Region I Has Been Busy, In New York and Connecticut (see report for more information, pg. 13)

Inside this issue:
✓ SCHOLARSHIPS
✓ CONFERENCES
✓ INITIATIVES
✓ OH MY (and More)
The mission of the Section of School Librarians of the New York Library Association is to lead school librarians in advancing the profession; to encourage, promote, and advocate the interests of school library programs, school librarians, and school library systems; and to assist school librarians as they enable students to become active readers, responsible information-seekers, and critical thinkers.

The SiSSLer is the official publication of NYLA/SSL. Its purpose is to inform New York State school library media specialists of issues relevant to all aspects of the profession. The next submission deadline is May 25, 2014.

The SiSSLer is published quarterly.

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Winter 2014 Vol. 39, No. 1
ISSN# 1046-2716
Hello and welcome all SSL Members!

Thank you for reading this issue of the *SiSSLer* on-line. Watch for more changes as we proceed with plans for more responsive and interactive communications within our organization. The SSL web site is being updated frequently. Be sure to visit it often to keep current. Also, join SSL on Facebook (search NYLA/SSL) and follow SSL on Twitter. [http://tinyurl.com/k2a2u4k](http://tinyurl.com/k2a2u4k)

Last month the SSL board met to plan ways to move our organization forward. All the work we did had the focus of advocacy for communications, professional learning/continuing education, and SSL members.

Your school library program is built on these three concepts: advocacy, public relations and marketing. Public relations and marketing need to be part of your overall plan for advocacy.

Advocacy is happening everyday in our school libraries. Everything that we do in our libraries is advocacy and we must all be aware of it now more than ever. While Advocacy Day in Albany is a very important day, it’s only one day. Advocacy takes place every day in our libraries.

School libraries and school librarians are a critical element in preparing students for college and careers. All that you do in your library needs to be shared with administrators, school board members, parents and the community outside of your school.

You could get on the agenda at a school board meeting, and have a positive (read bragging) message. You might offer to host a parents’ meeting in the library, add a teaser book talk during morning announcements or in the school’s newsletter. If you get noticed for the good things you’re doing, you and the library become indispensible.

Advocacy doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Get others to speak for you by building partnerships with parents, students, teachers, and administrators. These important stakeholders will then act and speak for you. While there’s nothing wrong with “tooting your own horn”, it’s so much more powerful to have others actively promote what you’re doing in your school library.

NYLA President, Sara Kelly Johns’ presidential initiative is the 2014 School Library Summit. Along with SED, SLSA and about 50 invited stakeholders, SSL, will be participating in this important two day gathering being held in July of this year. The purpose of this Summit is to develop recommendations that will direct the work of SED, SSL, SLSA, NYLA and others going forward for the next 36-60 months.

Thanks to all of you for advocating for school libraries and school librarians.

Karen Sperrazza
NYLA/SSL President
Nominating Time Is Here Again

Maybe your nomination will turn out to be the next Knickerbocker Winner

As current SSL members, you have the privilege to nominate NYS authors/illustrators for the Knickerbocker Award for Children's Literature. Each nominated author/illustrator must have an exemplary body of work that represents the NYS standards. Information about the award is available on the NYLA/SSL award page, click here: http://tinyurl.com/khuqpfn

This page includes the link to a partial list of NYS authors and illustrators, and the form that is REQUIRED for submission. Each of the nominations is then vetted in preparation for voting in May. Please feel free to re-nominate previous nominees.

Nominations will be accepted until midnight, March 31, 2014. All entries must be e-mailed to the Knickerbocker Committee Chair at kodonnell@bataviacsd.org before midnight on the 31st.

Meet SSLs Library Board Members and Affiliates

Name: Katie St. Laurent
What you do for organization: Region 6 Coordinator
Member since: 2010
Current location: Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES/Westmoreland Elementary
Why you decided to become a library professional: I have always wanted a career that I would never want to retire from. Librarianship seemed like something that would always be challenging, and that would let me make a difference in a lot of different ways. I love connecting people with great literature, I love empowering people by helping them develop their research skills, and I love that librarians get to be champions of intellectual freedom.
Interesting Fact about being a library professional: So much of what librarians do can't be taught. Although I rely on the skills I developed in library school, I think it's just as important to be open to learning new things as needed. Librarians seem uniquely willing to figure out how to do what needs to be done to fill an information need, even if it's way outside of their experience or comfort zone. I've seen librarians run fantasy football leagues, develop point of sale systems, catalog crazy non-book items and construct shelving from scraps. Librarians don't have a "that's not my area" mindset; we understand that the resources we need to get things done are at our fingertips.
NYLA-SSL Board backs ESEA Waiver Application

The representatives of many Educational Associations gathered at the Century House in Latham NY on Friday, February 07, 2014, for the winter meeting of the New York State Council of Educational Associations (NYSCEA). Among the topics addressed was the ESEA waiver request to be submitted by the School Administrators Association of New York State, SAANYS. Jim Viola, representing the administrators, explained that the waiver request includes two issues that reflect adversely on the graduation rate of school districts. The first are those students who graduate with High School Equivalency Diplomas. At present, they are removed from graduation calculations. Pointing out that the High School Equivalency Testing will be both Common Core Aligned and Rigorous by the 2015-2016 school year, SAANYS requested that the State Education Department request a waiver to include these students in the graduation rate calculation.

The other change sought by SAANYS is including all those students who graduate by the age of 21 in calculating graduation rate. At present, they are de facto drop outs if they do not graduate within 4 or 5 years. The waiver request includes the following paragraph:

In cases where students do not graduate within four or five years, but persevere and graduate prior to age 21, the students, school, and school district should be commended for their determination, extra effort and success. They should not be regarded as non-completers.

Viola asked for the approval of this waiver request by other members of NYSCEA, and the inclusion of the organization's name on the waiver request letter.

As it happened, the NYLA-SSL Board met in Utica Radisson on February 8th and 9th. In discussion of the waiver request, it was pointed out that students who move in or out of school districts are counted negatively at the school the student left, but not counted positively at the school from which the student eventually graduates. The NYLA-SSL Board voted to have the New York Library Association Section of School Librarians name added to the waiver request to be submitted to the State Education Department.

Senator Flanagan, Commissioner King among presenters at NYSCEA meeting

New York State Senator John J. Flanagan drove from Long Island to share the recent report from the NYS Education Committee to the NYS Senate. Sen. Flanagan, who has served 4 years as the chair of the Senate Education Committee, spoke about the suggestions for universal PreK and the Before and After School Program suggested by Governor Cuomo. Further information on this report may be found at the New York State Senate website: http://tinyurl.com/jvo9k5g

Later in the day, NYSCEA members were asked how a legislative advocacy effort by NYSCEA may support the individual associations that are members of NYSCEA.

Commissioner Dr. John B. King Jr. gave an update from the State Education Department. He reported that he came from the Network Team Institute which some 700 were attending. He added that they had heard many stories about Common Core being used. He further reported that he has visited some 500 schools in the state. Among the
Commissioner’s statements: he supports P-20 collaboration; IBM provides school mentors and works especially well with black/Hispanic males, the Assistant Commissioner has experience with this (the information from IBM was to be added to the http://www.nyscea.org/ website); no states have left the Common Core of the 45 states that have committed; NY State has invested more money than the others, other states are using the Engage NY website; the most successful districts are those which have been working longer on Common Core and that engage parents early and often. King went on to speak about the need for Arts Standards, saying that the arts have been collateral damage. It was noted that they are also core, NOT Support.

School Library System Director Jim Belair spoke to King about the need for one school/one librarian and resource constraints. Highlighting the work of librarians supporting the Common core is needed. King stated that it is his view that a second (certified) School Librarian is needed. The bar should be set high. He also asked for re-written standards for Tech, Literacy, and Engineering. He reported that Maryland is drawing our Tech teachers.

Professional Development and Common Core

Kathleen A. Hinchman, PhD, a professor at the Reading and Language Arts Center at Syracuse University, spoke about ELA standards, starting with a brief history of literacy across the curriculum. She spoke at length about the difference between Race to the Top and Common Core State Standards, addressing the six shifts between them: balancing information and literary text; building knowledge of the disciplines; staircase of complexity; text-based answers; writing from sources; and academic vocabulary.

Professional Development resources were shared, with an emphasis on the video library available from NYSUT. http://tinyurl.com/n65v6h4

Websites for their organizations were shared by NYSAFCSE (Association of Family and Consumer Education), AMT NYS (Association of Mathematics Teachers), and NYS AHPERD (Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.)

A School Library Summit will be held on July 8th and 9th in Albany. Sari Feldman will make a presentation on Sustainable Libraries. A Rural School Summit is being planned.

The meeting adjourned with the request to give thought as to whether it might be helpful if the collaboration through NYSCEA was used to develop Common Core connected resources.
The NYLA Legislative Committee met on January 29, 2014 to discuss NYLA’s Legislative priorities. First and most important on the list is library funding. The Governor released his budget and he kept library funding flat at $81.6 million without including the Legislative Add on from last year of $4 million. Under the Education Law Formula library funding should be at $102.4 million and with inflation should be at $128.11 million. We have asked all members of the library community to use the Contact Your State Officials button on the NYLA home page to contact the Governor to add back the $4 million during the 21 day amendment period. Now please go to the NYLA webpage to the contact your elected Officials and take action! http://tinyurl.com/oayl65p

Other priorities of interest to SSL is the Digital Literacy Bill (S2855Farley/A.8735Thiele) which substitutes the term “digital literacy” for the dated term “internet safety” in education Law to better prepare students to effectively use technology with the school librarian being the most suited teacher to do this. It passed the Senate last year and is being sponsored in the Assembly by the Library and Education Technology Committee’s new chairman Assemblyman Fred Thiele.

Another bill is being proposed – Expand Access to Certified Librarians and Libraries. Students with access to school libraries staffed by certified School Library Media Specialists consistently score higher on tests by the fourth grade. Check out the NYLA Advocacy Page to read the other priorities and the talking points. http://tinyurl.com/oayl65p

Advocacy Day has been changed to Wednesday February 26th, 2014. The meeting place is room 120 in the Legislative Office Building which is right off of the Well. READ poster picture taking of the legislators will be taking place from 8:30 to 3:30 and a schedule will be posted online. Information packets will be also handed out there including a school librarians piece to go into the packet created by Paige Jaeger at WHSHE BOCES. We will also be having a Virtual Advocacy Day on the Tuesday, February 25 for those SSL members who cannot attend Advocacy Day. There will be messages on the digital billboards on 787 and I-90 in an effort to raise awareness of libraries. Also on Advocacy Day there will be a video made of comments supporting libraries from legislators.

The PAC Gala will be on Wednesday February 26 – at the end of Advocacy Day. It begins at 6:00. This is a fun way to make a contribution to the PAC which advocates for all librarians by taking the funds they raise and contribute to the campaigns of legislators who are library supporters. It also makes it possible for Mike Neppl and Jeremy Johansen to go to fundraisers in order to advocate for libraries. Please consider contributing to the PAC.

Finally we are looking into getting a proclamation from the governor or legislature to proclaim April as School Library Month and April 30th as the 40th Anniversary of School Library Day.

SSL MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of SSL, organized in 1944, is to lead in advancing the profession; to encourage, promote, and advocate the interest of school library media programs, school library media specialists and school library systems; and to ensure that each student becomes an active reader, responsible information seeker, and critical thinker.
AASL Assembly Discussion Group Meeting:
The focus of this meeting was a discussion of the strategic planning process that AASL is currently completing. The strategic plan is using the SWOT* method for this process. AASL is preparing to approve a three-year strategic plan at the ALA Annual Conference in June. The goal for this process is to make AASL a stronger organization.

The meeting started with a team building exercise. It continues with small group discussions to answer two questions.
1. How can AASL more effectively support affiliates?
2. How can affiliate assembly more effectively support the work of AASL?
The feedback for these two questions will be posted in ALA Connect within the next few weeks.

*SWOT=Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Affiliate Assembly Meeting Highlights:

Freedom to Read Foundation representative Helen Adams spoke about membership in this organization. SSL is a member.

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) offers an annual scholarship for library school students and new professionals to attend ALA's Annual Conference. The goal of the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship is to advance two principles that Gordon held dear: intellectual freedom and mentoring.

Students currently enrolled in an ALA-accredited library and information studies degree program or an AASL-recognized master’s programs in school librarianship and new professionals (those who are three or fewer years removed from receiving a library school degree) are eligible to receive the Conable Scholarship.

Deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday, April 11th. If you have questions contact Jonathan Kelley at (312) 280-4226 or jokelley@ala.org.

http://www.ftrf.org/?page=Conable_Scholarship
**PREPARE TO BE ENERGIZED! PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED!**  
**SUBMITTED BY MARY ANN KARRE**

There are some wonderful Professional Development opportunities on the horizon, and now is the time to plan to attend one or more with your colleagues!

*Expect MORE! At the NYLA/Section of School Librarians Spring Conference!*  

The Conference will light up the OnCenter in Syracuse on April 24-26, 2014, with amazing authors, including Colleen Paratore and the 2014 Knickerbocker Award winner Doreen Cronin. Friday will be dedicated to nonfiction texts, reading and the Common Core, with presentations by YA author Dr. Marc Aronson and a keynote by library advocate Dr. David Lankes. Saturday will feature amazing technology workshops, Ed Tech Guru Richard Byrne, and Google Certified Trainer Carol LaRow.

Take advantage of the opportunity to hear Roger Sutton and Steve Sheinkin, two award-winning and respected individuals in the field of children’s and young adult literature at the YSS Spring Conference on Friday, April 4, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains.  

And get ready for *Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves*, at the biggest library conference of the year – ALA Annual Conference will take place on June 26 to July 1 in Las Vegas!  
http://ala14.ala.org/node/8534/

SAVE THE DATE! NYLA/SSL 2014 Summer Institute at Cornell University - August 4th & 5th.  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/54348998258/  
Is your district adapting, adopting or abandoning the modules? Are you wondering where YOU fit into this process? The SSL Ed. Leadership committee is hard at work to bring you the 2014 Summer Institute at Cornell, focusing on how you and your inquiry toolkit can come into play to meet the standards, no matter what the curriculum in your district demands. We will have something for you, no matter what level you serve or how long you have been there. More programming information to follow soon, but, for now mark your calendars and watch the listserv and our Facebook page for registration and program information. Coming soon!
COME TO THE CONFERENCE

Doreen Cronin, the 2014 Knickerbocker winner will be accepting her award at the Knickerbocker Dinner Friday, April 25, at the Syaracuse Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Formerly a lawyer, Doreen has changed careers to write some of our most endearing children’s books used over and over in many different grades and subject areas. Her scores of titles can be seen here.

The New York State Library Association Section of School Librarians (NYLA SSL) is pleased to announce

Doreen Cronin

as the 2014 winner of

the Knickerbocker Award for Juvenile Literature.

Doreen is the author of numerous beloved picture books, including the Caldecott Honor book Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type.

You can meet Doreen, who will be available during a WORKSHOP talking about her craft and available for autographing during the conference Friday and Saturday morning. For your convenience, her wonderful children’s books can be purchased throughout the conference.

Join us April 24-26 at the 2014 SSS Conference to meet Doreen and hear her deliver the Knickerbocker speech!
REGISTER now

SYRACUSE hosts THE NYLA-SSL CONFERENCE

Expect MORE

2014 Conference

24-26 April 2014

featuring

Dr. David Lankes
Library Advocate

Dr. Marc Aronson
YA Author

Doreen Cronin
Children's Author

Richard Byrne
Ed Tech Guru

Carol LaRow
Google Certified Educator

You!
Super Savvy Librarians

online registration:
Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute Scholarships

**Deadline to apply is May 5, 2014**

This year we will have 12 scholarships available to the Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute! Please visit the NYLA/SSL website to download an application today. There are 3 different applications for the various scholarships.

http://tinyurl.com/khuqpf

There will be one scholarship awarded for the Carol A. Kearney Leadership Institute Scholarship application. This scholarship is sponsored by SSL.

There will be one scholarship awarded for the Marcia Eggleston Empowering Leadership Award application. This new scholarship is sponsored by an individual this year.

There will be one scholarship awarded for the Mary Joan Egan Memorial Scholarship using the Leadership Institute application. This scholarship is sponsored by the auction at the Leadership Institute.

There will be nine scholarships awarded using the Leadership Institute application. These scholarships are sponsored by the auction at the Leadership Institute.

Please contact Dawn Pressimone, Awards Chairperson, with any questions or comments.
dpressimone@wayne.k12.ny.us OR 315-524-1135

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Want to be more active in SSL? GET INVOLVED

Check out the SSL Involvement Opportunities on the NYLA/SSL webpage

**Current Opportunities:** We need help on the following committees as chairs and members: Ways & Means, Exhibits, Vendor Liaison (SiSSLer), Public Relations, Summer Institute, and more. Contact Karen at kmnsprrz@gmail.com if willing to step up.

**Vendor Contact Assistants:**
Any interested members who would be interested in talking to vendors about SSL sponsorship opportunities. No extra travel required--just actively taking opportunities where you already attend. **Contact:** Bea Angus bea.angus@yahoo.com

**2014 SSL Spring Conference--Syracuse, NY:**
Lives Change @ your library
April is School Library Month – American Association of School Librarians
Submitted by Charlie Kelly

As a member of the School Library Month Committee, I am excited to share that Jeff Kinney, New York Times bestselling author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, has been named the national spokesperson. The 2014 theme is Lives Change @ your library.

The SLM Committee has been busy planning events to help you celebrate School Library Month. Once again students will be able to submit videos showcasing how their school library connects to the theme. Students will need to submit videos by April 1st and watch for more information on how your students can submit their videos. New this year, there will be professional development webinars throughout the month.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of School Library Month. Dr. Lucille Thomas, past president of SSL, then SLMS, first conceived of this idea of celebrating School Libraries in New York State in April of 1974. In 1985 she led AASL in organizing School Library (Media) Month. In Syracuse at our Spring Conference “Expect More “ April 24 – 26, we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary.

ALA President, Barbara Stripling is again shining a spotlight on school libraries with her initiative “The Right to Libraries”. Hosting a signing event at your school library in April is one way to celebrate SLM. Find information about “The Right to Libraries” here:
http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries

For more details on School Library Month 2014 check out this site:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm

To read the history of AASL’s School Library Month go here:
http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm/history
SSLMA: Suffolk School Library Media Association

LISMA: Long Island School Media Association (Nassau)

The SSLMA Book and Materials Swap was held on January 16. Posters, bookmarks, books and what -ever else you can think of were traded with the joy of discovering titles and others’ favorites. It was a great way to refresh your materials, get rid of duplicates, share information and see what else is out there. SSLMA items such as T-shirts, polos, 3/4 length sleeve shirts, and bumper stickers were also available for purchase, and can be ordered through the website http://tinyurl.com/maquewm.

Upcoming workshops are as follows:

Visual Rhetoric & Document Design for all Librarians! Feb. 11th, presented by Amy Jo Southworth will teach you how to design the most effective digital and print documents for your school or public library using fun, easy principles! This will also be valuable for librarians looking to make powerful connections to Common Core Standards in ways no one else is doing!

Two for One on March 19, 2014! (Two workshops will be presented in the same 4-6 pm time slot.)

“Online Storage, Collaboration & QR Codes” presented by Sarah Wasser will teach you to create and use QR Codes in your library to support the Standards. Explore the world of online storage/collaboration with Google Drive and Dropbox.

“Common Core lessons through a NYLA-SSL Leadership Retreat Recap!” presented by Madelyn Haussner and Kim Bramfeld will teach you how to collaborate with a teacher to increase the rigor of their lesson, examine the Common Core shifts through a librarian lens, define student-centered learning in the library, learn how to repack those ‘low level’ research units into inquiry based research units with Common Core alignment, and examine Essential Questions (EQ’s) that drive inquiry based learning.

In addition, the SSLMA website contains links to the Best Blogs and Websites and APPR/SLOs for school librarians under the heading Resources. You don’t have to be a member to use the resources, but you do to access any of the material on the Members page. Just click “Join Us” to enroll online.

LISMA
Donna Rosenblum, President
www.lisma.org/

Information gave a very insightful workshop on the Common Core Standards and the information that has been gathered from its first year of implementation here in New York State. Dr. Aronson provided everyone with revealing statistics from test results related to Common Core and different strategies related to Non-Fiction versus Fiction.

LISMA Workshop session 2: Book Discussion-- Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him by Luis Carlos Montalvan.

On Oct. 23, 2013, author Luis Carlos Montalvan and his service dog Tuesday visited Garden City High School to discuss the book. Montalvan is a 17 year veteran of the U.S. Army, including multiple combat tours in Iraq. Honorably discharged in 2007, Luis returned to the United States but experienced serious physical and psychological effects of the war. Fortunately, he was given the opportunity to receive a service dog and was matched with Tuesday. Montalvan openly shared his experiences during the war and after. Luis and Tuesday now travel the country speaking to community groups, nonprofits, and schools. Their powerful message of healing, loyalty, friendship and redemption clearly convey the strong and unwavering bond between man and dog. Be sure to visit the website http://tinyurl.com/pwzo63g for more information about Luis and Tuesday as well as an upcoming picture book being released May 2014, a documentary film coming this summer, and a major motion picture in the works.

Tuesday, February 11, 2014: Love Your LMS! presented by Adam Bellow, eduTecher / eduClipper Founder, Educational Technologist. As a Library Media Specialist, you are often the sage, the go-to-guy or gal, the Yoda (if you will) of how to find out about and use the latest and greatest web tools for your classroom. Let’s talk about all things web tool and share a few great ideas of how to use them in your schools as well as how to best infect/inform those you work with to help your cause - to help people explore and share all the great resources available today.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014: Autism? There’s an App for That! presented by Renee McGrath, Youth Services Manager, Nassau Library System. Tablets (such as the iPad), iPod Touches and iPhones offer portability and an economical way to communicate and learn. They help in a myriad of ways and have become an important part of the educational, social and emotional development of children and teens with autism. Now a person with autism can carry a device that helps them communicate and understand the world around them. Join Renee McGrath, Manager of Youth Services as she introduces you to a wide range of apps for children and teens on the autism spectrum.

The first fall workshop held on October 2, 2013 was titled Common Core Round 2 -- What Can We Do Better This Time? Dr. Marc Aronson, Professor at Rutgers School of Communication &
Affiliate News

HVLA
Teresa Tartaglione, President

The Hudson Valley Library Association brings together librarians from independent K-12 schools in the New York City, Long Island, Westchester and nearby New Jersey and Connecticut communities. Board members are: Kerry Roeder, President, Nishette Issac, Vice President, Adele Bildsee, Vice President, Kristyn Dorfman, Recording Secretary, Joy Piedman, Treasurer, Carrie Shaurette, Communications Coordinator, and Kyle Lukoff, Membership Coordinator. They have a very active blog at hvla.blogspot.com where you can read about their meetings. The Ethical Culture Fieldston School changed over their library from Dewey to Subject area search. The students love it!!! Read more about it on their blog. If you visit New York City, you must see the exhibit at the New York Public Library, The ABC of It, Why Children's Books Matter - http://tinyurl.com/oh4h3q5. HVLA took a tour of the exhibit with the curator and historian Leonard Marcus. For more details, again, visit the blog. HVLA holds monthly book club meetings, mentorship opportunities and much, much more. Visit their blog to get inspired.

Ellen Frank, Region II Coordinator
efrankbayer@gmail.com

SLMSSENY
Nina Levine, President

SLMSSENY [School Library Media Specialists of Southeastern New York] has been meeting regularly, now at the Neptune Diner in Newburgh, NY.

The SLMSSENY 2013-14 officers are Nina Levine, President; Tara Thibault-Edmonds, President-Elect; Sheri McNair, Treasurer; and Teri Richardson, Secretary. Regional representatives include Melissa Iamonico (Southern Westchester), Melissa Heckler (Putnam/Northern Westchester), Colette Politzer (Rockland), Karen Cissel (Orange) Gayle Pulley (Sullivan), and Linda Fonda (Ulster). Jaclyn Heaney is our Awards Chair. Terese Linton will oversee the Rip Van Winkle Award. Joy Alter is co-chairing Membership with Gayle Pulley. Nina Levine, SLMSSENY President, and Tara Thibault-Edmonds, President-Elect, are Co-Chairs of 2015 SSL Conference.

Jaclyn Heaney has sent out an email blast for the SLMSSENY Awards. The SLMSSENY site http://www.slmssey.org has new, updated applications as embedded forms as well as attached ‘paper’ documents. The deadline is March 1. We discussed logistics for the selection process once applications are filed. All county reps are reposing the email blast to BOCES SLS listserves. The board will prepare a short list of potential recipients for the Rip Van Winkle Award, and this will be put before the membership (paid membership only) for a final vote in March. Our Awards recipients will be celebrated at our spring event on May 17th at the FDR Library in Hyde Park.

A SLMSSENY Newsletter is in the works. Reps have been asked to contact their SLS directors and obtain a spreadsheet version or a MS Word version of the directory of libraries/librarians in order to build a better mailing list.

SSL 2015 Conference planning is underway. The proposed venue is the DoubleTree in Tarrytown. The co-chairs have a chart showing capacity of the various spaces/rooms in different configurations and plan to bring a formal proposal/contract to the SSL Board meeting on February 8-9 in Utica. Tara and Nina will also bring a proposal for the logo and slogan and a short list of possible speakers. Committees are being formed and volunteers are being solicited.

The SLMSSENY blog can be found here: http://www.slmssey.org/ through the SLMSSENY Scoop link.
We have updated our website and continue to promote our blog.

The next SLMSSENY meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014

Susan Polos Region III Coordinator
spolos0882@bscdny.org
Affiliate News

CNYSL; Central New York School Librarians (Syracuse)
CNYLA; Central New York Library Association (Utica-Rome)

CNYSL
Leslie Savage and Lindsay Cesari, Co-Presidents

CNYLA
Jackie Groves, President

Planning continues for the NYLA/SSL 2014 Spring Conference, being co-hosted by CNYSL and CNYLA at the Oncenter and Crowne Plaza Hotel in Syracuse on April 24-26.

The workshop schedule is complete and is packed with phenomenal speakers, including David Lankes, Richard Byrne, Mark Aronson and Carol LaRow.

The full schedule, conference details, pricing and lodging information are available on the conference site at: http://cnysl.weebly.com/2014-ssl-conference.html

Registration is now open; all registrations will be handled through the form on the website.

Katie St. Laurent, Region VI Coordinator
k.a.stlaurent@gmail.com

CNYLA; Central New York Library Association
Utica-Rome

Region VI
Region VII

BSLA; Buffalo School Librarians’ Association
Chautauqua County School Library Media Association
Enchanted Mountains School Library Association
RASL; Rochester Area School Librarians
SLAWNY; School Librarians Association of Western New York

BSLA
Diane Fatta, President
dfatta@buffaloschools.org

We have been enjoying meeting with many librarians from the Buffalo School Library Association schools during the fall and early winter to exchange ideas, make suggestions and hear input from each other!

In November, we met with Kristal Morgan, Librarian at Burgard High school, where we discussed Common Core titles and had a lesson sharing in her computer lab.

In January, we enjoyed a small group discussion at Russellís Steak House to celebrate the New Year!

We will be meeting on February 11th from 4:30 Ñ 5:45 p.m. with Buffalo Public Librarian Claudia Yates, who will run a “What’s new in Children’s Books” meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Central Library on Lafayette Square in the West Room Meeting Room.~

On April 10th we will be meeting to discuss the “Tricks of the Trade” using iPads and Technology at Elmwood Franklin School and this school will be hosting another FREE T4 Summit regarding teaching and technology on May 3rd. Please visit the website to reserve your space: http://efst4.wikispaces.com.

RASL
Jenny “Charlie” Kelly, President
charlieshajennykelly@gmail.com
http://www.raslrochester.org/

RASL will be having a board meeting during February break.

If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact us at info@raslrochester.org

http://www.raslrochester.org/
SLAWNY has had a great school year so far! We had a very successful Fall Sharing in October, as well as two meetings in the fall where we learned about the power of makerspaces from Mark McBride, Director of Libraries at Monroe Community College, and tips, hints, and strategies to market your library from Karen Cawley, school librarian at the Boliver-Richburg Central School District. We have two remaining meetings for the school year on February 11th and May 22nd. Our February meeting will feature local author, Mick Cochrane, and our May meeting will highlight uses of Erie 1’s Union Catalog, as well as a round robin technology showcase.

Kathy Jarvis, Region VII Coordinator
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SLST West met on Tuesday, October 22nd at SLST-West met on Tuesday, October 22nd at Rounding Third Regale Restaurant in Elmira Heights. We had a wonderful turnout and a great time! Elections were held and our current President, Maryalice Kilbourne stepped down after several years of service. We are grateful to Maryalice for all she has done for us and know that her good work will continue at Avoca CSD. The new officers elected for SLST-West are:

June Keuhn - President (Corning Painted Post CSD - Corning Free Academy)
Mary Ann Sheets - Vice President (Elmira Heights CSD - Thomas A. Edison HS)
Maureen Frei - Treasurer (Horseheads CSD - Horseheads HS)
Peg Weidemann - Secretary (Horseheads CSD - Horseheads HS)

In addition to elections, the group shared several ‘cool tools’ that are really working for our students in the age of the Common Core. We reviewed several great web tools including www.makebeliefscomix.com which allows students to create comic strips in English and several other languages, www.newsela.com which lets you select current news and interest articles by Lexile level and subject, we discussed the book cart offered by eLibrary. Elmira Heights and Horseheads also noted they are now using NoodleTools (www.noodletools.com) exclusively as their citation creation resource. Not only can students get citation guidance, they can create notecards, share their project with their teachers, create outlines, and write their entire paper all through this one online source. For a very minimal cost you get a great bang for your buck including all the benefits of a subscription database which includes statistics and account management.

Congratulations to Peg Weidemann and Judy Sell who announced that they will retire at the end of the school year. While we are thrilled for them we will certainly miss their guidance and wealth of knowledge.

Our local Mandarin and technology guru at BOCES, Sue Tanner, offered a wonderful session on working with the web OPAC on January 30, 2014. The full day workshop was very well attended and we learned some exciting new features for our web OPAC so that we can be more efficient in serving our students and staff. Sue also offers a monthly Mandarin user group meeting for our BOCES which is extremely helpful.

Our BOCES currently has 15 librarians enrolled in the “Cool Tools for Schools Project” hosted by Polly Farrington. As a BOCES they have committed over $10,000 to the purchase of multiple copy Common Core resources for 13-14 school year. We are also looking forward to a full day workshop with Kathleen O’Dean in March where she will guide through the latest and greatest YA books along with providing some super lesson ideas.

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Upcoming Events

2014 Conferences:

SSL Spring
Dates - April 24-26, 2014
Location - Syracuse
Theme - Expect More
Conference Chairs - Lindsay Cesari and Leslie Savage

ALA Annual
Dates - June 26-July 1, 2014
Location - Las Vegas, NV

AASL Fall Forum
Dates - October 17-18, 2014
Location - St. Louis, MO

NYLA Annual
Dates - November 6-9, 2014
Location - Saratoga Springs

2015 Conferences:

ALA Midwinter Meeting
Dates - January 30-February 3, 2015
Location - Chicago, IL

SSL Spring
Dates - Spring 2015
Location - TBA, Hosted by SLMSSENY

ALA Annual
Dates - June 25-30, 2015
Location - San Francisco, CA

NYLA Annual
Dates - October 21-24, 2015
Location - Lake Placid, NY

2016 Conferences:

ALA Midwinter Meeting
Dates - January 8-12, 2016
Location - Boston, MA

ALA Annual
Dates - June 23-28, 2016
Location - Orlando, FL