



*The Voice of the Library Community*

## New York Library Association

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### **NYLA Council Meeting**

Thursday, December 17, 2020

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM via Web Conference

NYLA President, Claudia Depkin Presiding

**In Attendance:** Claudia Depkin, *President*; Dr. Jen Cannell, *Immediate Past President*; Beth Merkle *President-Elect*; Grace Riario, *Treasurer-Elect*; Jim Teliha, *ASLS President*; Karen Sperrazza, *FLS President*; Annalee Dragon, *LAMS Representative*; Jean Currie, *LTA President*; Jennifer Byrnes, *PLS President*; Dana Sinclair, *RASS President*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*, Steve Bachman, *SMART President*; Dawn Pressimone, *SSL President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Lisa Kropp, *Councilor-at-Large*; Kristina Graves, *Councilor-at-Large*; Ana E. Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

**Absent:** Roger Reyes, *Treasurer*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*

**Guests:** Emily Dowie, *Coalition of Library Workers of Color*; Nicola McDonald, *LAMS President*; Peyton Powell, *Coalition of Library Workers of Color*; Elizabeth Portillo, *Coalition of Library Workers of Color*; Morgan Strand, *Coalition of Library Workers of Color*; Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*; Christina Romeo, *NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager*

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2019 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting as presented.  
Made by: AnnaLee Dragon, Seconded by: Jen Cannell.  
Passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the November 5, 2020 NYLA Annual Membership Meeting

**MOTION II:** Motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2020 NYLA Annual Membership Meeting as presented.  
Made by: Grace Riario, Seconded by: Jim Teliha.  
Passed unanimously.

4. Finance Report
  - a. October Monthly Statement

Jeremy Johannesen presented the October Financial Statement. Of note, membership income is beginning to rebound, and the annual conference performed better than had been projected.

5. President's Update

Claudia Depkin noted her attendance at the NYLA 2020 Virtual Conference and Pathways to Librarianship Town Hall. The 2021 NYLA Annual Conference theme is "Libraries: We're ALL In!", and the keynote speaker is slated to be author, Robert Kolker.

## 6. Executive Director's Update

Jeremy Johannesen reported on:

- The NYLA2020 Virtual Conference & Trade Show had 750 registrants and 43 exhibitors. The satisfaction survey received 280 responses with a 95% approval.
- The NYLA2021 Conference & Trade Show will be in Syracuse November 3-6, with plans underway for a hybrid in-person / virtual event.
- NYLA has gained over 300 new members since September 30, with 5621 total members.
- NYLA's membership database software, MemberMax, has been migrated to a new online webhost as of December 1.
- The Library Skills Academy has been converted to be entirely virtual format and will be presented in early 2021.

## 7. Legislative Update

Briana McNamee reported on:

- New York State is \$16 Billion statewide deficit. The mid-year Library Aid 'hold backs' are not likely to be distributed.
- The chair of the NYS Assembly Libraries Committee has won his race to ascend to the NYS Senate, ensuring a new chair for that committee in the coming year.
- NYLA will be hosting a webinar briefing with state legislature staff to learn about the key library legislative issues and budget items.
- On February 22nd, NYLA will have a Library Advocacy Day Briefing to discuss the legislative and budget agenda for Library Advocacy Day.
- Library Advocacy Day 2021 will be a virtual event, with coordinated virtual legislative office visits taking place on Friday, February 26.

## 8. Unfinished Business

### a. St. Johns 2020 Dewey Scholar Nominee (Allison Payne)

St. John's University submitted their nominee for a 2020 NYLA Dewey Scholarship (late).

**MOTION III:** Motion to approve St. John's nomination of Allison Payne as recipient of a 2020 NYLA Dewey Scholarship.

Made by: AnnaLee Dragon, Seconded by: Lisa Kropp.

Approved unanimously.

### b. Pathways to Librarianship Task Force

The Pathways to Librarianship Task Force Town Hall was held on December 3, attracting over 100 attendees. An open call for individuals to self-nominate for appointment to the Task Force is currently open, with 31 applications already received. Charge and composition for the Task Force will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

### c. NYLA Awards Task Force

The need to review NYLA's Awards, in order to improve clarity and increase participation has been well documented in recent years.

**MOTION IV:** Motion to establish a NYLA Awards Review Task Force, charged to complete an examination of all awards and scholarships currently being awarded at the organizational level, and return a report with any recommendations for updates, revisions or changes to Council by the May 6, 2021 meeting, to be chaired by Jen Cannell, who will appoint one representative from each NYLA Section and up to five additional members at her discretion.

Made by: Jim Teliha, Seconded by: Jean Currie.

Approved unanimously.

## 9. New Business

### a. Coalition of Library Workers of Color Round Table Formation Petition

Emily Dowie and Elizabeth Portillo brought forward a petition for the formation of a new NYLA round table – the Coalition of Library Workers of Color Round Table – with 187 signatures affixed (25 is the minimum required). The group began and has been supported by the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS), and is seeking round table status to expand their reach statewide.

**MOTION V:** Motion to approve the formation of the Coalition of Library Workers of Color Round Table (CLWCRT), with the statement of purpose as presented.

Made by: Emily Dowie and Elizabeth Portillo, Seconded by: Grace Riario.

Approved unanimously.

### b. Library Futures – Request for Endorsement

Jill Hurst Wahl submitted materials detailing a new nonprofit organization – Library Futures – which has been formed to champion equitable access to knowledge, specifically copyright issues as they relate to libraries; and a request for NYLA to endorse the organization.

Following discussion, it was determined that NYLA was not prepared to endorse the organization at this time, citing lack of details and desire for clarity on ALA's position.

### c. Policy of At-Large Committee Vacancies

The need for an established policy on vacancies in at-large committee appointments was reviewed.

**MOTION IV:** Motion to approve the policy for vacancies in at-large committee appointments as presented.

Made by: Cassie Guthrie, Seconded by: Jean Currie.

Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:31 PM