LTA Officers for 2020

Officers for the 2020 term were elected at the November 15, 2019 quarterly business meeting in Albany. Please welcome your new executive team:

**President: Jean Currie** – Jean has served on the LTA board since 2014. She is a trustee on the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library in Ovid, which is part of the Finger Lakes Library System. Jean has served on the Awards, By-Laws and Policy, and the Finance committees.

**Vice-President: Suzanne Stockman** – Suzanne returned to the LTA board of directors in 2019. She serves on the Fairport Library, which is part of the Monroe County Library System. During Suzanne’s first period on the LTA board she was a key player on the Awards committee.

**Treasurer: Edris Scherer** – Edris is a trustee on the board of the Westchester Library System. She has served on the Education and Finance committees and brings a wealth of experience from her family owned business to her role as treasurer.

**Secretary: Susan Sabers Chapman** – Susan brings unbounding enthusiasm for LTA and presently serves on the Alden Ewell Free Library, part of the Buffalo & Erie Library System. Susan’s interests have been applied to the Legislation and Membership committees.

This slate of officers represents a wide swath of the state from west to east with strong representation from the overall central area. No doubt the year 2020 will prove to be a successful year under these leaders.
Does a library board have the authority to formulate rules and regulations governing the administration of the library, including but not limited to behavior of staff and patrons?

A. Yes. The following should not be construed as legal advice for which the services of counsel should be obtained:

Considering and adopting such policies is a legal and appropriate Board action, well within the discretion of the Board in accordance with the provisions of Education Law s226(10) which accords the Board as a member of the University of the State of New York the power to do so:

Rules. Make all by-laws and rules necessary and proper for the purposes of the institution and not inconsistent with law or any rule of the university; but no rule by which more than a majority vote shall be required for any specified action by the trustees shall be amended, suspended or repealed by a smaller vote than that required for action thereunder.

However, any rule or regulation must be reasonable, not be discriminatory, and must include a mechanism whereby an alleged perpetrator’s right of appeal is provided should investigation determine that there is merit to the complaint for which administrative sanction(s) may be invoked.

Additionally, any such action should be formally adopted at a public session of the library board, recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which such adoption took place, and be available in printed form for consultation by staff and the public.

Since any policy involving a complaint could conceivably involve the library director, it would be prudent to consider combining the essential elements of a “Patron Complaint” policy with the elements of the “Whistleblower” policy which protects a complaining employee from possible retribution on the part of the Director.

At the New York Library Association’s website can be found the New York Library Association “Whistleblower Policy”. While the New York Library Association’s policy might seem unnecessarily complex for a small organization such as some libraries are, it contains many of the elements which should be considered in terms of protecting the rights of the complainant employee, as well as guaranteeing to the complainant confidentiality.

Examples of various policies adopted by other library boards are a valuable resource to provide guidance to a library board and its director in the development of policies deemed suitable to the needs of a particular library. If necessary the assistance of the board’s attorney may be beneficial.
After 20 years, NOVELNY is going strong!

NOVELNY stands for the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library. Is your library promoting NOVELNY to your library customers and your community?

For some twenty years now, the New York State Library has provided NOVELNY, an electronic collection of books, journals, magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and other databases licensed on a statewide basis for free public access through local libraries and remote locations such as home, school, or office.

**NOVELNY is going strong!** Check out the numbers:

- New Yorkers performed 44.7 million searches in NOVELNY e-resources this past year.
- Over 5,900 libraries are registered for NOVELNY.
- 15 high-quality, authoritative, popular e-resources (databases) including Encyclopedia Britannica, Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints, Gale's Business Insights: Essentials and Gale OneFile: News are freely available to everyone in New York State.
- With geolocation, 100% of NOVELNY e-resources are accessible 24/7 from any device, from anywhere in the State, without a username/password or even a library card. (Libraries can retrieve their own customized URLs [geolinks] for each of the NOVELNY databases through a single website.)
- Over 300 library staff attended NOVELNY training webinars in the past year.
- The State Library’s NOVELNY Help Desk staff answered 295 telephone and email inquiries about the databases.
- 874 likes on the NOVELNY Facebook page!

**Why is NOVELNY important to libraries and library users?**

By procuring NOVELNY databases, the State Library ensures that all New Yorkers have access to library e-resources, which levels the “playing field” by permitting individuals to gain access to the same resources regardless of economic, geographic or physical circumstances.

**Who pays for NOVELNY?**

The NOVELNY Project is supported with federal funds through a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

**How can I find out more about NOVELNY?**

Both the library community and the public are kept up to date on NOVELNY via the NOVELNY website, the Facebook page, listserv messages (NYLINE and NOVEL-DB), and fact sheets. For a quick overview of NOVELNY e-resources check out this Fact Sheet: http://www.novelnewyork.org/factsheets/noveldb.pdf. Or, visit the NOVELNY website at http://www.novelnewyork.org.

**How can I help promote NOVELNY to my library users and my community?**

Check out the NOVELNY Facebook page! Posts are written primarily with library staff in mind and fall into two major categories: turnkey posts that can be easily shared to an individual library’s Facebook page; and marketing tools, tips, and resources that will help all New York Libraries use and promote NOVELNY.

Increasing NOVELNY awareness and use is vital to improving the ability of all New Yorkers to obtain and use the information resources available on NOVELNY. Many thanks for your help!

If you have questions, contact the NOVELNY Help Desk, Toll-free (877) 277-0250.
A Lehigh University-Led Partnership Releases Open Web Database of 160,000 Pages Of High-Resolution, Full-Color Manuscripts Dating to the Ninth Century

Filed by Gary Price on November 23, 2019

From Lehigh University:

Led by Lehigh University, a partnership of 15 Philadelphia-area libraries has scanned and digitized more than 160,000 pages from 475 original manuscripts, the earliest dating to the ninth century. The hand-lettered and illustrated pages range from brightly hued, gold-leafed illuminated works of art to functional texts intended for students of science, philosophy and religion.

The pages were digitized and cataloged through a three-year collaborative project of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL). The project was funded by a $499,086 grant on the consortium’s behalf to Lehigh University from the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Enabling New Scholarship Through Increasing Access to Unique Materials initiative of the Council on Library and Information Resources, supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The images and metadata are hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries’ OPenn manuscript portal and are also available through the Internet Archive.

Viewers can download material by page, manuscript or collection. Descriptive text includes both the subject of the image and text, as well as other manuscript features, such as doodles, notes or an outline of eyeglasses left inside a book. Databases are searchable by keyword. For example, viewers can pull up illuminations featuring birds, castles, dogs or religious figures, or search by book title, geography or institution.

The effort focuses primarily on Western European texts, with topics ranging from religion and philosophy to science, math, alchemy, astronomy and family lineages. The project has even made it possible to potentially virtually reassemble 1,800 pages belonging to texts whose leaves or incomplete manuscripts have been scattered around the world.
I wish all our library trustees a happy, healthy New Year. May you and your libraries prosper!

I am delighted that at their annual conference in November, members of the New York Library Association voted to admit the Library Trustees Association as their newest Section. LTA has a long history, starting out as NYSALB (New York State Association of Library Boards), then becoming Library Trustees Association, and now joining NYLA as a Section, still with the same name Library Trustees Association. We have always been a strong voice for public libraries and the trustees who oversee them. By joining NYLA, we make our and their “voice of the library community” louder and more compelling.

As your new President, I look forward to the next few months as we work out the administrative issues of merging LTA into NYLA - we need to work out the things that NYLA can do for us, those things we will do for ourselves, and what we can do together. We hope to make the change of membership as seamless as possible, to have our financial affairs become part of the NYLA management, to work on merging our web presence into NYLAs, and sort out other behind the scenes work that your LTA Board does. The Board will try to make it a smooth transition.

In addition, we will be working on a key program of LTA - continuing education for trustees. There is some preliminary planning for regional institutes and of course we will have programs at the NYLA Conference (Saratoga Springs, 4-7 November, 2020). If you have ideas for any educational program you need or would like to have, please let me know at jean@ovidlibrary.org. And of course I would love to hear from you about any other issues related to library trustees or how you think LTA can help.

The LTA Board for 2019/2020 is:

**President:**
Jean Currie representing FLLS

**Vice President:**
Suzanne Stockman representing MCLS

**Treasurer:**
Edris Scherer representing WLS

**Secretary:**
Susan Saber Chapman representing B&ECLS

**Other members of the Board are:**

Phil Archer representing STLS

Catherine (Kay) Budman representing OCPL

Martha Anderson representing RCLS

Margaret Shapiro representing SALS

If you are interested in serving on the Board, we are always looking for more members to represent their library system.

Going off the Board this year are Adria Ripka, Bola Majekodunmi, and Mary Ellen Darling. I want to thank all of them for their wonderful contributions to LTA - they have worked hard and represented LTA locally and statewide with great effect. Thank you and we will miss you! However Adria has made noises about working on the newsletter - we accept that offer!

Some dates to keep in mind for 2020:

**Library Advocacy Day:** Tuesday 25 February, Albany. Please come. Trustees are the best voice on this day - Legislators want to hear from library users!

**NYLA Annual Conference:** 4-7 November, Saratoga Springs

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.
Greetings, LTA members and supporters

2020 Census Initiative

The Central Library Resources Council (CLRC) shared a tweet on November 29 that referenced an article from the Troy Record newspaper of 11-25. That article outlined an up to $60 million dollar initiative for funding to support helping New Yorkers complete the 2020 census. The article indicated:

“The state will leverage resources across dozens of agencies, public authorities, CUNY and SUNY that regularly interact with millions of New Yorkers. Together, they will launch a wide-reaching campaign valued at up to $40 million from existing resources that will inform the public about the Census and support efforts to encourage residents to complete the questionnaire. Additionally, $20 million from the FY 2020 Budget is being made available to support targeted efforts in hard to reach communities.”

The additional agencies referenced in the article include These state entities, including the Departments of Labor, Motor Vehicles, Agriculture and Markets; the offices of Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and People with Developmental Disabilities; Empire State Development; and the Division of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, libraries are not referred to in the article. Yet, our libraries will undoubtedly be the most logical and convenient place for residents to seek help in completing the census.

Checking the 2020 Census website at www2.census.gov, I see there is a printed version of the census questionnaire available. You can see a sample at: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/questionnaires-and-instructions/questionnaires/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf.

While the paper form is bilingual English and Spanish, many communities have strong populations of speakers of other languages. Another question could be whether or not the government will provide the census forms in printed format, or will the individual be expected to print it on their own? That could be a drain on library resources, as well.

LTA will be checking with the Division of Library Development and other library organizations to keep you abreast of developments on this national project. It is important for fair distribution of resources that counts be accurate. Libraries will do their part, as always. However, some financial support would be most welcome and appropriate.

With warm regards,
Adria
USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR BEGIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP USING POSTAL MAIL.

2020
LTA Library Membership Invoice

Library Name: ________________________________
Library System: ______________________________
Director’s Name: ____________________________
Library Address: ______________________________
City, State, Zip: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________
Facebook URL: ________________________________
Website URL: _________________________________

Your library’s budget is: ________________________
Total population served by your library is: ____________

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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Your membership dues are (based on budget and scale above): $ __________________

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

WHEN MAILING YOUR REGISTRATION, PLEASE:
1. update your trustee or library’s name and contact information
2. mail a check for your library’s membership to: PO Box 11048; Albany, NY 12211
3. include up-to-date e-mail addresses

(Reminder: all contact information shared with LTA is kept confidential and is used only to share news and resources.)

If you have any questions, please contact John McCarthy, Executive Director, at jmccarthy@librarytrustees.org

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LTA, formerly NYSALB, has been supporting NYS library trustees since 1949, and is the only state chartered organization for NYS trustees.
LTA welcomes
these sponsors to our offerings!

COOL INSURING AGENCY, INC.

New Benefit for LTA Members!
Discounted Group Insurance Program
Buying insurance as a group allows members of all sizes to enjoy the same level of tailored coverage along with highly discounted rates that would likely not be available to an individual library.

Contact Colleen Parmelee, Program Director at: cmparmelee@coolins.com or (518) 698-9033.

THE 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE HAS BEGUN! PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020

LTA BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL: JANUARY 11, 2020
ALBANY LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY: 2-25-2020