The Legislature wrapped up its 2006 Session on schedule on June 23rd with a mixed bag of results for libraries. Several bills on NYLA’s Legislative Priorities list passed either the Senate or the Assembly, but not both houses. The Library Budget Vote bill (S.7382 Farley/A.11462 Eddington), which would clarify the ability of library board of trustees to place budget proposals on the ballot for voter approval passed the Senate, but did not move in the Assembly. The Dormitory Authority Bonding Bill (S.3110 Farley/A.11500 Eddington), which would allow NYLA to bundle small construction projects together for submission to the NYS Dormitory Authority for financing, also passed the Senate, but failed to move in the Assembly.

The Assembly did pass the Income Tax Check-Off Bill (S.7532 Farley/A.3821 Perry) which would allow state income tax filers to elect to donate a portion of their refunds to the “Love Your Library” Fund created by the Legislature in 2004 to provide grants to libraries to implement the statewide summer reading program. Unfortunately, the bill got as far as third reading on the Senate Calendar (meaning it was eligible to be voted on by the full Senate) before stalling. Senator Farley advocated strongly for passage of the bill, but competing tax check-off bills for other causes halted any further action by the Senate.

Other bills of local interest passed both houses including two bills that created the Dodge Library District in Chazy, Clinton County and the East Fishkill Public Library District in East Fishkill, Dutchess County. Another local bill increased the amount the Greater Poughkeepsie Library District’s budget that can be raised from the property tax from 75% to 90% by the year 2011. Other legislation that passed both houses added the Elwood Public Library and the Peninsula Public Library to list of libraries eligible to receive financing from the Dormitory Authority. These bills still have to be signed by the Governor.

The NYLA Legislative Committee is in the process of gathering input and priorities from NYLA Sections and affiliated organizations to develop NYLA’s 2007 Budget and Legislative Agenda. Key to repeating and building upon this year’s successful advocacy efforts in obtaining a record $19.7 million increase in Library Aid will be the library community’s ability to continue to work together and present a united front to state policymakers under NYLA’s leadership.
THIS JUNE, I interviewed Kevin Verbesey, the new Director of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. The Suffolk Cooperative Library Systems serves 56 public libraries in Suffolk County, Long Island.

Working in libraries was a Verbesey family tradition started by his father who was the Director of the Mastics-Moriches Library in Suffolk County. Kevin started his library career early as a page in high school at the Emma S. Clark Memorial Library in Setauket. He went to college at the University of Dayton and received his MLS from St. John’s University. He served as Director of the John Jermain Memorial Library in Sag Harbor and then as Director of the Hauppauge Public Library for six years before being selected to head the Suffolk Cooperative Library System.

“My new position offers me the opportunity to work with individual districts and boards to build consensus on important issues facing the libraries in Suffolk County,” said Kevin in response to my question on what interested him in becoming a public library system director.

"Some of the immediate challenges facing SCLS are both financial, technological and facility related. We have a system dependent on state aid and member library support and a building that severely needs modernizing and technology upgrades. We are beginning the process with our member libraries and board to develop a plan that allows us to continue to provide needed services within current and future financial constraints,” continued Kevin.

I asked what he hoped to accomplish in the near future and he responded, “We intend to finalize our five year plan of service, define our role in the county’s WiFi initiative, improve library content available on internet, move forward with digitization projects, offer more training for library staff members and trustees and most importantly do the things that our members feel best support them and their patrons.”

In discussing challenges facing the library community, Kevin replied, “Libraries need to keep up with technological advances and societal changes, keep services and collections relevant to the public while staying true to our core roles of providing education, information and cultural entertainment.”

I asked Kevin about his views of NYLA and he commented, “I first joined NYLA while I was a librarian in training and believe the Association serves an important role in coalescing the library community’s needs and advocating those needs to state policymakers. NYLA also serves a vital role as a clearinghouse for information on a variety of issues important to librarians.”
Stories from the Stacks

STORIES FROM THE STACKS is a special feature of the Bulletin where we ask our members about the profession and library issues and print selected responses in the newsletter.

For the Summer Bulletin, “What was the most unusual excuse a patron or student gave for an overdue book or other item?”

It was my first year working in a library, 30 years ago. A woman came in on a hot spring day to return a long-overdue book. She hadn’t found it until now, she said, “Because it was under the Christmas tree stand.”

Holly Wolf, Then at Macedon Public Library, Now at Palmyra-Macedon High School Library

A high school senior wishing to regain borrowing privileges came in with a book reported “lost” two years earlier. “I found it in the freezer,” she explained cheerfully. “The freezer?” I said. “At home. The deep-freeze.” The book was in excellent condition. I accepted it and cleared her fines. Our conservators’ advice about storing books in a cool, dry place appears to be vindicated.

Faith Jones, NYPL

A patron came into the library with an overdue book. I calculated the fine at .75. The patron stood there, going through his pockets, then finally said he didn’t have any money on him. I closed the book and showed him the title, then said, “Forget the fine. I guess the book didn’t help you.” He just stared at me for a few seconds, then burst out laughing. The sub-title of the book? “How to Gamble and Win.”

Andrea Arquette, Clifton Community Library

A woman came into our library owing $28 on a rental video. She vehemently refused to pay the fee because, she said, “If I had known it was a video, I would’ve known where to look for it in my house.” (I wonder what happened when she first got it home and tried to “read” it.)

Tracey Simon, Head of Reference, Lynbrook Public Library

Patron: Beau (16 yrs. old)
Book: Brian’s Hunt by Gary Paulsen
Overdue from Nov. 1, 2005 to last day of school
June 16, 2006
Excuse: “I wasn’t going to bring it back because I know report cards are withheld if you have overdue books....and I really don’t want a report card this year.”

Vicki Reutter, LMS, Cazenovia (NY) High School

Spring into action... and YOU could WIN a FREE 2006 NYLA Conference Registration!

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! Encourage a new person to join NYLA and you and your new recruit have the chance to win a free 2006 NYLA Annual Conference registration.

“NYLA is the voice of libraries and with increased membership we gain a stronger voice,” says Rocco Staino, NYLA’s Immediate Past President.

“We know that our membership blossoms when we personally reach out to our colleagues,” says Zahra M. Baird, NYLA’s Membership Committee Chair. “The beauty of NYLA is that there is something for everyone – you can be involved at whatever level suits your schedule and interests!”

Here are the contest rules:
All current NYLA members are eligible to recruit new members for this contest. Multiple entries are allowed. For each person that you recruit, you get an additional chance to win! Once you have identified a new member for NYLA, have them fill out a NYLA membership form. For the purpose of the contest, the new member must not have previously been a NYLA member. They also cannot be signing up as a Student, as those applications are processed by and sent directly to ALA. Membership forms are available online at www.nyla.org. Across the top of the new member’s form, write, “I was recruited by:” and insert your name. All membership forms for the contest need to be received at the NYLA office by August 31, 2006. On September 1st, one membership form will be randomly drawn from the entries received. Winners will be notified and announced. Both the new member AND the recruiter will win a Full Program registration to the 2006 NYLA Conference plus one full day or 2 half day Continuing Education program. Full Program Registration includes a badge, entry to all programs, membership meetings, the general session and address and the trade show on November 1 - 4, 2006 at the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center. The winners will also receive free registration to either one full day or two half day NYLA Continuing Education Programs offered on Wednesday, November 1, 2006. Meals, transportation, lodging and all miscellaneous costs are not included.

Planning on attending the conference, whether or not you win? Don’t worry! Go ahead and register for the conference and if the winners have already paid for the 2006 Conference, we will process a refund. If the winner is unable to attend the event, they may submit a written request to the NYLA office by October 1st and designate another NYLA member to attend the 2006 Conference in their place.

Reach out and encourage a colleague or library friend to join NYLA TODAY! This contest is part of NYLAs Membership Committee membership drive and we need your support!
Executive Director’s Report

Things continue to roll here at NYLA with the launching of our new Online Membership Center that allows for online membership application and renewal as well as online conference registration. This new added convenience will make it much easier for credit card users to join or renew their membership. In addition, other features soon to be added will be listserves for all sections and roundtables, online surveys, registration for regional institutes and purchasing items from the NYLA Store.

In addition, we have added a variety of new Member Benefits from the very popular NYLA News You Can Use (weekly emails with links to stories about libraries in New York), new vendor partners Liberty Mutual, which offers members discounts on personal auto/homeowners insurance, Movie Licensing USA which offers organizational members discounts on blanket copyright protection for showing films, and Hodgson Russ LLC, a law firm that specializes in bonding deals for construction projects.

NYLA continues to develop other services and programs that add value to a NYLA membership and we welcome suggestions from the library community for other member benefits to consider.

In the upcoming months we plan to release an update to the Library Law Handbook by Allan Carter and launch our new Online Career Center for job seekers, library school students and others interested in the library profession.

This Spring we reached some significant milestones with the success of our advocacy efforts resulting in a historic $19.7 million increase in Library Aid as well as NYLA membership reaching a 16-year high of 3,427 members in April. NYLA members can take great pride and satisfaction in belonging to an Association that is both growing and successful.

Spotlight on NYLA Vendor Partner

Movie Licensing USA has announced their alignment with the New York Library Association as a Vendor Partner. Members will now receive special pricing as new customers of Movie Licensing USA.

The purchase of a public performance site license will allow NYLA libraries to be in compliance with copyright law when using Hollywood motion pictures to enhance their library programs. A license from Movie Licensing USA will give libraries coverage from over 90% of the Hollywood Studios.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and its member companies are dedicated to stopping film and video piracy in all its forms, including unauthorized public performances. To avoid embarrassing publicity and fines, it is important to comply with U.S. Copyright Law when using movies publicly.

Libraries with a public performance license can show motion pictures from their own collection or from any movie rental store as part of books-to-film, senior programs, summer reading or other educational programs.

Current customers use major motion pictures such as the “Harry Potter” series, “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” and “The Lord of the Rings” to help interest children and teens in reading and to build their awareness about all the other services and programs the library offers.

Movie Licensing USA is the only company able to offer you public performance site licensing for all of these Hollywood Studios: Walt Disney Pictures, Warner Bros., Columbia Pictures, Paramount Pictures, DreamWorks Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Hollywood Pictures, TriStar Pictures, Focus Features, Sony Pictures, MGM, Miramax Films, United Artists, Lions Gate Film and New Line Cinema. No other licensing source can provide this exclusive, comprehensive coverage.

A license from Movie Licensing USA is just one more way your library can enhance programs and offer patrons—and the entire community—access to a wider variety of resources.
Be Worry Free About Copyright Compliance
With A Site License From Movie Licensing USA!

WITH A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE SITE LICENSE, YOU CAN USE MOVIES LEGALLY TO ENHANCE YOUR LIBRARY PROGRAMS, SUCH AS:

- BOOKS-TO-MOVIES SERIES
- TEEN MOVIE NIGHTS
- SUMMER READING
- SENIOR PROGRAMS – CLASSICS SERIES, FOREIGN FILMS
- TEEN READ WEEK
- BANNED BOOKS FILM SERIES
- CHILDREN’S STORY FILM TIME

As a new vendor partner with the New York Library Association, members will now receive special pricing as new customers of Movie Licensing USA.

With a public performance license, not only will libraries be in compliance with copyright law, they will be worry free when using Hollywood’s motion pictures to facilitate programming. A license from Movie Licensing USA is a great way for libraries to enhance programs and offer patrons — and the entire community — access to a wider variety of resources.

CALL TODAY TO ORDER YOUR SITE LICENSE

Movie Licensing USA®
A Division of Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. • Tim Swank, Chairman
Toll-free: 1-888-267-2658
mail@movlic.com • wwww.movlic.com

© 2006 Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.
Leonard T. D’Amico has been named President of the Queens Borough Public Library Board of Trustees. Carolyn Giambra and Frances Roscello were elected ALA Councilors-At-Large. Sara Kelly Johns was elected President of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) for 2007-08. Rosina Alaimo was elected Region II Director for AASL.

Wendy Quinn is an intern in the East Greenbush Community Library’s Youth Services department, assisting with the Summer Reading Program.

Steve Patnode received his School Library Media Specialist Certification and is working in the Chazy Rural Central High School library.

Children’s Librarian Corrinne Needham received the 2006 Ruth Connell Award from the Baldwinsville Public Library. The award, named for Baldwinsville Public Library’s first librarian, is made to recognize an employee for exemplary service above and beyond their job description and comes with a $100 stipend.

Mary Beth Bobish has joined the CORE reference unit of the Research Library in the New York State Library. Ms. Bobish previously worked at the New York State Small Business Development Center.

Kathy LaRocca has retired as of July 1 after almost 18 years as Head of Youth Services at Goshen Public Library. She will continue her connection to libraries as a member of her local Friends group.

Kim Bolan, 2006 NYLA Conference Chair, has started her own consulting business, Kimberly Bolan & Associates, located in Indianapolis, IN. Kim works with libraries across the country in the areas of facility planning and design, young adult services, customer surveying, and service and process analysis. Kim has also published her second book titled Technology Made Simple: An Improvement Guide for Small and Medium Libraries.

Dona Boyer, Director of Kent Public Library in Putnam County retired this past May after 25 years of dedicated library service. Under Dona’s leadership, the Kent Free Public Library, an association library, became the Kent Public Library, a municipal public library. Dona was also the driving force behind the successful effort to build a beautiful new home for the library.

Dr. Janet Barr, retired after 20 years of dedicated service as Director of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES School Library System. Dr. Barr also received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the School Library System Association of New York. Gail Barraco is the new Director of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES School Library System. Gail was formerly Director of the Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES School Library System.

Geri Krim co-edited and compiled Volume 6 of Choices: A Core Collection for Young Reluctant Readers. Volume 6 of Choices surveys Children’s Literature published between the years 2000 and 2005, and provides comprehensive annotations for 239 recommended titles that can assist children in developing an appreciation of reading. Subject indexes, Reading Levels, and Interest Levels are provided for all of the titles. Recommendations for Reading Aloud are also provided. (ISBN-13 978-934272872).

Long time member and one of the founders of the Empire Friends Roundtable, Ross Kitt, passed away on May 14th. Ross served as a delegate from New York to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1991.

Julia E. Schult, 2005 NYLA Dewey Fellow and SMART Board member, was recently named Director of the Groton Public Library.

Don Wilson of the Palmer School of Library and Information Science received the Provost’s Certificate of Recognition for the 2005-06 academic year.

Brett Daggs will be the new School Library Media Specialist at Oneida High School. Patricia Anderson, Director of the New Rochelle Library is retiring after 20 years at the library.

Janet Kreason, YSS President, is the new Head of Youth Services at the brand new Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.
New York University’s Graduate School of Arts and Science and Long Island University’s Palmer School of Library and Information Science are collaborating on a dual master’s degree program aimed at addressing the critical need for scholar-librarians.

The program is intended to prepare students for careers in academic institutions, research institutes, cultural organizations, and other research settings and will offer them significant subject expertise and professional skills that will greatly enhance their career options.

Beginning in the fall of 2006, graduate students will be able to matriculate at both NYU and LIU’s Palmer School, where programs will be tailored especially for them. To develop their understanding of a particular subject area, students would study in any of the areas offered by NYU’s Graduate School of Arts and Science—from anthropology to economics, from neural science to Spanish and Portuguese languages and literature as well as in such programs as Archival Management and Museum Studies. The Palmer School would train them in information skills, and they would have to adhere to the regulations for the MSLIS degree.

An integral part of the new dual degree will be a carefully structured mentoring program, with mentors drawn largely from the NYU Libraries’ staff of librarians. NYU’s Bobst Library, the university’s central library in its system, currently is the Manhattan training site for The Palmer School’s full MSLIS degree program.

The planning and initial implementation of the new dual degree program is being supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Carol Mandel, dean of the NYU Libraries, said, “Beyond the goal of producing more scholar-librarians for a field that has indicated a current and future need for such talent, this plan is significant for its unusual collaboration among several academic areas across two institutions: a graduate school of arts and science, a library and information science school, and a major research library.”

“The Palmer School in the College of Information and Computer Science at LIU welcomes the opportunity to partner with New York University’s Graduate School of Arts and Science in a dual master’s degree program,” said The Palmer School’s John Regazzi, dean and professor, College of Information and Computer Science, Long Island University. “There is a significant and growing need for academic librarians who have both a strong subject specialty as well as a full understanding of the modern library and information environment. I believe this program will meet these needs in a way that no other program presently attempts, and look forward to a long and promising relationship between our two universities.”

Catharine Stimpson, dean of NYU’s Graduate School of Arts and Science, said, “The Graduate School of Arts and Science is very pleased to be a part of this innovative collaboration. The role of master’s degrees is growing rapidly, and this dual degree will serve our students, libraries, and our society.”

For further information contact Alice Flynn, Program Director, at 212.998.2680 or email alice.flynn@liu.edu.
2006 NYLA Candidates for Office

For Vice President (President-Elect)
Rosina Alaimo
Maple West Elementary School
I have chosen “The Past, The Present and the Future @ Your Library” as my campaign theme. Let me explain why this makes sense to me.

“Libraries are places of opportunity.” I know this first hand because once upon a time a little girl not quite 9 years old with very limited English language proficiency, opened the doors of the Welland, Ontario Public Library and discovered a world of magic. This place was my refuge on Saturday afternoons for three years. It was in this magical place that I met Anne Shirley and fell in love with Prince Edward Island, Anne, Diana, Gilbert, and L.M. Montgomery. It was this magical place that infused me with the love of reading and gave my curiosity a free reign.

“Libraries are Essential.” All kinds of libraries. It doesn’t matter whether one is young or old, rich or poor, advantaged or disadvantaged, the library works for all. I may be a School Library Media Specialist but I will fight to safeguard all libraries. If we can work together effectively, our profession, and consequently, our state’s libraries will be strengthened. Every library has an important role to play within its community, and NYLA must support every library. I believe that we can be a stronger force by recognizing the interconnectedness of all libraries.

NYLA is the voice of all libraries and all librarians in New York State. If elected I will listen and respond to the concerns of the members. I will also strive to keep the focus on topics that are directly related to libraries and librarians and not dilute NYLA’s focus on peripheral issues. Working together, we can mobilize public opinion so no individual or community is left behind in the information age. In this time of slashed budgets and closed libraries we must act decisively to stop the loss of access while fighting to bring our constituents tomorrow’s libraries today.

As a professional organization, we must continue to define our goals and priorities and then focus our efforts and resources to strengthen NYLA as a united organization that is focused on its priorities maintain and develop prudent fiscal planning supportive of our identified goals and priorities strengthen our already strong legislative efforts enhance our cooperation within our sections cultivate new leaders for the profession and recruit new members to make NYLA stronger.

For Vice President (President-Elect)
Bea Angus
Madison-Oneida BOCES SLS
I see the New York Library Association as a voice for making the best library service available to the citizens of the state. NYLA represents and serves the 7,000 libraries of all types and sizes. Therein lies its strength. By working together NYLA’s members improve lifelong learning for our patrons and ourselves. I hope to build NYLA’s strength by involving members representing all types of libraries in activities to promote library service to all types of patrons.

Best wishes to the New York Library Association and all its members.
We congratulate you on 115 years of success!

Hodgson Russ LLP
Proud to be a new NYLA vendor partner, bond counsel for public library capital projects

677 Broadway, Suite 301  Albany, New York 12207  518.465.2333
Albany  Boca Raton  Buffalo  Johnstown  New York  Toronto

www.hodgsonruss.com
For Councilor-at-Large

Tim Baird
White Plains Public Library

It is essential to develop, promote and improve the quality of library and information services while increasing our visibility; to focus on information literacy; to not only restore but augment library funding, to strive for pay equity, to protect intellectual freedom and to work together on advocacy for libraries.

NYLA is the VOICE of the Library Community. In order to continue to be recognized as such, we must both retain members and actively recruit. Through my three-year tenure on NYLA’s membership committee, I have worked towards increasing member benefits, promoting our value and building a solid membership base. My work with the web committee has enabled NYLA to advance our web presence and offer members better online access to what NYLA has to offer.

My involvement with NYLA has provided me with many networking, professional development and leadership opportunities. If elected Councilor at Large, I pledge to work on ensuring that NYLA remains a strong voice of the library community, and continues to be a vibrant organization, built on a fiscally sound base, which is responsive to our diverse member needs.

For Councilor-at-Large

Ken Fujiuchi
Buffalo State College

Librarians lead the way in technological innovation and continue to do so as new methods and devices emerge. Librarian’s guidance in the use of technological tools plays a crucial role in people's lives. We enrich people’s life-long learning skills by teaching information literacy skills for the 21st century. We promote personal and professional advancement, by giving access to technological tools and online resources. We offer service to all people, thus closing the gap of the digital divide. As the Emerging Technology Librarian at Buffalo State College, I understand how technology effects our professional environment and the lives of New Yorkers. I hope to bring my experience, both professional and as an active NYLA member, to the council so that my unique perspective as a next generation librarian can benefit the library profession and New York State libraries in the Information Age.

For Councilor-at-Large

Patricia Kaufman
Mahopac Public Library

My interest in NYLA began with my involvement with LAMRT/LAMS. I discovered a wonderful group of people who belonged to an organization based on inclusiveness, open to all regardless of position or affiliation, an organization that was concerned with all aspects of the profession, from getting that first job to finding meaningful opportunities for advanced learning. They planned conference programs that explored a wide range of administrative issues and came up with booth ideas that challenged our reference skills. They remind me every day why I became a librarian—to provide all people unfettered access to information in an environment that respects their privacy.

As a member of Council, I would have the opportunity to bring these issues and concerns to a larger playing field, one that has the potential to not only address those issues but also to do something about them. We need to reaffirm the value of libraries and librarians. We need to develop the messages and mechanisms for communicating and advocating that value to all segments of society. We need to ensure the secure, firm financial support for all of our libraries in the face of increasing fiscal austerity at all levels of government and non-government funding agencies. We need to involve all those in the field because there is power in numbers. As the Chair of LAMRT, I was challenged to make it a section. With the help of so many of you, we did it! With your support, NYLA will be the powerful voice of New York’s libraries.

For Councilor-at-Large

Lori Wies
Union College

In the past year as Councilor-at-large on NYLA’s Council, I have never stopped being impressed at the dedication and professionalism of my colleagues as they participate and represent all facets of the world of librarianship. The year has passed much too quickly. Now, having gained insight into the workings of the Council, I believe I am better equipped to participate in a much more informed manner. I am seeking a second, full term to the position of Councilor-at-large with a heightened desire to serve.

Note: There were no petition candidates for office this year. Ballots will be mailed to NYLA members no later than August 15, 2006, and must be returned by September 15, 2006. Candidates’ resumes and the latest election information are available at www.nyla.org
Public libraries in New York State, like other New York governmental entities, are subject to specific rules in connection with undertaking capital projects and borrowing money to finance such capital projects. Unlike private companies and individuals, public libraries and other governmental entities cannot, in general, simply contact their local bank and sign a note and mortgage to finance a capital project.

Public libraries finance capital projects by the issuance of bonds and notes. The issuance of bonds and notes to finance capital projects for public libraries is governed by rules and restrictions contained in New York law. Additional requirements relating to whether the interest on the bonds and notes is exempt from federal income taxation are contained in the federal income tax code.

New York governmental entities, such as villages, towns, cities, counties and school districts, typically hire specialized law firms to act as their bond counsel in connection with the issuance of bonds or notes. Bond counsel assists the governmental entity in reviewing and resolving the applicable New York State and federal law requirements governing the issuance of bonds and notes.

The rules governing the issuance of bonds and notes are different for each type of public library. From a borrowing standpoint, there are two categories of libraries: public libraries and association libraries. Within the general category of public libraries, there are three different types of libraries: municipal public libraries, school district libraries and special district libraries. Association libraries have a separate method of financing capital projects that can vary for each library and is not addressed in this article.

A complete description of the rules governing the issuance of bonds and notes to finance a capital project for a public library is beyond the scope of this article. However, the following is a summary of the rules:

1. The actual issuer of the bonds and notes for a capital project proposed by a public library is a municipality (e.g., a town) or a school district.
2. Whether the issuer is a municipality or a school district depends on the type of public library (i.e., a school district will issue the bonds for a school district public library).
3. The rules applicable to the issuance of the bonds and notes will depend on which governmental entity is the issuer of the bonds and notes (i.e., the rules regarding the issuance of bonds and notes for towns are different than the rules for school districts).

Structuring a financing for a public library involves complying with the applicable provisions of the Education Law (in cases of school district public libraries), Town Law (in cases of municipal and special district public libraries) and the Local Finance Law. Many of the requirements are very detailed and provide traps for the unwary (e.g., very specific requirements relating the information to be included in public hearing notices and the publication periods for such notices).

Given the complexities contained in New York and federal law, and the technical nature of the requirements, the public library should consult with its counsel and bond counsel early in the process when considering the financing of a capital project.
The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) provides tax savings for commercial building owners and in the case of public libraries, the Primary Designers (ie. Architect, Engineer and/or Contractor) of municipal buildings. In order to qualify for these tax savings, an energy efficient capital improvement must be completed after 1/1/06 and before 1/1/08 (two bills are before congress to extend the legislation). The capital improvement can be a new building or a retrofit of an existing building. A common retrofit is a lighting upgrade that replaces inefficient fixtures with high efficiency fixtures.

The tax deductions are $0.60 per square foot for each of the three main categories; Lighting, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) and Building Envelope for a possible total deduction of $1.80 per square feet. For a 50,000 square foot library the Primary Designer could take up to a $90,000 tax deduction on their company’s tax return.

In order to qualify for the tax savings the building must meet certain performance targets as compared to a building built strictly to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 90.1 2001 standard. The target for the whole building is a 50% improvement over the standard building. A 16.67% improvement will qualify you for each of the three sub systems; Lighting, HVAC and building Envelope.

It was the Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) intention to create incentives for municipal buildings to be more energy efficient. Since government entities do not pay taxes, they created the ability to pass the equivalent tax incentives to the tax paying Primary Designer. This mechanism was designed to allow for the added upfront cost of energy efficient design without increasing the typical design costs charged by Primary Designers. It was not designed to lower the fees charged by Primary Designers. Energy efficient designers have the ability to computer simulate the energy use of a building in the design process. Once the building is entered into the simulator, an iterative process is commenced to compare the cost/benefits of various energy efficient alternatives. This iterative process and simulation is not typically prepared with typical designs and increases the costs of the design process.

Energy Tax Savers

Energy Tax Savers is a tax consulting firm that assists commercial building owners and Primary designers of municipal buildings, in obtaining tax incentives created in EPAct 2005. Energy Tax Savers has helpful tools and information regarding EPAct 2005 on their website www.energytaxsavers.com.

New York State Library Partners with Gates Foundation and WebJunction to provide Spanish Language Outreach Program

THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY is participating in a joint WebJunction/Gates Library Foundation national program to promote library outreach to Spanish-speaking populations. The State Library is partnering with the Public Library System Directors Organization, the Mid-Hudson Library System, the New York State Association of Library Boards and the New York Library Association to implement this national project in New York State.

The Spanish Language Outreach Program will offer 48 workshops across New York State for some 800 library staff members from all kinds of libraries and trustees. Those attending the workshops will learn how to reach out to Spanish speakers and how to improve their access to library services and public access computing. More information about this exciting national project can be found at the WebJunction Spanish Language Outreach Program website http://www.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=10555 and at the New York State Library’s Spanish Language Outreach Program web page http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/gateslib/spanish/index.html.

Participating public library systems are sending trainers to a WebJunction Train-the-Trainer Institute in the Albany-Capital District area September 12-14, 2006. Trainers from New York, Delaware and Ohio will participate in training conducted by Yolanda Cuesta, a nationally recognized expert in outreach to multicultural communities.

Between October 2006 and May 2007, the public library system trainers will offer 48 one-day workshops for library staff (public, school, academic, special and correctional facility) and trustees on best library outreach practices for Spanish-speaking populations.

For more information please visit http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/gateslib/spanish/index.html or contact Cassie Artale, Library Development Specialist, New York State Library / Division of Library Development, 518-474-1479; cartale@mail.nysed.gov. Workshop locations and schedules will be available by October 1, 2006.
NYLA Welcomes First-Time Members 1/1/06 – 6/30/06

ASLS
MaryBeth P. Bobish
Sarah E. Clark
Maire I. Duchon
Barbara L. Evans
Sue E. Grayson
Lynda Hanley
Michael Patrick Hayes
Sue Hunter
Thomas A. Keating
Jane G. Kessler
James F. Monteith
Rebecca D. Rich-Wulfmeyer
Christine Rolko
Nancy L. Sarver
Heather M. Shaloub
Regina J. Vertone
Bennie Visher, III

LAMS
Greta Boeringer
Patricia A. Perito

NO SECTION
Robert J. Buckley
Mary A. Bush
John P. Devine
Svetlana F. Dubinsky
Clark Gridley
Janine M. Heisler
Antonia Petras
Jason J Reddy
Gretchen Taft
John Nicholas Taylor
Carl Kent Trimble
Dale R. Wexell

PLS
R. Ellen Beck
Linda G. Beins
Nicholas M. Boccio
Barbara J. Carlson
Mary E. Javorski
Donna Kuhner
Deidre J. Lisio
Janet G. Lukas

RASS
Nancy Boisseau
Anne M. Debraggio
Lori Friedli
Joel Groden
Katy B. Leonard
Christine M. Nielsen
Kevin Rioux

SLMS
Lisa Ann Baker
Brenda S. Barcomb
Laurie C. Burke
Debra A. Collins
Gretclayn L. Davis
George A. DeChant
Elizabeth F. Dejean
Kelli A. Edwards
Sarah N. Feldman

SMART
Caleb Joseph Derven
Bryan James Leithiser

YSS
Christine D’Aleo
Laura Ann Lutz
Ellen E. McTyre
Jaimee M. Meyer
Ann Preis

---

**Group Savings Plus**

How will you spend your savings? If you’re not a member of our Group Savings Plus program, then you’re not taking advantage of the group buying power of New York Library Association. So you could be paying too much for auto insurance. $327.96 too much!* Just think what you could do with that extra money.

With Group Savings Plus, New York Library Association members will enjoy:
- A group discount of up to 10% off our already competitive rates on auto and home insurance**
- Additional savings based on your age, level of education and more***
- Convenient payment options
- Rates guaranteed for 12 months, not six
- 24-Hour claims service and Emergency Roadside Assistance†

Call now and see just how much you can save. Then start spending your money on something a bit more exciting than auto and home insurance!

For a free coverage evaluation and no-obligation rate quote, please call Daniel Lynch at 518-899-7050 Ext 206 or email him at DanielE.Lynch@LibertyMutual.com.

*Figure based on a March 2006 sample of auto policyholder savings when comparing their former premium with those of Liberty Mutual’s group auto and home program. Individual premiums and savings will vary.
**Discounts, credits and program features are available where state laws and regulations allow and may vary by state. Certain discounts apply to specific coverages only. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. Service applies to auto policyholders and is provided by Cross Country Motor Club of Boston, Inc., Boston, MA or through Cross Country Motor Club of California, Inc., Boston, MA. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates. 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. © 2006 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved.
How much of an “impact” does your library media program have on student learning? Measuring the impact of library programs—either through the school or the community—remains one of the library profession’s most significant challenges.

The American Library Association, in conjunction with Scholastic Library Publishing (SLP), hosted a Town Hall meeting in New Orleans June 26 examining the transformative role that libraries can and should play in Gulf Coast schools’ post-Katrina learning environments. First Lady Laura Bush’s attendance added a sense of urgency and highlighted the importance of libraries as well as her personal commitment to them. The meeting was entitled School Libraries Work, named after the guide by the same name that SLP has distributed to thousands of librarians across the country, enabling them to show their fellow educators the prevailing research pointing to the role of the school librarian as the agent—and library media center as the agency of learning in the school.

Still, the library field continues to seek a more defined and pronounced link between the library media function and student achievement. Frances Bradburn, director of the Division of Instructional Technology, and her K-12 colleagues in North Carolina are making exciting inroads, as evidenced by the IMPACT studies they are conducting there. Named IMPACT for its “impact on teaching, learning, motivation, and student achievement,” the study <http://www.ncwise-owl.org/Impact/> is meaningful because it sets a precedent in isolating test scores from students attending 11 North Carolina schools. The schools are serving as a control group that possesses exemplary collaborative models engaging teachers, technology coordinators, and library media specialists. The U.S. Department of Education is funding the initiative with an Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant via NCLB.

The fact that North Carolina has served as the staging point for such an essential study is not surprising, particularly when you have a tacit understanding, as well as buy-in from top state-level education leaders, including Howard N. Lee, chairman of NC’s State Board of Education. Says Lee, “Research…tells us that a school library media center that provides up-to-date, accurate, and attractive resources managed by a professional school library media coordinator who collaborates with teachers to augment and enhance classroom instruction also results in increased test scores, especially in reading. IMPACT reflects both the reality of this research and the commitment to assuring that every teacher and student has the academic and personal advantage of access to these high quality programs.”

I am anxious to see the results of North Carolina’s IMPACT study. Additionally, the study’s publication, IMPACT: Guidelines for North Carolina Media and Technology Programs, published in August of 2005, is a must-read for any educator seeking to build a collaborative school library and technology program that supports teaching and learning. Perhaps most importantly, according to Bradburn, the program includes the necessary assessment instruments to assist in the evaluation of the media and technology program “designed to move us toward the State Board of Education goals of rigor, relevance, and relationships, the foundation of a 21st Century educational and economic environment.”

Evan St. Lifer is Vice President and General Manager of Scholastic Library Publishing
A Guide to Dues Reimbursement for Your Employer

by John Chrastka, ALA Manager for Membership Development, jchrastka@ala.org

IF YOU’RE NOT THE ONLY ONE benefiting from your association membership, then why are you the only one paying for it?

Your library association membership isn’t just valuable to you, it’s valuable to your library, too. As a member, you know you receive top-quality professional publications, gain opportunities for essential continuing education, and have access to a unique set of resources to improve your own worklife. But is your employer aware of how these benefits can advance your entire library’s mission and work?

By demonstrating how your library association membership improves your work, and therefore your workplace, you can encourage your employer to pay your association dues. Here are 4 simple steps to help you build a compelling case with your boss or board to pay for your professional memberships:

1. Make a list of all member benefits that directly AND indirectly benefit your library. We’ve included some ideas at the end of this article to help get you started.
2. Review your library’s mission and strategic goals. Match up specific organizational or departmental objectives with association resources that help you meet those goals.
3. Talk with your supervisor about why membership has been valuable to you, and go through the list of ways that association benefits ‘match’ your library’s goals.
4. Ask your supervisor to cover all or part of your library association dues as an investment in your own professional development, and as a benefit to the entire library.

Don’t be shy. Remember, pennies a day in dues, your library gets a well-connected and informed staff member who is up-to-date on new trends around the library world and understands how the latest technology, legislative issues and new media affect your patrons. Plus, you get the personal bonus of an employer who understands and acknowledges this in a special way.

You know how important your membership is. Here are a few facts about membership benefits to share with your employer:

- Your membership will help you stay up to date with the latest news focused on the work you do every day through members-only publications, e-lists, and special interest sections.
- Members-only discounts on professional products and conference attendance. These discounts help the library stretch its budget for purchasing and continuing education.
- Your association offers grants, scholarships, and awards that can directly subsidize the library budget for conferences, continuing education, and special programs.
- You are eligible to serve on committees and work groups that set the course for the future of libraries. Boards and community leadership are proud of, and find added value in, staff members who are recognized by their peers for outstanding service.
- Your own staff development goals can be enhanced through the continuing education, skills training, and mentoring programs offered by the association. Plus, you bring back new ideas to your coworkers from every outside training.
- Members have unique opportunities to contribute articles, propose new publications, become a reviewer and bring your library’s best-practices to a new audience. This brings recognition to your library in the wider community of professionals.

For more information on association member benefits, or to learn more about the opportunities described above, visit www.nyla.org or call 1-800-252-NYLA. We are glad that you are a member and support your efforts to gain the recognition from your employer that you deserve.
What’s in a Name?

by Gloria Meraz, Editor, Texas Library Journal

A library by any other name still serves the needs of clients, whether those clients are the pint-sized ones in schools, those in business organizations, on college campuses, or in the public at large. We in the library industry make a big deal about what “library type” we are from. And, of course, it is natural for us to be proud of our organizations and the fine (and sometimes particular) work that does go into school, public, academic and special librarianship.

The fact remains though that, to the public, a library is a library is a library. In fact, to legislators, a library is a library is a library. Now, we can choose to be perturbed by this seemingly incomprehensible lack of sense; or, we can take advantage of the collective clout of all librarians and libraries.

I can’t possibly count how many times I’ve seen librarians try to explain the “vast differences” between a public and a academic librarian. While there are often many legitimate reasons for doing so, for the most part though, “industry” divisions are irrelevant to the public at large. I mean, if you were talking with some car manufacturers and they spent a good portion of their conversation explaining the differences between car and truck makers, how much would you really care?

The heart of what we do is our service to clients, the information we bring, the knowledge expertise we represent. We bear an overarching responsibility to serve all people through all avenues possible. We inform, and we educate. That’s we do and who we are.

I know we all care deeply about our library community as a whole; we respect our colleagues. We genuinely support the causes of all library types and understand that we must collaborate. Our appreciation of one another has never been called into question.

The enormous task at hand is about moving from our “philosophical” commitment to one another to one that recognizes the value that simply being a librarian is sometimes as important as being a public or a school librarian. Accordingly, we must have enough confidence in ourselves and each other to start bridging some long held gaps just in rhetoric but also in policy.

NYLA Responds to Libraries Impacted by Flooding

The New York Library Association is accepting cash donations by check or credit card by individuals and companies who wish to assist those libraries impacted by the summer flooding. All funds collected will be disbursed to impacted libraries who request assistance by the end of August. Contributions can be sent to NYLA, 252 Hudson Avenue, Albany, New York 12210. Checks should be written out to “NYLA- Disaster Relief Fund” or visit www.nyla.org to make a credit card donation online. NYLA will be coordinating material donations, like books, furniture, etc, with the state Library and the public library systems in the effected areas.
GOOD NEWS: NYLA’s year is off to a great start.

As state aid checks totaling an additional $20 million arrive in libraries and library systems across the state this summer, we can all be proud of this year’s historic—and long overdue—increase in library aid. We can be proud of the validation this reflects, and proud of the persistence of NYLA library advocates who made this happen. With this increase, elected officials acknowledged the value of library services in their schools, communities and colleges. They heard our stories of how libraries add value, and they acted on it.

Bad News: $20 million is well appreciated but only a “good start.”

Good News: According to a new study funded by Americans for Libraries Council and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, libraries hold high credibility in their communities.

Bad News: The study, titled Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes in the 21st Century points out that despite this high credibility and a widely held belief that libraries are essential, library funding is rarely a priority among elected officials. (Go to www.publicagenda.org for the full report.)

What does this mean for us? We need to focus on the influence we have in our communities—whatever community that may be. At the SLMS Conference in April I had the opportunity to hear Gary Hartzell, educator and author of Building Influence for the School Librarian. He spoke about how librarians can build influence within their community of users, “not power, but influence over their success.” We do have influence opportunities all the time—to make students, faculty and elected leaders successful by providing them with just the right information or service at just the right time. When you know your Assembly member has an appearance to make before a community group, send her a background article to help her prepare. Welcome new borrowers with a Get out of Fines Free coupon. This is how libraries add value, and this is how we can continue building support for increases in library funding. As stated in the summary of Long Overdue, libraries “could better secure libraries’ funding future by trumpeting the many traditional and innovative roles libraries play today.”

On a personal note, I have been touched and humbled by the many cards and letters I received from colleagues around the state following the death of my husband in June. It is heartwarming to have so many friends in the NYLA community. A sincere thank you to all of you.