In Attendance: Amanda Schiavulli - President, Jenny Burke - 1st Vice President/President-Elect, Lisa Neuman - Past President, Chinasa Seyse - 2nd Vice President - Membership, Ashley Bressingham - Secretary, Elissa Valente - Treasurer, Angela Newman - 2021 Spring Conference Director, Chrissie Morrison - 2022 Spring Conference Director, Mary Fellows - Legislative Committee Liaison & Youth Advocacy Committee Chair

E - vote between meetings - Angela Newman motion to incentivize the 2020 NYLA YSS Evaluation survey by providing free registration for one randomly chosen individual to the 2021 YSS Conference, Elissa Valente seconded, motion approved December 1, 2020

E - vote between meetings - Jenny Burke motion to appoint Sarah Heukrath to our Conference Planning Committee, Angela Newman seconded, motion approved December 8, 2020

11:07 AM President Amanda Schiavulli called the meeting to order

Motion to approve the agenda for today’s meeting - Angela Newman, Chrissie Morrison seconded - motion approved

Motion to approve November 16, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes - Elissa Valente, Chrissie Morrison seconded - motion approved

Treasurer’s Report - Elissa Valente (see attached #1)

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report - Chrissie Morrison, Angela Newman seconded - report approved

Past President’s Report - Lisa Neuman (gave verbal report)

President’s Report - Amanda Schiavulli (see attached #2)
  a. NYLA Council Updates
     i. Pathways to Librarianship Task Force
     ii. Coalition for Library Workers of Color Round Table
     iii. Advocacy Day 2021

2nd Vice President’s Membership Report - Chinasa Seyse (see attached #3)

President-Elect/Vice President’s Report - Jenny Burke (see attached #4)
  a. Status of 2020-2021 Committee and Liaisons
b. Committee Reports
   i. Battle of the Books
   ii. Empire State Award
   iii. Fall Conference Curation
   iv. Marketing
   v. Pied Piper
   vi. Scholarship
   vii. Youth Advocacy

c. Liaison reports
   i. Communications/Website
   ii. Continuing Education
   iii. Intellectual Freedom
   iv. Legislative
   v. New York State Library

Motion to go ahead with preparing a PDF document to be linked on the YSS website regarding the YSS/SSL Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) as well as moving forward with plans for a blog - Angela Newman, Jenny Burke seconded - motion approved

2021 Spring Conference Director’s Report - Angela Newman (see attached #5)

2022 Spring Conference Director’s Report - Chrissie Morrison (see attached #6)

Unfinished Business
   a. Communication and File Organization

New Business - none

Adjournment - Motion to Adjourn - Lisa Neuman, Chrissie Morrison seconded - motion approved
1. Treasurer’s Report

TREASURER’S REPORT

2020-2021 INCOME
Projected $36,200.00
Received (through 11/20/2020) $3,118.25

2020-2021 EXPENSES
Projected $43,840.00
Incurred (through 11/20/2020) $4,969.32

General Comments
YSS continues to have a healthy fund balance and is in a good position during this difficult time. We did receive one donation of $100 for the Anne Gibson Scholarship Fund and a refund of $200 for a Spring Conference Venue deposit. Membership dues for the month of November was $368.75 and for the YTD we have received $2,688.25 in dues. Expenses have been mostly related to the fall NYLA conference and the upcoming Spring conference will be our next expense. Jeremy and the NYLA team are working hard to determine the cost of using the virtual platform, and will have that figure to us soon.

Conference planners—please make sure to submit a W-9 form for any speakers/honorariums along with the RR requests. The name/address on the W-9 must match the name/address on the RR. Checks will be directly mailed to the presenters, as we will not be “seeing” them this year.

Colleen and Jeremy held a NYLA Treasurer’s meeting to review the new Chart of Accounts being used. I am working to create a cheat sheet for myself and future Treasurer’s of this system. Currently I am identifying the categories for our typical line items and creating a master “cheat sheet”. I really think that this is a good system and am excited to integrate it into our current recording spreadsheet.

As always, please keep the Treasurer informed of any/all communication or correspondence involving financial transactions—income or expenses. A simple “cc” on emails to NYLA or vendors is sufficient.

Highlights of 2020 NYLA Conference
We received a $25 donation for the Anne Gibson Scholarship Fund
Approximately $250 in prizes was given away during the Membership Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Elissa Valente
2. President’s Report

NYLA Council Updates:
- “Libraries We Are All In” is the theme for 2021
- 2020 Virtual Conference had 750 registrants and 43 exhibitors. About 150 shy of what we usually get. Satisfaction survey received 280 responses with 95% approval.
- Virtual Advocacy Day registration is open: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAD21-Advocate](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAD21-Advocate)

NYLA Awards Task Force:
- We need to get people re-engaged in NYLA awards. Need reps from each section. Asked Jenny to reach out to our awards committees but if anyone is interested, let me know ASAP.

Pathways to Librarianship Task Force:
- Committee members are being selected to work on this. In addition to task force members, you can also work in a working group if you are interested.
- Formation of the Coalition of Library Workers of Color Round Table. For people who don’t just fit into "one box" are welcome as well! More information: [https://coalitionlwc.weebly.com/](https://coalitionlwc.weebly.com/).

3. 2nd Vice President’s Membership Report

- Received 3 Jotform submissions from members:
  - Samantha Mairson (Doughtery) - Rye Free Reading Room (Rye, NY)
  - Megan McGinnis - Sachem Library (Holbrook, NY)
  - Margaret Capobianco - Rockville Centre Public Library (Rockville Centre, NY)
- No report from NYLA Membership Office - Colleen Smith regarding statistics report for December
- No report from NYLA Membership Committee - Laurie Dreyer, Chair
- 2nd VP Membership Chair Candidate for the 2021-2024 term is Julia Stuckman Farrar from Crandall Public Library

4. President-Elect/Vice President’s Report

**YSS 1st Vice President/President Elect Report**  
**January 11, 2021**

I found a replacement for Jackie Bleich’s departure from Conference Planning Committee. Sarah Heukrath was e-voted onto committee by Executive Board in December.

**Committee Reports:**
Conference Planning Committee Report

No report submitted as of January 31, 2021

Empire State Award Committee Report

January 2021

2020 ESA Business

After the successful venture of the Committee’s first virtual Lunch & Learn, Ms. Abenshon & Ms. Williams-Garcia continued to stay in contact initially. Ms. Abenshon mailed the honorarium to Ms. Williams-Garcia and reached out to inquire about materials from the Lunch & Learn. At the time of this writing, Ms. Williams-Garcia has not been in touch, but Ms. Abenshon will follow up to confirm receipt of the honorarium and to attempt to obtain materials for the archive of the conference.

2021 ESA Business

Communication with Mr. Selznick continues to be limited. Mr. Selznick will be announced as the winner of the 2021 winner at the virtual Spring Conference, taking place on Friday, March 26th.

The Empire State Award Committee met as a group on Wednesday, January 13th from 2:30 - 3:30 PM to discuss the manner in which the committee typically functions in its current structure. Collectively, the Committee has decided to meet on a monthly basis to check in as well as receive monthly, written updates from Ms. Abenshon as well. The pandemic made 2020 quite a challenge, and the Committee hopes that increased connection and communication will create a tighter connection between the committee. Ms. Abenshon also sees opportunity to divide the tasks that typically fall exclusively onto the chair most judiciously between the chair and the first-year member.

2022 ESA Business

The deadline for 2022 nominations for the Empire State Award winner was extended to January 31st, 2021 in an effort to maintain consistency across all YSS awards. As this has been indicated in other reports, and by other chairs, it has been difficult to solicit nominations for the Award. After meeting on January 13th, the Committee contacted the Marketing Committee for a last minute social media push and reached out to individual listservs for a final push as well. At the time of this writing, the social media push generated 4 nominations, representing 50% of the total number of nominations from 2020.

ESA Nomination Bank Update

The 2021 ESA Committee will continue to work on compiling a list of authors and illustrators residing in New York State to supplement nominations received through
traditional means. It has been difficult to collect nominations from YSS members in the past, and continues to be difficult in the present.

The Committee was able to reference the suggestions it did collect when making its final calls on social media and listservs: the suggestions were offered as inspiration in addition to the list of past winners. Work has continued to be limited on the bank as the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to exert its influence in both professional and personal spaces.

Thank you.

Submitted by the 2021 ESA Committee:
Alexandria Abenshon
Mallory Marinaro
Gail J. Brown

Pied Piper Award Committee Report
January 2021

Accomplishments/Activities of the Committee:
The deadline for submissions was moved to January 31.

We have updated our scoring criteria to reflect changes we discussed last year, such as removing program marketing as part of the score. I have included the updated score sheet for consideration. If approved, we will use it this year and I will add it to the Google folder of templates for future committees to have access to.

We were in the middle of working on simplifying and updating the submission form, but then received a submission. Instead of changing the submission form in the middle of our open submission period and possibly having different groups use different forms, we thought we should wait on this and make it ready before next year.

Our current project is promoting the Award so we receive more submissions before our upcoming deadline! The committee is brainstorming, but we are open to ideas and suggestions.

Submissions for the Award: We have received 1 submission so far from Smithtown Library regarding escape rooms.

For Board Consideration: Updated score sheet

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Brown

Marketing Committee Report
January 2021
Committee Updates:

- Nothing much has changed since our Fall Board Report. Short-term and long-term goals remain the same.
- We have begun to resume our regular meetings over Zoom and are brainstorming different ways we can spread the word about YSS and how we can reach a wider audience now that opportunities are limited to mostly virtual platforms.

Short-term goals:

- Continue posting to Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram.
- Increase engagement on our social media pages. As winter will surely be tough on many this year, we would like to make our social media pages more fun, upbeat, and interactive to try to help our followers get through this time.
- Caitlyn has taken over running our Instagram account. Jennifer is still running our Pinterest account, while I’m still maintaining our Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Identity other areas where YSS can promote and increase membership.
- Begin to meet more regularly to get back on track.

Longer-term goals:

- Coordinate with the social media contacts from other sections to arrange for cross promotion to ensure that important information is getting maximum exposure.
- Build a more robust Instagram page showcasing what other YSS members are doing around the state. Also, we would like to make our Facebook page more engaging, as engagement has been way down.
- Being responsive, communicative, and sharing what other NYLA committees are working on.
- Figure out a solution to work with other committees and to ensure that information is shared in a timely, organized, and complete manner.
- Develop connections with ALA-accredited library schools in NYS. This has been increasingly harder with remote learning and schools shifting their focus and trying to solidify plans for the unknowns. MLIS programs have not been as communicable as they have in the past. Many have responded that enrollment has been way down since the pandemic.
  - In order to give them information about NYLA/YSS that they can pass along to new graduates and current students.

Committee Successes since the last committee report:

- Consistent posting to social media via Pinterest, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Working with other committees to promote the YSS Spring Conference, webinars, and other relevant material.
- YSS Pinterest account – Jennifer continues to run our Pinterest page.
- YSS Facebook account – Since the last report, we have gained 71 followers on Facebook. At the time of my last board report, we have 534 followers. As of
today we have 604 followers. Despite our best efforts to make our page more engaging, we have not had much interaction. I’m not sure with everything going on if Facebook’s algorithm has changed, but our reach on our page has gone down dramatically. I also noticed this on my own Library’s page too. Both pages seem to have a significant drop off around 11/12/2020. I will continue to look into this.

- Our most popular post was a post about diverse reads on 11/12/2020. It reached 231 people. It had 4 likes and 1 share. Over the 1 share it was liked 6 times and had 9 engagements. 16 people clicked on the post’s link.
- Our second most popular post was a booklist for kids on diverse holiday traditions and reads on 11/30/2020. This post had 3 likes and 3 shares. Over the 3 shares, it was liked 12 times, had 24 engagements, and reached 102 people.

- YSS Twitter account – Our top tweet on Twitter this quarter was a tweet about NYPL’s 125th anniversary. This post featured a list of reads that celebrate the city’s uniqueness and diversity. It earned 44 impressions, had 4 likes, and was retweeted 1 time.

We have gained 2 new followers on Twitter since our last report to the board.

- Our Instagram page is really taking off. Caitlyn has taken over running this page. So far, we have 173 followers- up about 80 since our last board report. Our page is beginning to see more interaction, likes, and comments. We are excited to begin to create content for this page and to see how it can support YSS!

Report prepared by Lindsay Jankovitz

Scholarship Committee Report

No report submitted as of January 31, 2021

YSS/SSL Youth Advocacy Committee Report
January 2021

MOU
The details of liaison appointments to SSL and other details of the MOU are still in process. More to come next meeting.

Web presence
The outcome of this request from last meeting is murky:

“Our committee would like to have a web presence to share resources around public/school library collaboration and advocacy. We’re thinking of a two-pronged approach:
1. A more static presence, via a robust PDF document with important basic information and links, that is linked on both YSS and SSL pages and also hopefully on the advocacy toolkit page within the general NYLA website. Our links on this document would be to Google docs so that they can be kept updated.

2. A blog, linked to both the YSS and the SSL pages, where more timely information can be shared.

Related questions for the board are:

- May we go ahead with preparing the PDF document to be linked on the YSS website? If yes, we can work with you/the web coordinator to determine placing. We will also contact SSL and Bri about linking to their pages.

- May we move forward with plans for a blog? Are there any recommendations or restrictions given that it would be linked on the NYLA website (YSS and SSL pages)?

A reminder, clarification or a decision (if none was made) would be appreciated!

In other news
We sponsored YAC member Taylor Domenick in attending the LJ continuing education series, “Resilient Together: Building School and Public Library Partnerships.” Taylor reported back on ideas gleaned that may help our work and/or be shared with members. While the CE wasn’t as robust as marketed, we did benefit from some ideas Taylor brought back.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fellows, Chair, Youth Advocacy Committee

New York State Battle of the Books Committee Report

No report submitted as of January 31, 2021

Liaison Reports:

Continuing Education Liaison Report
January 2021

Our series of four weekly briefinars begin on January 12 at 12 pm. We have:

January 12 at 12 pm: SRP Crafts
Chrissie Morrison of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library will show you a variety of craft ideas for the 2021 Summer Reading Program for all ages, and demonstrate one of the crafts together with participants.

January 19 at 12 pm: Beethoven, Bach, & Bronx Tweens  
Learn how librarians can reignite tween interest in the library using different kinds of music programming, based on the successful music programs created by Ariana Csonka Kaleta of Tremont Library.

January 26 at 12 pm: For Felt's Sake  
Jennifer Burke of the Community Library of DeWitt and Jamesville will discuss different types of flannel boards and ways to incorporate them in your early literacy programs.

February 2 at 12 pm: Quirky Programs for Quirky Teens  
To embrace our communities' adolescents, programming must celebrate their eccentricities! Grace Frenzel of Livonia Public Library will discuss how to develop fresh teen programs (on a shoestring budget) that will attract and retain this tricky population.

There were 40 people to sign up. 24 attended Chrissie's excellent talk on January 12th (including Becky, Chrissie and Claire).

Respectfully yours,
Claire Lovell

**Legislative Committee Liaison Report**  
**January 2021**

Please mark your calendars for virtual Advocacy Day on Friday, February 28. The schedule has yet to be determined. Financial news for the State is remains grim, which means that we’ll need savvy, strategic, powerful advocacy. I will let Board members and YSS members how you can help when details are released.  
There is working being done within NYLA on the school librarians bill that has been a feature of the last few legislative sessions (and has gone nowhere). I'll have more to report on that next time. A bill for mandatory library trustee training is also being more weight this season.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fellows, YSS Legislative Committee Liaison

**Communications Committee Liaison**  
Position not currently filled, so no report.

**Web Liaison Report**  
**January 2021**
News
No news to report.

Updates
Added minutes for Nov 2020 board meeting.
Updated deadline for Pied Piper application.
Updated Events page with Briefinar info.

Work in Progress
Updating Spring Conference page with info for this year's virtual conference.

Questions for YSS Board
None at this time.

Report prepared by Amy Holland, Irondequoit Public Library
Amy.Holland@libraryweb.org
585-336-6060

Intellectual Freedom Committee Liaison
No report submitted as of January 31, 2021

New York State Library Liaison Report
January 2021

Youth Services Updates
Summer Reading at New York Libraries

- **READsquared** – It’s time to start planning for Summer 2021! Libraries should continue to be encouraged to sign up for an account now if they are not already using the free READsquared product and mobile app. **NEW** onboarding training sessions will be offered soon so libraries can start working on uploading the 2021 CSLP graphics and programs for online registration. Check the READsquared page on the Summer Reading site for updated information: [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/)

- Previous READsquared webinars and training can be found on the Summer Reading site at [http://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/](http://www.summerreadingnys.org/readsquared/)

- **CSLP** - manuals for 2021 have shipped and the online manual is now available for libraries to access. The online manual access code for NY state libraries has been shared with Youth Services Consultants so libraries should check with system staff if they need the code. The NY State Library was able to obtain approval to purchase 2021 manuals for public libraries but is unable to supply posters this year. All 2021 products in the incentive catalog are available on the online CSLP shopping and the link to a downloadable pdf of the 2021 catalog can be found at

The Summer Reading at New York Libraries program has a new updated logo! The new logo formats will be added soon to the Summer Reading pages and will start to be incorporated into the web site and handouts and flyers as they are updated for 2021.

A resource list of freely available online and e-resources for students, librarians and educators is on the Summer Reading site at [http://www.summerreadingnys.org/online-and-e-resources-for-families-students-and-schools/](http://www.summerreadingnys.org/online-and-e-resources-for-families-students-and-schools/) The current list of resources is being reviewed and will be updated soon; suggestions from the field are always welcome and can be emailed to nyslyouth@nysed.gov

Performers and Programs database – a category for virtual programs and presenters was added in 2020 to assist libraries searching for virtual program options. Libraries should use this resource year-round to find performers and content for virtual and other programs. Please encourage performers and presenters you have used to create an account in the database so their information will be shared statewide.

Summer Meals program – The number of libraries participating in 2020 was significantly less due to COVID-19 with only 33 libraries approved and operating as sites. Information on participating in Summer Meals 2021 will be shared soon and we hope libraries will consider being a part of this important program. Did you know that CSLP also has many great Summer Food Service resources on their site? Check out the CSLP materials at [https://www.cslpreads.org/libraries-and-summer-food/#resource](https://www.cslpreads.org/libraries-and-summer-food/#resource) Toolkits and updates from Hunger Solutions NY can be found on the Summer Reading site at [https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/](https://www.summerreadingnys.org/hunger-solutions/)

The State Library truly appreciates the efforts of all public and school libraries and systems as they met the daunting challenges of offering Summer Reading virtually in 2020. We don’t know what 2021 will bring but we’re sure libraries will rise to the occasion once again to keep students engaged and learning over the summer months.

NYSL Twitter account - Follow the New York State Library on Twitter @NYSLibrary [https://twitter.com/nyslibrary](https://twitter.com/nyslibrary) Please share your library’s Summer Reading programs and Twitter handles by following this link: [http://tiny.cc/nysr2020](http://tiny.cc/nysr2020)

Transforming Teen Services/T3 Training Update

- There is a lot of interest from library staff who want to participate in this training and additional online sessions on Connected Learning/Computational Thinking are being planned for 2021. Stay tuned for dates and details.

- Questions about Summer Reading at New York Libraries or Transforming Teen Services/T3 may be directed to Sharon B. Phillips, Program Manager at Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov

Ready to Read at New York Libraries

- The October 29 webinar on the development of early literacy learners was very successful with 200 attendees! View the recording and slides on the webinar page at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/earlylit/webinars.htm
- A webinar on the resources of the NY State Parent Portal was presented on Nov. 20. If you missed it, you can access the recording and slides at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/earlylit/webinars.htm
- SAVE the DATE! An early literacy webinar on virtual programming for your very youngest patrons will be offered by Betsy Diamant-Cohen in early March. Registration details will be announced soon on NYLINE.
- Additional webinars on other early literacy topics of interest are being planned for 2021. Do you have a webinar idea or suggestion? Please email nyslyouth@nysed.gov with your ideas or suggestions.
- Supercharged Storytimes online training – Details will be shared with Youth Services Consultants and on NYLINE if spring SSA sessions are being offered.
- Did you know that One More Story now has 2 new e-books each day?? Don’t forget to feature this great resource provided for FREE by the NY State Library on your library web sites and promote it to parents, caregivers, schools and your library community: https://daybydayny.org/
- Follow Ready to Read on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Ready2ReadNY.
- Questions about Ready to Read at New York Libraries may be directed to Sharon B. Phillips, Program Manager at Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon B. Phillips
NYSL NYLA/YSS Liaison

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Burke

5. 2021 Spring Conference Director’s Report

The program slate is finalized, including morning and author keynotes. (Rebekkah Smith Aldrich & Lisa Kropp/Ellen Oh) NYLA has re-opened registration; just waiting to update the conference website before sending out a message to the membership. YSS Board will create videos for announcements that would usually be made at lunch (ie. scholarship winners, etc.) and as a recruitment tool for vacant or upcoming positions.

6. 2022 Spring Conference Director’s Report

2022 Spring Conference Director
Chrissie Morrison

With the successful development of COVID vaccines and the fact that vaccine rollout has begun, we are going to move forward with the understanding that the 2022 YSS Spring Conference will *not* need to
be strictly virtual. (YAY!) We will also look to the NYLA Annual Conference's 2021 hybrid model for possibilities with regard to offering a hybrid option at our conference in 2022.

At present, Chrissie plans to reach out to her committee members to see who is interested in and able to move forward with conference planning, and Lisa Neuman has offered to speak to APL staff about interest in joining the committee, since people have expressed an interest in continuing education opportunities. We will also be reaching out to our previously selected keynote speaker/author, Chris Crutcher, to see whether he is still available to and interested in working with us in 2022. Chrissie will report back to the board with updates at the YSS Board Meeting in March (on the day before the 2021 YSS Virtual Spring Conference).