massen

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Blake Carver

Matt Laudicina

Tinamarie Vella

Valerie Forrestal

## Key Accomplishments

Planning for the Academic Libraries 2016 Conference has begun.

ASLS President Karen Gardner-Athey & ASLS Past President Elaine Lasda Bergman participated in a joint discussion with other members of the NYLA Council and select guests about bridging the gap left with the decommissioning of NYSHEI. More discussions to follow in the future.

The ASLS Board met four times during the year. The topics covered included the NYLA Annual Conference program planning, and the formation of a Communications Committee. We are beginning to plan for regular webinars to inform our members about other member libraries.

## Scholarships Awarded

### The ASLS Excellence in Library Innovation Award

This year we had two outstanding winners:

- Kim Myers (SUNY Brockport): Kim was awarded \$500
- Jane Minotti (New York State Department of Transportation Library): Jane was awarded \$500

### The ASLS/NY3Rs Special Project Grant

Jessica Clemons (SUNY ESF): Jessica was awarded a \$1500.00 grant for a project at Moon Library to develop a rich collection of our campus community's work and make it openly accessible to other researchers and the public. This project allowed Moon Library to temporarily hire an advanced undergraduate and/or graduate student to assist in the creation of metadata for online digital collections of faculty work. It will jumpstart the success and visibility of Digital Commons @ ESF, our institutional repository (IR) which debuted in October 2014.

# Friends of Libraries Section (FLS)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	N/A	122
Fund Balance	\$2,986.10	\$3,527.65

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Lisa Wemett

#### Vice President

Sarah Sachs

#### Second Vice President

Terry Mulee

#### Past President

Randall Enos

#### Secretary

Betsy Sywetz

#### Treasurer

Marcia Elwitt

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Vicki Kosovac

Elizabeth Olesh

Leslie Riley

Susan Swanton

Frank Van Zanten

Ristiina Wigg

## Key Accomplishments

The Empire Friends Roundtable, became a NYLA Section.

EFR/FLS offered four programs at the 2014 NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, partnering with Library Trustees Association and the Public Library Section/NYLA: legal issues, Friends-operated bookstores, fund-raising with annual appeals, and library foundations and endowments.

After ten years and 30 issues, Susan Swanton, Newsletter Editor since 2003, passed the “red pen” to Terry Mulee.

Marie Orlando volunteered to give additional effort to awareness and participation in National Friends of Libraries Week. FLS was able to secure a NYS Senate resolution in March from Senator Joseph Robach recognizing National Friends of Libraries Week (October 18-24, 2015).

Starting in the summer of 2014, Lisa Wemett coordinated a year-long project to nominate two sites in northern New York for Literary Landmark™ status, in honor of NYLA’s 125th anniversary and conference in Lake Placid. This designation was conferred by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, in early 2015 for the Wilder Homestead in Burke and the Robert Louis Stevenson Cottage and Museum in Saranac Lake.

## Awards

The 2014 Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award was presented to the Building Preservation Committee of the Aurora Free Library (Finger Lakes Library System). The Committee is chaired by Marnie Fessenden and the nomination was made by Elaine Meyers, President of the library’s Board of Trustees. This was the final award given in EFR’s name. An ad hoc task force, chaired by the award coordinator Joyce Laiosa, reviewed the procedures for the next award to be given by FLS.



2014 Casey Award Presentation

# Leadership & Management Section (LAMS)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	407	466
Fund Balance	\$215,246.33	\$14,368.25

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Lauren Comito

#### President Elect

Frank Rees

#### Past President

Gillian Thorpe

#### Secretary

Robert Carle

#### Treasurer

Edward Falcone

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

#### Membership Chair

Julie Dempsey

#### Continuing Ed Committee

Barbara Madonna

Claudia Depkin

S. Rebecca Lubin

AnnaLee Giraldo

Amanda Perrine

Jennifer Cannell

## Key Accomplishments

Board Changes: At the end of the last conference, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Tim Burke resigned from the board to allow for additional opportunity for new member involvement. We are happy to have 3 new members of the board, AnnaLee Giraldo, Amanda Perrine, and Jennifer Cannell. Richard Naylor has also resigned from the LAMS Board upon his retirement, and has passed the editorship of JLAMS on to Carol Anderson and Carol Anne Germaine. Rebecca Lubin has submitted her resignation to be effective at the end of this year's conference, and so we will be looking for a new board member after the conference.

## Scholarships and Sponsorships

### Scholarships

The scholarship to the NYLA Leadership Academy for this year was awarded to Lisa Hewel from Walden.

### Sponsorships

- Lobby Day 2015
- Urban Librarians Conference
- Sustainability Initiative
- Literary Landmarks

# Public Libraries Section (PLS)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	1,155	1,222
Fund Balance	\$69,754.68	\$63,524.25

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Brian Hildreth

#### President Elect

Dan Hubbs

#### Second Vice President

Rebecca Gilbert

#### Secretary

Jennifer Bollerman

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Deanna DiCarlo

## Key Accomplishments

### The Public Libraries Section focused on five objectives:

- Increase professional development opportunities for PLS & NYLA members
- Highlight the accomplishments of public libraries and library systems
- Develop PLS Mentor Program through NYLA Section/Roundtable/Affiliate Collaboration
- Overall Advocacy for New York Libraries
- Membership Enrichment

### Increased professional development opportunities for PLS & NYLA members by:

Leadership & Management Academy Scholarship for PLS Members sponsored by PLS

PLS Board approved the language and funding for its first-time offered 2016 L&MA Scholarship. This award increased PLS support to 6 Annual Scholarships annually totaling \$7,000.

Co-sponsorships to Sections/Roundtables for Conference Programs

PLS Board sponsored and co-sponsored a total of 21 Conference Programs for the 125<sup>th</sup> NYLA Conference in Lake Placid, New York through \$7,500 in professional development investment.

Conference Scholarships for the 2014 NYLA Conference

NYLA Conference Scholarships were awarded up to \$1,200 per recipient. 2014 winners included:

- Stephanie Kogler
- Peg Mauer
- Mark McClave
- Sarah Potwin
- Susan Schmidt



2014 PLS Award Winners



## Highlighted the accomplishments of public libraries and library systems.

PLS recognized three New York libraries that exhibited excellence in 2013-2014 through best practices and innovative building projects. Award recipients included:

- White Plains Public Library
- Queens Library
- Berne Public Library

## Developed a Mentorship Program to Strengthen NYLA Membership

PLS established the framework for Public Libraries Section – Path for Professional & Association Advancement (2P2A Initiative) to assist the NYLA Membership Committee and New Member Engagement Subcommittee attract, retain and build NYLA membership. This program will begin 2015-2016.

## Expanded Overall Advocacy for New York Libraries

PLS provided support in the amount of \$7,000 to Urban Librarians Unite, Empire Center for the Book, New York Black Librarians' Caucus and the NYLA Sustainability Summit to advance overall advocacy for New York public libraries.

## Membership Enrichment

The Public Libraries Section offered several programs at the 2014 NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs. PLS views the Conference as a core component of NYLA's mission, and invests between \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually to make it a success for PLS and NYLA members.

Presenters	Program Title	Participation
Michael Stephens & Brian Kenney	Hyperlinked Learning Experiences at Public Libraries	101
John Chrastka	Walk Your Precinct & Activate Your Library Advocates	72
Ellen Bach	Legal Issues for Public & Association Libraries	95
Alexandra Kelly	Library-Driven Oral History Community Projects	81
Gary Shteyngart	Author, Author	92
	Total Conference Program Participation	441

## Moving Forward with New PLS Representatives

Overall, the Public Libraries Section had a fantastic year. The PLS board focused on developing new programs and initiatives that aligned with previous board's successes. Three new initiatives accomplished were (1) the creation of an annual Leadership and Management Academy Scholarship for PLS members, (2) the development of a Mentor/Mentee Program (2P2A) that will focus on retaining new PLS/NYLA members, and (3) the increased financial support of State-wide library programs to benefit the overall mission of NYLA.

# Reference & Adult Services Section (RASS)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	289	336
Fund Balance	\$12,239.43	\$13,706.49

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Jennifer Husenitza

#### Vice President

Sarah Lawler

#### Treasurer

Lisa Chaudhuri

#### Conference Programmer

Julia Schult

#### Membership Representative

Michelle Waltos

#### Web/Communications

#### Representative

Heather Highfield

## Key Accomplishments

Thanks to the efforts of Treasurer Lisa Chaudhuri, the RASS budget is current and in good shape. Our revenue and expenses are balanced, we have a comfortable reserve, and the budget is easily accessible on a Google Doc.

We hosted a very successful Syracuse meetup just before St. Patrick's Day at a popular downtown eatery, Funk 'N Waffles.

### Conference Update

RASS Noted Author Luncheon: Julia Spencer Fleming was our featured guest.

### Conference Programs:

- Libraries Help Communities in Crisis
- Care & Feeding of Book Clubs
- Tales from the Library Trenches
- Creative Aging in America's Libraries:  
*A National Leadership Project*
- Marketing Your Library's Best Features
- Rethinking Library Space:  
*What Happened to the Reference Desk and Shelves?*
- Developing an e-Strategy:  
*Digital Reference and Virtual Branches*
- Bringing New Technology to Old Stories
- Patron Driven Acquisitions and Beyond

# Section on Management of Resources & Technology (SMART)

	July 1, 2014	July 1, 2015
Membership	251	269
Fund Balance	\$11,951.47	\$12,730.87

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

April Steenburgh

#### Vice President

Ben Lainhart

#### Past President

Ann Penwarden

#### Secretary

Laura Osterhout

#### Treasurer

Mary Linder

#### Legislative Committee Rep

Steve Bachman

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Jaclyn McKewan

Edward Eisner

Mike Sweeney

## Key Accomplishments

On May 7th, the Wood Library in Canandaigua hosted SMART's Spring CE. The all-day presentation by Abby Stokes was enthusiastically received by all attendees. The morning's topic was tips for teaching technology to digital immigrants, and the afternoon expanded on that, looking at devices and social media without getting lost in 'tech talk'. The CE had 22 attendees and all were very pleased with Abby, her presentation, and the materials she brought to share.

## Scholarships & Awards

### SMART Fellowship Award

Emily Lunceford was awarded \$250 towards the cost of attending the NYLA Annual Conference

### Teresa Strozik Award

Christine Stockslader was awarded \$100 and a plaque

### Ellen C. Rappaport Award

Amanda Fleming was awarded a check for \$100 and a plaque

# Section of School Librarians (SSL)

	<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>July 1, 2015</b>
Membership	649	644
Fund Balance	\$154,791.99	\$153,656.20

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Jill Leinung

#### Vice President

Susan Polos

#### Past President

Karen Sperrazza

#### VP for Communications

Michelle Miller

#### VP for Conferences

MaryAnn Karre

#### Secretary

Rebecca Sofferman Buerkett

#### Treasurer

Tina Laramie

## Key Accomplishments

- School Librarian's Summit SED, July 2014 (Albany, NY)
- Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute, August 2014 (Ithaca, NY)
- NYLA 2014 Conference, November 2014 (Saratoga, NY)
- NYC Affiliate Conference, November 2014 (City Field, NYC)
- NYSCATE, November 2014 (Rochester, NY)
- NY State Social Studies Conference (Presentations and Cosponsor), March 2015 (Syracuse, NY)
- SSL/NYLA Spring Conference, April 2015 (Tarrytown, NY)

## Scholarships

### Awards Presented at the SSL Spring Conference

- SSL/Gale Conference Fellow – Stacey Rattner - \$500
- Robert E. Barron Cultural Media Award – Sue Kowalski - \$500
- Laura Wedge Conference Award – Mary Charters - \$500
- Beatrice E. Griggs Scholarship – Jessica Regitano - \$1000
- Beatrice E. Griggs Elementary Administrator's Award – Mr. Jason Chevrier – Plaque
- Secondary Administrator's Award – Mr. Robert D'Angelo – Plaque
- Knickerbocker Award - Steven Kellogg, Author – Illustrator

### SSL Scholarships given for the Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute (2014)

- Scholarship for the Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute – Pamela Bigsby
- Marcia Eggleston Empowering Leadership Award – Karen O'Donnell – funded by Sue Kowalski
- Mary Joan Egan Memorial Scholarship – Debora Donohue

### 9 Other Scholarships from the Proceeds of the Auction

All scholarships cover the cost of the Institute (\$300)

- Marie Barron
- Angela Boccuzzi-Reichert
- Amy Csorny
- Arlene Laverde
- Sheri McNair
- Teri Richardson
- Alicia Sherman
- Katherine Starks
- Phillis Walrath

# Youth Services Section (YSS)

	<b>July 1, 2014</b>	<b>July 1, 2015</b>
Membership	538	605
Fund Balance	\$75,957.42	\$84,089.59

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Mary Ferris

#### Vice President

Mary Jo Smith

#### Second VP/Membership

Christina Ryan-Linder

#### Past President

Chrissie Morrison

#### Secretary

Gail Brown

#### Treasurer

Lisa Kochik

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Amanda Schiavulli

Liz Liddington

Deborah Hempe

## Key Accomplishments

At NYLA 2014, the Telling Tales program featured a round-the-world story journey with Aunt Helen's Closet with artifacts, clothing, subject matter and literacy united in performance and education.

One of the YSS Spring Conference Scholarships was renamed the Lisa C. Wemett Scholarship. The intent of this scholarship is to encourage continuing education in the field of library youth services by participating in the annual YSS Spring Conference. YSS nominated Lisa for NYLA's first Above and Beyond Award honoring her for her dedication to YSS and NYLA.

YSS Spring Conference "Inform! Inspire! Ignite!" was held on March 27, 2015 in Islandia, Long Island.

The Author Garden sponsored by the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, CLASC Inc. (Children's Library Association of Suffolk County) and the Young Adult Services Division of Suffolk County Library Association featured 11 local authors and illustrators.

## Scholarships & Awards

### New Member Spring Scholarship

Joanna Goldfarb of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello, NY

### The Lisa Wemett Scholarship

Beth Zambito of the Newburgh Free Library in Newburgh, NY

### The Empire State Award

Presented to Jacqueline Woodson at the NYLA Conference in Saratoga

### Ann Gibson Scholarship

Elissa Valente, MLS student at the University of Albany

# 2015 Legislative Session Recap

## FY 2015-16 Budget

Together with library advocates from across New York State, NYLA secured a \$5M increase in funding over what Governor Cuomo contemplated in his Executive Budget proposal. This represents the largest year-to-year increase in state library funding in seven years, and brings total state library aid in

FY2015-16 to \$91.6M. Though state library aid is still less than what is required in education law (102.6M), the success of our “Libraries Are Education” advocacy campaign has put funding on a solid trajectory. Also included in this year’s budget is a permanent exemption from the MTA tax for public libraries and public library systems – a stark reversal after several years of failure on this issue. The state Library Construction Aid program again received \$14M in funding.

## NYLA Legislative Priorities

**NYLA’s legislative priorities are devised by the Legislative Committee and NYLA Council and serve to set NYLA’s agenda on advocacy activities.**

- MTA Tax Exemption for Public Libraries and Public Library Systems  
*S.214 Martins / A.218 Abinanti*

After several years of failing to get traction on this legislation in the Assembly, this year NYLA was able to get the exemption done as part of the state budget. The exemption applies to all public libraries and public library systems within the MTA taxing district. Signed into law by Governor Cuomo, Chapter 59 of 2015.

- Taxpayer Access to Publically-Funded Research Act (TAPR)  
*S.3952 Farley / A.1878 Hevesi*

This legislation requires New York State funded research published in peer-reviewed journals be made available online by the state agencies that underwrite such research. Following the dissolution of the New York State Higher Education Initiative (NYSHEI), NYLA took the lead on TAPR this session. This legislation had not moved since its introduction. We sought a new Senate sponsor, Senator Farley. Though NYLA had several meetings this session on the bill, concerns were raised and the bill was shelved in the Senate. NYLA is working with the Senate on proposed amendments.

- Expand Access to School Libraries and Librarians  
*S.3931 Farley / No Same As*

NYLA was able to introduce legislation last year, for the first time since 2007, which would expand access to school librarians. Prior to this session, we worked with stakeholders to write

and introduce new legislation that would better address this issue. This was the first year we worked on the new bill, and we spent much of the session laying groundwork. This is an extremely complicated and difficult piece of legislation. Near the close of session, a competing Assembly bill, sponsored by Assemblywoman Solages, was introduced that contained slight differences from the Farley bill. NYLA continues to work on this legislation, and we anticipate broader efforts as we implement the next phase of our strategy to pass this bill.

## NYLA – Monitored Legislation

**During the course of a legislative session, NYLA works on additional legislation that is not part of our official legislative agenda, but will benefit the library community. Below is a list of bills that fell outside of our legislative priorities that NYLA worked on during the 2015 legislative session:**

- SED E-book Study  
*S.5718 Farley / A.7627-A Abinanti*

Directs the Commissioner of the State Education Department to conduct a study and develop a comprehensive plan for increasing access to and lending of electronic books in libraries and library systems across New York State. This legislation was on NYLA’s legislative agenda from 2012-2014. After addressing several issues with surrounding collective purchasing with Senator Farley, Assemblyperson Abinanti and representatives from the state Office of General Services, we were able to revive this bill. Signed into law by Governor Cuomo, Chapter 459 of 2015.

- State Aid for Broadband Construction  
*S.4299 O’Mara / A.8168 Abinanti*

This bill specifically provides that funds allocated under the state Library Construction Aid program may be used for broadband installation and infrastructure. Signed into law by Governor Cuomo, Chapter 480 of 2015.

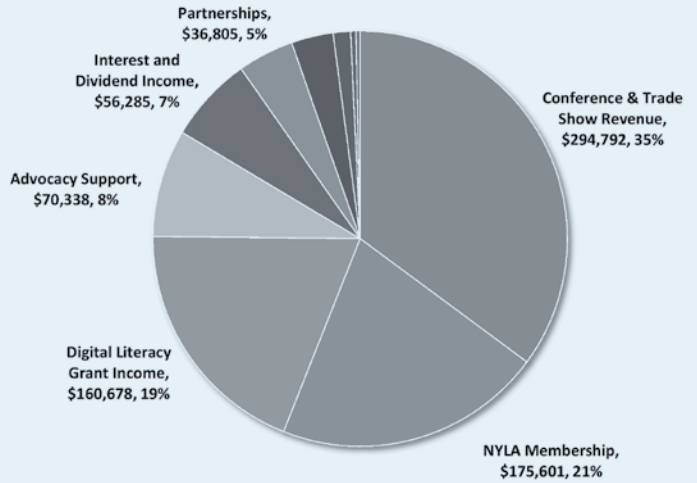
## Bullet Aid

The Senate and Assembly allocated more “bullet aid” to libraries this year than in any previous year. NYLA both provided assistance in securing the actual aid in the budget, and in providing sample language for libraries to use when requesting aid. This year, the Senate gave \$3.7M to 460 different libraries – \$1.2M more than in any previous year. The Assembly made one award, to one library. Complete details can be found on NYLA.org – 2015 Bullet Aid.

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
Financial Statement — Fiscal Year 2014-2015

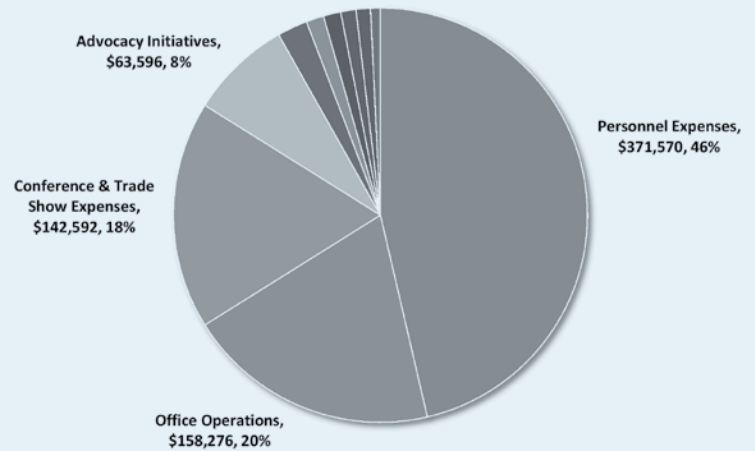
<b>INCOME</b>	
NYLA Membership	\$175,601
Conference Revenue	\$294,792
Continuing Education Income	\$27,478
Advertising (Bulletin/Email/Web)	\$2,731
Interest and Dividend Inc.	\$56,285
Advocacy Support	\$70,338
NYLA Promotional Items	\$3,455
Miscellaneous/Rent	\$36,805
Marketing(Vendor Partners)	\$11,392
Digital Literacy Grant	\$160,678
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$839,555</b>
NYLA Funds	\$23,698
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$863,523</b>

**INCOME**



<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Personnel Expenses	\$371,570
Professional Fees	\$9,562
Office Operations	\$158,276
Publications/Promotions	\$8,989
Council/Executive Board/President	\$11,032
American Library Association	\$6,131
Conference Expense	\$142,592
Continuing Education Expense	\$18,911
Digital Literacy Grant	\$10,884
Advocacy	\$63,596
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$801,543</b>
NYLA Funds	\$12,754
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$814,297</b>

**EXPENSES**



<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$863,523</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$814,297</b>
<b>NET PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$49,226</b>

## The New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road  
Guilderland, New York 12084

### NYLA Council 2014 – 2015



**Row One:** Sue P. Kowalski, Councilor at Large; Claudia J. Depkin, Treasurer-Elect; Debby Emerson, President-Elect; Sheryl L. Knab, Councilor at Large; Mary E. Ferris, YSS; **Row Two:** Marcy Strong, Councilor at Large; Karen R. Gardner-Athey, ASLS; Sara Kelly Johns, Immediate Past President; Lisa C. Wemett, FLS; **Row Three:** Jill A. Leinung, SSL; Tim Burke, Treasurer; Lauren Comito, LAMS; Geoffrey S. Kirkpatrick, NYLA President; Todd Schlitt, SCLA; Rocco Staino, ALA Chapter Councilor; Jennifer 'Charlie' Kelly, Councilor at Large; **Missing from Photo:** Brian Hildreth, PLS; Jennifer Husenitza, RASS; April M. Steenburgh, SMART; Sue Considine, Councilor at Large; Rebecca Lubin, Councilor at Large