2009 Awards

The PLS Board announces the following 2009 Awards: two Building Awards, two Conference Scholarships, Continuing Education Grants, the Moshier/Wynkoop Award, and the Dewey Fellowship. Award recipients are selected by the PLS Board upon the recommendation of the PLS awards committee. Information about these awards may be found on at www.nyla.org - Public Library Section. All awards material must be submitted electronically to plsawards@gmail.com.

Questions should be addressed to Sue Considine, Fayetteville Public Library. SConsidine@fayettevillefreelibrary.org

Building Awards

There are two Building Awards each year of $1000.00 each. One will go to a project in a community serving less than 20,000 in population. The other to a community of over 20,000 in population.

The 2009 Awards are for Outstanding Public Library Buildings.

Award recipients are selected by the PLS Board upon the recommendation of the PLS awards committee.

Attendance at the NYLA conference is required for acceptance of the award and plaque. Winners may have their entries displayed at the PLS Booth at the annual conference and/or posted on the PLS website.

Eligibility Requirements:

The focus of the award is the impact that the construction project has had on the library’s ability to provide services to its community. Emphasis will be placed on projects that demonstrate cost effective solutions to space challenges as well as innovative usage of space and floor plan of the new construction.

All projects must be completed by December 31, 2008 for consideration in the 2009 award cycle.

Current board members’ libraries are ineligible. Previous winners are ineligible.

Applicants must submit:

- Demographic information about the community: population served, annual budget, annual circulation.
- Before and after photographs
- Before and after floor plans
- Goals and objectives
- Project budget
- Narrative explaining need, planning involved, community benefits, public response, press coverage.
- Copies of marketing material that was utilized to inform the community of the project and to gain support.

Application deadline is June 29, 2009. Please put "PLS BUILDING AWARD" in the subject line.
**2009 PLS Board**

**President:**
Karen LaRocca-Fels  
Cornwall Public Library  
kfels@rcls.org

**Vice President/President Elect:**
Matthew Bollerman  
Westhampton Free Library  
mbolterm@suffolk.lib.ny.us

**Second Vice President:**
Beverly Choltco-Devlin  
Mid-York Library System  
bdevlin@midyork.org

**Past President:**
Carol Clingan  
Mohawk Valley Library System  
cclingan@sals.edu

**Secretary:**
Barbara Madonna  
Gloversville Public Library  
bmadonna@sals.edu

**Treasurer:**
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick  
Bethlehem Public Library  
kirkpatg@uhls.lib.ny.us

**Director:**
Sue Considine  
Fayetteville Public Library  
SConsidine@fayettevillefreelibrary.org

**Director:**
Timothy McDonough  
Waterford Public Library  
tmcdonough@sals.edu

**Director:**
Lisa Hewel  
Moffat Library of Washingtonville  
lhewel@rcls.org

**CONTACT US:**
bmadonna@sals.edu

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**Call For Nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted for seats on the PLS board: Vice-President/President-elect, Secretary, Second Vice-President and first-year Director. For more information about these positions, visit PLS’S website.

Contact Carol Clingan with nominations before May 20, 2009 at cclingan@sals.edu.

**Vice President/President-Elect**

This is the first year of a three-year term. During this first year, the VP acts as a liaison to NYLA’s Conference Program committee and supervises the program planning for PLS’S portion of the annual conference. During year two, this candidate acts as PLS’S President, then and as Past President during year 3.

**Second Vice President**

Serves a two-year term to promote membership. The 2nd VP acts as a liaison to NYLA's membership committee, updates and prepares PLS membership flier to recruit new members, develops and initiates periodic review of membership plan, and with the assistance of the NYLA office, twice annually follows with members who have not renewed with PLS. The 2nd VP also works with 1st and 2nd Year Directors to coordinate and publicize section awards.

**First Year Director**

This is the first of a three-year term. During year one, directors are in charge PR for PLS including at conference via the conference booth. A first year Director also works with 2nd and 3rd year Directors in the planning of PLS’S spring conference (even years) and PLS’S fall CE (odd years). As 2nd year Director, they work with the 3rd year Director on the Spring Conference or fall CE, which ever falls during their 2nd year. During year 3, Directors are in charge of PLS’S annual awards and assisting the other directors with PR and either the Spring Conference or fall CE.

**Secretary**

During this two-year term, the secretary attends all board meetings, taking notes, and distributing reports of the proceedings to all board members, the NYLA office, and the NYLA president. The Secretary provides PLS’S board roster to board members, NYLA President and the NYLA Executive Director annually. The Secretary acts as editor of PLS’S newsletter, and may service as Web Liaison.
Conference Scholarship
PLS offers two (2) Conference Scholarship awards to encourage public librarians now in the field, or students in library school, to participate in NYLA or PLS activities.

Each award maximum is $1300.00, which includes full conference registration, travel or other conference related expenses and membership in NYLA and PLS if the winner is not already a member.

Winners are expected to attend the annual conference including the awards ceremony. Additionally, they will be asked to help with staffing at the PLS booth at the conference. You may only receive one award in your lifetime.

Eligibility Requirements:
You need not be a current member of NYLA or PLS to apply.
Current PLS Board members are not eligible.

Application, in the form of a letter, must include:
- Why you wish to attend the Conference
- How you plan to integrate the experience into your work
- How you plan to share your experience with your fellow professionals
- How the award will influence your professional goals

Applicants must submit receipts and proof of reimbursement by other sources within 30 days after the conference.

Application deadline is June 29, 2009. Please put “PLS CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD” in the subject line.

PLS Continuing Education Grants (Post MLS Award)
PLS is pleased to offer continuing education grants/Post MLS awards to members attending workshops, courses, or continuing education programs.

Grant amounts range from $50 to $250 and may be used to pay tuition, registration, travel or other related expenses.

Eligibility requirements include:
Current membership in NYLA/PLS.
Current PLS Board members are not eligible

Applicants must submit a written report within 30 days after the event or within 30 days of receiving the award in the case that the expenses are already incurred. Applicants must submit receipts and proof of reimbursement by other sources within 30 days after the event or within 30 days of receiving the award in the case of expenses already incurred.

The grant is to be used for Post MLS continuing education courses taken by professional library staff currently working in a public library. The grant is to be considered for continuing education after the MLS degree and must be applicable to the applicant’s work in a public library. Courses reimbursed by employers or other sources are only eligible in the amount not covered. You may only receive one award in a three year period and only two in your lifetime.

Applications for grants are accepted continuously, with review and approval quarterly at a PLS Board meeting. The schedule of deadlines is: February 1, June 1, October 1 and December 1. The application can be found on PLS'S website. Please email a completed application form and attachment to: plsawards@gmail.com. Please put “PLS POST MLS AWARD” in the subject line.
2009 Awards cont.

PLS’s L. Marion Moshier/Asa Wynkoop Award
NYLA/PLS is pleased to accept nominations for the 2009 L. Marion Moshier/Asa Wynkoop Award for distinguished Librarianship. This award is named in honor of two New York State library pioneers who nurtured the growth of small libraries. This award honors a public library Director who has given outstanding service to a community of 7,500 or less.

The award includes $1,000, a plaque for the library and inclusion on a plaque to be placed in the NYLA office. Attendance at the NYLA conference is a requirement of acceptance.

Eligibility Requirements:
A professional degree is not required.
Nominations may be made by a library board or staff member.

Each letter of nomination must be accompanied by:
- Three letters of support from the community.
- Information about the library “before” including specific circulation, collection size, programs, condition of building, hours of operation and budget information.
- Information about the library “after” related to changes in the areas previously described.
- Description of how the nominee initiated the changes.
- Outline of the nominee’s agenda for professional growth.

Nominees are judged based on personal and professional growth, quality of services provided and initiative to reach underserved parts of the community.

The deadline for nomination submission is June 29, 2009. Send materials listed above via email to: plsawards@gmail.com. Please put "PLS MOSHIER/WYNKOOP AWARD" in the subject line.

Dewey Fellowship
PLS is looking for the next Dewey Fellow. Dewey Fellowships are awarded annually to three NYLA members, selected by designated Sections, to attend the NYLA Annual Conference.

Dewey Fellows are chosen on the basis of the following criteria:
1) five or more years of experience as a librarian (MLS not required),
2) record of accomplishment in the library profession,
3) involvement in activities to advance the library community.

Author! Author!

Author Carol Goodman will join us in Niagara Falls on Thursday, October 15th at the Top of the Falls Restaurant.


2009 Conference

Conference planning is well underway. Building on NYLA President Josh Cohen’s theme of Peace, Love and Freedom, PLS is planning a wide variety of programs including:

- Combating Stress – Wellness Programs for Libraries - co-sponsored with LAMS.
- Battles – bands, games, books – examples of how to do it, what works, and policies will be co-sponsored with YSS and SLIMS.
- 50 Years of Library Systems in NYS (original legislation was passed in 1958) - co-sponsored with PULISDO.
- Transcending Cultural Barriers to Good Library Customer Service - co-sponsored with ESRT.
- Greening Your Library - Going green doesn't have to mean spending a lot of "green."
- Annual Meeting and Table Talks program with breakfast together.

Join us in Niagara Falls to find out more about all of these programs.

2009 Conference Booth

Volunteers and ideas needed.

Contact:
Lisa Hewel
Moffat Library of Washingtonville
lhewel@rcls.org

If anyone would like to volunteer to be a room monitor, contact:

Matthew Bollerman
VP and Conference Chair
Westhampton Free Library
mbollerm@suffolk.lib.ny.us
Synergy

NYLA • PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION

President's Page

We've all seen the newspaper articles and TV news reports: during this tough economic time, public libraries are seeing a surge of new users and increased use. We've seen it in our own libraries as well: circulation and attendance are up, our parking lots are full, our libraries are busier than ever. Now more than ever, people need their local public libraries. And now more than ever, too, public librarians and library staff need support from their colleagues, their workplaces, and the library community as a whole.

The Public Libraries Section Board is pleased, therefore, to announce several awards in this edition of Synergy, several of which focus on continuing education and conference participation. This year, we have the honor of nominating a candidate for NYLA's annual Dewey Fellowship, which would provide funding towards NYLA Conference expenses for the recipient. PLS is also offering two Conference Scholarship awards of up to $1,300 each toward the recipients' attendance at the NYLA Conference.

One of our newest awards is our PLS Continuing Education / Post MLS Award. This grant, which will be awarded quarterly in the amount of $50 to $250, will allow the recipients receive funding for their participation in continuing education workshops or other post MLS study. And as always, we will honor two building projects with our annual Building Awards.

Please take a look at our awards in this issue, as well as our 2009 NYLA Conference programming preview. We are pleased to be able to offer these opportunities to the PLS membership and will continue to work to bring you quality programming and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

- Karen LaRocca-Fels, President