



NYLA Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 5, 2015  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
NYLA Office, Guilderland, NY  
NYLA President, Geoff Kirkpatrick, Presiding

**In Attendance:** Geoff Kirkpatrick, *NYLA President*; Debby Emerson, *NYLA President-Elect*; Tim Burke, *Treasurer*; Claudia Depkin, *Treasurer-Elect*; Karen Gardner-Athey, *ASLS President*; Jennifer Husenitza, *RASS President*; April Steenburgh, *SMART President*; Jill Leinung, *SSL President*; Mary Ferris, *YSS President*; Rebecca Lubin, *Councilor-at-Large*; Rocco Staino, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Julie DeLaney, *SCLA Proxy Representative*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

**Guest:** Mike Nepl, *NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy*

**Attending via Web Conference:** Sara Kelly Johns, *NYLA Immediate Past President*; Lisa Wemett, *FLS President*; Brian Hildreth, *PLS President*; Sue Kowalski, *Councilor-at-Large*; Marcy Strong, *Councilor-at-Large*; Sue Considine, *Councilor-at-Large*

**Absent:** Lauren Comito, *LAMS President*; Sheryl Knab, *Councilor-at-Large*; Charlie Kelly, *Councilor-at-Large*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*

## Council Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from December 18, 2015 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2015 Council Meeting, as submitted.

Made by: Rebecca Lubin, Seconded by: Rocco Staino

Approved unanimously.

3. Finance Report
  - a. December Financial Statement / Report

NYLA Treasurer Tim Burke reviewed his written report on the December Financial Statement.

- b. Review of Timeline for Adoption of NYLA FY15-16 Budget

The timeline for the presentation, review and adoption of the FY15-16 Budget was reviewed.

4. Executive Session
  - a. Executive Director Evaluation and Compensation

**MOTION II:** Motion to enter Executive Session at 11:51 AM for the purpose of discussing Executive Director evaluation and compensation.

Made by: Rocco Staino, Seconded by: Claudia Depkin  
Approved unanimously.

**MOTION III:** Motion to suspend Executive Session as of 12:16 PM.  
Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Rocco Staino  
Approved unanimously.

**MOTION IV:** Motion to increase the NYLA Executive Director's annual salary by 3% as of January 1, 2015, and provide a one-time payment of \$850 in lieu of compensation delayed by the completion of the annual review process.  
Made by: Tim Burke, Seconded by: Mary Ferris  
Approved unanimously.

**MOTION V:** Motion to establish a formal timeline for the annual evaluation of the NYLA Executive Director; the process will be conducted by the immediate past president, to commence on June 1, with a report prepared for presentation to the NYLA Council at the August meeting, and any salary adjustment recommendations to take effect as of September 1.  
Made by: Tim Burke, Seconded by: Claudia Depkin  
Approved unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

a. ULU Advocacy Plan

The written ULU Advocacy Plan was presented for consideration.

**Motion VI:** Motion to formally endorse the ULU Advocacy Plan.  
Made by: Rebecca Lubin, Seconded by: Sara Kelly Johns  
Approved unanimously.

b. Venue for May NYLA Council Meeting

After discussion it was agreed to seek an alternate venue for the May 7, 2015 NYLA Council meeting in the 'greater Syracuse' region for the express purpose of representing NYLA in the region and providing 'travel equity' to Council members from central and western New York.

6. New Business

a. Application for Making / STEAM Roundtable

The petition for the formation of a Maker / STEAM Roundtable, and the proposed statement of purpose were reviewed.

**MOTION VII:** Motion to approve the petition for the formation of the Making / STEAM Roundtable.  
Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Rebecca Lubin  
Approved unanimously.

b. Roundtable Liaisons

NYLA President Geoff Kirkpatrick discussed the state of NYLA's assorted Roundtables. An 'open call' for participation in all roundtables will be issued, with specific intention of recruiting new officers for non-functioning groups. NYLA Councilors-at-Large will be appointed to serve as liaisons to all functioning Roundtables. Appointments will be reported at the next Council meeting.

c. NYLA Bylaws Revisions

NYLA President Geoff Kirkpatrick discussed the intention of forming an ad-hoc committee to address updates and revisions to the NYLA bylaws. An invitation for applicants will be distributed.

Those named as potential participants included: Geoff Kirkpatrick, Art Friedman, Tim Burke, Debby Emerson, other NYLA Past Presidents, and Mike Nepl and Jeremy Johannesen from the NYLA staff. The goal is to have revisions complete for presentation at the 2015 NYLA Annual Membership meeting.

#### 7. President's Report

NYLA President Geoff Kirkpatrick reviewed his written report, which included promotion of participation at the 2015 NYLA Library Advocacy Day, and the pre-Advocacy Day NYLA Community Conversations.

#### 8. President-Elect's and Past-President's Report

NYLA President-Elect Debby Emerson reviewed her written report and led a discussion on the 'from the field' feedback she has received on the new organizational dues structure.

NYLA Past-President Sara Kelly Johns reviewed her written report, which included upcoming recruitment for the nominating and awards committees.

#### 9. Executive Director's Report

NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen reviewed his written report, which included details on the performance of the new organizational dues structure at the conclusion of its first year. Additionally, plans for a NYLA125 capital campaign were outlined, with a goal of raising \$125K toward NYLA's building mortgage.

#### 10. Legislative Report

NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, Mike Nepl presented on NYLA's current advocacy activities including:

- The position of Library Aid in the NYS FY15-16 Executive Budget: flat funding over last year of \$86.6M, \$14M in construction aid and \$1.3M in MTA Payroll Tax Rebate
- NYLA's state-level advocacy tagline of "Libraries are Education" targeted at solidifying a link between annual education aid increases and library aid increases.
- This year's CapWiz letter writing campaign is underway; all cross-promotion is welcome.
- Funds from the Excelsior Membership fund are being used to underwrite social media promotion of advocacy in support of library aid funding.
- Outreach to the new Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie, and new chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology, Thomas Abinanti.
- The bill to require a school librarian is anticipated to be introduced in both houses this session.

#### 11. Section / Roundtable / Committee Reports

In addition to their submitted written reports the following groups discussed:

- ASLS – pleased with increases in membership
- FLS – working on Literary Landmark designation in Northern NY to coincide with the Annual Conference
- PLS – rolling out new mentoring program, and providing \$1K sponsorship to Urban Librarians Unite
- SMART – planning for Spring Conference event

#### 12. ALA Councilor Report

ALA Chapter Councilor Rocco Staino presented on his written report on actions taken by ALA at the Mid-Winter Conference. NY is highly ranked nationally in terms of budget and number of members.

The matter of IRS tax instruction materials distribution to libraries was discussed and it was determined that additional guidance to members on how to order materials should be posted.

### 13. Empire State Center for the Book Report

Chair of the Empire State Center for the Book, Rocco Staino, reported on his written report including the upcoming 2015 Writers Hall of Fame Induction Gala coming up on June 2, 2015.

The full list of the 2015 inductees is as follows:

- Isaac Asimov (1920 – 1992) - Master of the science fiction genre, he wrote and edited over 500 books in a wide range of subjects.
- Allen Ginsberg (1926 – 1997) - A poet who was a major figure in the beat generation.
- Ezra Jack Keats (1916 – 1983) – Author and illustrator of children’s books who is credited with introducing multiculturalism into children’s literature.
- Dawn Powell (1896 – 1965) - Writer of comic novels who was a vital part of the literary Greenwich Village from the 1920’s to the 1960’s.
- Francine Prose (1947- ) – Author of more than twenty works of fiction, a National Book Award finalist, and a former president of PEN American Center.
- David Remnick (1958- ) – A journalist, editor, and Pulitzer Prize winner who is currently the editor-in-chief of The New Yorker.
- Colm Toibin (1955- ) - Novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, journalist, critic, and poet.

A literary landmark will be dedicated on May 5 commemorating Walter Dean Myers.

**MOTION VIII:** Motion to adjourn the February 5, 2015 NYLA Council Meeting at 3:12 PM.

Made by: Mary Ferris, Seconded by: Jill Leinung

Approved unanimously.