



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084

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NYLA 2023 Annual Membership Meeting
Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, New York
Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
NYLA President Arlene Laverde Presiding

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the Rules**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes**
Approved by NYLA Council, December 15, 2022
- 4. Introduction of Council Members and Staff**
- 5. President's Report – Arlene Laverde**
- 6. Treasurer's Report – Kelly Harris**
- 7. Report on 2023 NYLA Elections**

Tim Spindler – President-Elect (2023-2024) / President (2024-2025)

Matthew Bollerman – Treasurer-Elect (2023-2025) / Treasurer (2025-2027)

Rakisha Kearns-White – Councilor at Large (2023-2026)

Kerrie Burch – Councilor at Large (2023-2026)

- 8. Executive Director's Report – AnnaLee Dragon**
- 9. New Business**
 - a. Approval of Recommended Revisions to Bylaws
 - b. Member Comments for the Good of the Order
- 10. Adjournment**



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NYLA Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2022

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Saratoga Hilton/ Saratoga Ballroom

The meeting was called to order at 8:18 am by President Beth Merkle.

President Beth Merkle presided. Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon served as secretary of the meeting.

A quorum was established, and the following was adopted.

1. Adoption of the Rules

- a. Laura Osterhout moved to adopt the Rules of Order for the meeting. Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. President Beth Merkle read the agenda aloud. Jean Currie made the motion to approve the agenda. Jim Telhia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes

- a. Approved by NYLA Council, December 16, 2021

4. Introduction of Council Members and Staff

5. President's Report

- a. President Beth Merkle provided highlights from NYLA's work this year in finance, communications, continuing education, conference, and advocacy, and concluded by thanking all for their hard work.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Kelly Harris provided an overview of 2021-2022 financials and reported on the continuing work of the Balanced Budget Task Force and upcoming audit.

7. Report on 2022 NYLA Elections

- a. President Beth Merkle reported on the results of the 2022 elections:
Lisa Kropp – President-Elect (2022-2023)/President (2023-2024)
Keturah Cappadonia – NYLA/ALA Chapter Councilor (2022-2025)
Caitlin Kenney – Councilor-at-Large for Academic/Special Libraries (2022-2025)
Ginger Tebo – Councilor-at-Large for School Libraries (2022-2025)
Rakisha Kearns-White – Councilor-at-Large for Public Libraries (2022-2023)

8. New Business

- a. Recommended Revisions to Bylaws
 - i. President Beth Merkle noted that the proposed changes to the NYLA bylaws are available on the NYLA website for review by membership and that due to timing issues, there would not be a vote at the Annual Meeting to comply with notice requirements in the bylaws. Instead, there will be a 30-day review period, and the vote by membership will be held electronically from

Thursday, December 1 – Thursday, December 8, 2022. Any questions or concerns with the changes can be sent to NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon.

b. Member Comments for the Good of the Order

No comments were made.

A motion to adjourn the 2022 NYLA Annual Membership meeting was made by Jill Hurst-Wahl and seconded by Amanda Perrine. The meeting adjourned at 8:33am by unanimous consent.



**NYLA Council Members & Staff
2022 – 2023**

NYLA Council

President - Arlene Laverde

President-Elect - Lisa Kropp

Immediate Past President - Beth Merkle

Treasurer - Kelly Harris

Treasurer-Elect - Frank McKenna

Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

Joe Burke

Keturah Cappadonia

Julia Corrice

Kerstin Cruger

Jean Currie

Julie Delaney

Kristina Graves

Michelle Isopo

Rakisha Kearns-White

Caitlin Kenney

Joyce Laiosa

Laura Osterhout

Amanda Perrine

Dawn Pressimone

Ginger Tebo

NYLA Staff

AnnaLee Dragon – Executive Director

Lauren Hoyt – Director of Association Operations

Max Prime – Director of Government Relations and Advocacy

C Romeo – Director of Communications and Member Engagement



Final Presidential Report

It is with great pride that I present my final President's Report, summarizing my tenure as President of The New York Library Association. In these last few months, I have attended the following committee meetings: Awards, Communication, Legislation, and Intellectual Freedom. Additionally, I met with the Executive Council regarding the Director's evaluation.

A highlight this summer was being interviewed by CBS News on the critical issue of school librarian shortage. This gave me the opportunity to discuss the importance of school librarians and advocate that this is a vital role in our schools.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Council for all your hard work and support. I have learned a great deal during my tenure as President and look forward to continuing to support NYLA in all the great work the organization does.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene Laverde

October 18, 2023

**NYLA
Operating Budget**

Budgeted	21-22 Budgeted	21-22 Audited
	(162,800)	(105,572)
INCOME	21-22 Budgeted	21-22 Actual
Membership Dues	165,000	147,207
Conference & Events	250,000	172,079
Restricted Donations	30,000	13,323
Advocacy Support + Advocacy Day Sponsorship	80,000	80,378
Unrestricted Donations + General Income	19,500	108,403
	544,500	521,390
EXPENSE	21-22 Budgeted	21-22 Actual
Personnel Costs	413,600	326,874
Conference & Events	147,750	115,953
Legal, Professional, Accounting, Auditing Fees	14,500	72,077
All Other Expenses	90,450	147,296
Advocacy Incentives + Advocacy Day Activities	25,000	5,482
Promotional Ites, Marketing/Advertising, Org. Misc.	4,200	4,670
Management Expenses	6,500	35
Special Initiatives	1,500	25,602
Organizational Dues + Conference Registrations	3,800	1,143
Restricted Funds	30,000	2,500
	737,300	701,632
Other Income	30,000	74,670
INCOME TOTAL	574,500	596,060
EXPENSE TOTAL	737,300	701,632
SURPLUS/DEFECIT	(162,800)	(105,572)

Budgeted	22-23 Budgeted	22-23 Actual	23-24 Budgeted
	(140,465)	(203,658)	(136,237)
INCOME	22-23 Budgeted	22-23 Actual	23-24 Budgeted
Membership Dues	150,000	160,000	160,000
Conference & Events	310,000	260,808	285,000
Restricted Donations	30,000	840	30,000
Advocacy Support + Advocacy Day Sponsorship	85,000	94,905	95,000
Unrestricted Donations + General Income	24,500	19,805	19,500
	599,500	536,358	589,500
EXPENSE	22-23 Budgeted	22-23 Actual	23-24 Budgeted
Personnel Costs	431,165	402,776	391,784
Conference & Events	150,950	174,668	161,250
Legal, Professional, Accounting, Auditing Fees	27,500	36,215	35,500
All Other Expenses	89,850	108,703	98,200
Advocacy Incentives + Advocacy Day Activities	30,000	15,138	30,000
Promotional Ites, Marketing/Advertising, Org. Misc.	4,000	405	2,500
Management Expenses	2,000	647	2,000
Special Initiatives	1,500	120	1,500
Organizational Dues + Conference Registrations	3,000	1,343	3,000
Restricted Funds	30,000	30,000	30,000
	769,965	770,014	755,734
Other Income	30,000	29,998	29,997
INCOME TOTAL	629,500	566,356	619,497
EXPENSE TOTAL	769,965	770,014	755,734
SURPLUS/DEFECIT	(140,465)	(203,658)	(136,237)



2023 NYLA Annual Report

Advocacy

- NYLA lead the first in-person Library Advocacy Day in several years on February 28, 2023.
- NYLA's Online Advocacy Center: Strong participation continued during the 2023 Legislative Session with a total 7,590 advocates sending 11,000 messages.
- Attended ALA Virtual #FundLibraries Fly-In meetings with Rep. Grace Meng's and Rep. Joseph Morelle's offices on May 23, 2023.
 - Under the direction of NYLA's Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Max Prime, NYLA plans an in-person Advocacy Day on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. A Pre-Advocacy day of meetings and continuing education will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 in Albany. NYLA will also present its second Spring on the Hill advocacy event on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

FY 2023-2024 NYS Budget

- The enacted FY2023-2024 NYS Budget includes \$99.6M (flat funding) for the State Library Aid program. Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal reduced this funding line by \$3.5M. With coordination and advocacy actions by the library community, we reversed the Governor's proposed cuts to the budget for library aid.
- State Library Construction Aid: Funding remained steady at \$34M for FY2023-2024. The \$34M allocation represents a \$20M increase over the Governor's proposed budget cut.
- This budget also included the release of \$176K from the Love Your Library Fund, funding for the Schomburg Research Center in the amount of \$375K, and funding for the Langston Hughes Community Library in the amount of \$112K.

Library Related Legislation

• **Municipal Ballot Petition Reduction – S3594 (Harckham) / A5266 (Levenberg)**

This bill aligns the petition signature requirement for libraries using a municipal ballot approach with the 25-signature requirement in place for libraries using a school district ballot approach for their budget proposals. It passed Senate and Assembly, and was signed by the Governor on October 25, 2023, as Chapter 587.

• **Elimination of Library Construction Cap – S7093 (Chu)**

Libraries serving economically distressed communities may be eligible for Library Construction Aid awards beyond 75.00%. However, the law currently only allows public library systems to award 50% of their total allocation to such projects. This proposal would eliminate the 50% cap to ensure that libraries serving economically distressed communities and libraries in rural regions will be able to make use of the library construction aid intended to benefit these communities. This has passed the Senate, been delivered to the Assembly, and been referred to Assembly Education Committee.

• **Book Fair Tax Exemption – S5955A (Chu) / A5538B (Rivera)**

This bill would make books, magazines, pamphlets, and other items sold at school sponsored book fairs exempt from sales tax. It has passed the Senate and been referred to Assembly Ways & Means.

• **Association Library Retirement Opt-In Option – S5179A (Palumbo) / A5824A (Thiele)**

This bill would allow association libraries that meet certain criteria the ability to join the New York State Retirement System upon approval of their board. It has been referred to the Senate Civil Service & Pensions Committee and is held for consideration in the Assembly Government Employees Committee.

• **Access to Publicly Funded Research – S6562 (Chu)**

This bill would ensure original research that is the result of state funding would be available, free of charge, to the public. Referred to Senate Investigations and Government Operations Committee.

- **Check Out New York – S5956A (Chu) / A4112A (Jensen)**

This bill would provide one-pass per public library to every state park, historic site, and recreational facility operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Committed to Senate Rules Committee and referred to Assembly Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Sports Development.

- **Media Literacy in New York State** – These proposals address access, delivery, and development.

- **A32 (Rosenthal)** – ML Professional Development, referred to Assembly Education Committee.

- **A40 (Rosenthal)** – LMS Requirement, referred to Assembly Education Committee.

- **A35 (Rosenthal)** – Media Literacy Advisory Group, referred to Assembly Education Committee.

- **A1695 (Rosenthal)** – Media Literacy Standards, referred to Assembly Education Committee.

- **School Library Facility Modernization – S6744 (Chu) / A3174 (Jensen)**

The current regulation that defines a school library facility has not been updated in over twenty years.

This proposal would address the antiquated metrics within NY-CRR 91.1 and insert characteristics associated with a successful, 21st century school library. It has been referred to the Senate Libraries Committee & Assembly Education Committee.

Membership

- NYLA ended the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year with 4,829 members. While these numbers have increased slightly since the previous fiscal year, it is important to note that there are several variables affecting these figures including continued economic strain post pandemic, undefined membership process and procedures, an antiquated current membership database structure. With our upcoming transition to a new membership database and website, and to a fixed membership year, thanks to the hard work and leadership from Lauren Hoyt, our Director of Association Operations, we expect to see improvements in the years to come.

- Moving forward into the next fiscal year, the NYLA staff and our Membership Committee are committed to evaluating all variables, specifically focusing on the following:

- ✓ Improving and modernizing the member experience

- ✓ Becoming more efficient operationally

- ✓ Providing better communication with our current/prospective members offering more transparency.

Our main goal moving forward will be to repair, streamline, and expand in all facets of membership.

Professional Development

- The full annual in-person Conference is once again in Saratoga Springs, from November 1-4, 2023. With a conference pre-registration of 859 people (not including day-of registration), we exceeded 2022's registration of 800, and could exceed 2019's pre-pandemic number, which was a total of 861.

- The NYLA Developing Leaders Program that relaunched in October 2022 with 13 students was completed earlier this year, with the help of many members as faculty and the organization of our Director of Communications and Member Engagement C Romeo. We are just finalizing the selection of students for the cohort that will begin in January 2024. We have 30 places in the cohort, and had over 50 applications, so it will be a full group for the first time since 2020.

- The Director of Communications and Member Engagement and the Executive Director successfully relaunched the Library Skills Academy in October 2023, with a registration of 63 (and included two librarians from Alaska!). This is the first time these classes have been offered since 2020.

- The NYLA e-Institute offered 8 webinars in 2023.

Operations

- Made NYLA an official partner in ALA United Against Book Bans.

- Lauren Hoyt was promoted to Director of Association Operations in December 20, 2022.

- Hired new Director of Government Relations & Advocacy. Max Prime began work at NYLA on January 30, 2023.

- With Director of Association Operations, reviewed and selected new membership database for 2024.

- Hosted successful Pre-Advocacy Day and Advocacy Day activities on February 27 & 28, 2023.

- Launched NYLA/ESLN/PULISDO/SLSA Intellectual Freedom website (freeforallny.org) in June 2023.

- Worked with Balanced Budget Task Force to present and ultimately pass financial and organizational recommendations for NYLA on June 15, 2023.

- With NYLA Staff, planned and held NYLA 2nd Annual Open House and NYLA Social Happy Hour.

- Finalized MOU with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

- NYLA Executive Director named to 2023 amNY Metro & PoliticsNY Power Players in Education list (also named in 2022)

- Notified that ULU/NYLA IMLS Grant for Trauma Study Phase 2 was awarded at requested \$150,000 level
- Received \$1,000 anonymous donation in honor of work being done at the Association
- NYLA Executive Director has toured much of the state for visits and for speaking engagements at:
 - ✓ Finger Lakes Emerging Leaders Program
 - ✓ John Jermain Library
 - ✓ Mid-Hudson Library System
 - ✓ Nassau County Library Association
 - ✓ NYALS Advocacy Launch
 - ✓ Southern Westchester BOCES
 - ✓ School Library System Administrators Leadership Institute
 - ✓ Upper Hudson Library System
 - ✓ WSWHE BOCES

NYLA Membership Stats

		2021			2022			2023
		31-Mar	30-Jun	30-Sep	31-Mar	15-Aug	30-Sep	30-Sep
PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS								
Regular	Up tp 19,999					82	77	69
	20,000-29,999					27	25	21
	30,000-39,999					16	15	15
	40,000-49,999					43	44	48
	50,000-99,999					180	182	248
	\$100, 0000+					44	43	52
	Total		542	601	546	542	392	386
First Time		120	170	134	120	103	106	162
Friend		34	38	32	34	25	21	28
Retired		166	162	152	166	132	91	80
Student		140	130	149	140	102	93	98
ALA-Joint Student		225	274	248	225	136	193	143
Support Staff		91	88	86	91	43	42	50
Trustee (personal members)		52	54	51	52	46	43	35
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS								
Library/Library System	1-50K					47	47	19
	50K-100K					34	35	20
	100K-500K					147	145	97
	500K-1M					39	41	32
	1M-3M					79	79	66
	3M-10M					45	50	40
	10M+					7	9	9
	Total		512	510	487	512	398	406
Associate Members	Library/Library Sytem						2140	2294
	Friend Group						123	178
	LTA Trustees						1007	955
	Total	2,623	2,040	4,033	2,623	2602	3270	3427
Affiliate		12	12	11	12	17	18	6
NonProfit		(Included in Affiliate count)				18	12	11
Library School		(Included in Affiliate count)				14	6	3
ForProfit - Vendor		8	8	8	8	2	2	1
Friend Group		57	55	52	57	42	43	49

Total NYLA Members	6,357	6,151	5,490	4,582	4,470	4,732	4,829
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SECTION MEMBERSHIPS							
ASLS	264	293	242	264	347	345	340
FLS	174	213	179	174	186	232	198
LAMS	444	490	433	444	623	641	623
LTA	371		127	371	282	292	305
PLS	1347	1,451	1,256	1,347	1,624	1,705	1,688
IDEAS (RASS)	476	492	441	476	694	713	725
SMART	225	247	211	225	367	380	365
SSL	546	660	635	546	515	520	543
YSS	815	843	785	815	976	1,014	999
Total Section Members	4,662	4,689	4,309	4,662	5,614	5,842	5,786

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIPS							
CLWCRT	18			18	25	28	20
CORT	29	33	30	29	77	78	*Inactive
ESRT	34	54	36	34	87	92	90
FILM	20	18	12	20	78	74	*Inactive
GIRT	13	20	16	13	39	37	*Inactive
IFRT	67	73	64	67	232	226	225
ILRT	39	37	31	39	89	86	*Inactive
LAR	23	34	25	23	81	85	*Inactive
LGBTQIART	41	43	34	41	52	60	*Inactive
LHRT	32	37	30	32	50	53	49
M&PRRT	37	38	34	37	49	57	62
MSRT	36	33	29	36	129	138	131
NYBLC	62	56	50	62	53	126	115
PCRT	36	52	36	36	114	121	100
PLRT	12	13	12	12	33	35	35
RLRT	51	69	60	51	225	198	205
SRRT	33	36	32	33	74	80	*Inactive
SSL-CNYSL	68	53	51	68	75	65	78
SSL-ENYSLMA	39	162	141	39	51	55	55
SSL-RASL	11	14	12	11	9	12	*Inactive
SSL-SLST East	20	22	18	20	20	18	22
START	50	85	52	50	77	81	80
Total Roundtable Members	771	982	805	753	1,694	1,805	1,267

***Inactive - During the last year the noted roundtables were labeled as inactive. Some are rebuilding their membership and have worked with the office to become active again. Numbers will not be include in this report for inactive roundtables.**