

WELCOME TO OUR
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

we're so glad you're here!

VELMA K. MOORE AWARDS, 2023

FOR OVER 60 YEARS, THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION SECTION, AND THE PREVIOUS ITERATIONS OF THIS ORGANIZATION, HAVE CONFERRED THE VELMA K. MOORE AWARD TO A PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT HAS PROVIDED EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN NEW YORK STATE. MRS. MOORE WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL NYS ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY BOARDS, A LONG-TIME LIBRARY TRUSTEE, WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE STATE FROM 1947 UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1961, AND OH, BY THE WAY, WAS THE WIFE OF FORMER LT. GOVERNOR FRANK. C. MOORE.

IN 2023, LTAS WAS PLEASED TO PRESENT TWO AWARDS: LYNN SKOLNICK OF THE ETHELBERT B. CRAWFORD LIBRARY IN MONTICELLO (ALSO A TRUSTEE OF THE RAMAPO CATSKILL LIBRARY SYSTEM) AND NANCY MARON OF THE YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY. A PLAQUE AND A CHECK FOR \$1,500 WERE PRESENTED TO THE AWARDEES AT LOVELY RECEPTIONS AT THEIR LIBRARIES OVER THE WINTER. IN EACH CASE, NANCY AND LYNN MADE SUCH WONDERFUL RESPONSES TO GETTING THE AWARD, THAT WE ASKED TO PUBLISH THEM IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

FROM LYNN SKOLNICK:

When I was a kid, my dad would take my sisters and me to the library after dinner so that we could return books and take out new ones. Walking into the south side branch of the Youngstown, Ohio Public Library, I first noticed the smell of library paste. There was an entire area devoted to book binding and repair. My dad never led me to the Children's Section but allowed me to wander anywhere I chose. And sometime selecting books in the same sections as my dad – OMG, I felt so special. Those books allowed me to travel to unknown worlds – live vicariously through worldly characters, and experience that which I never would have on my own – that's where my love of libraries began. And I wanted everyone, man, woman, and child to feel as special as I did when I was reading or in the library. In September I was volunteering to man the Friends' table at a local farmers market. I cannot tell you how many people stopped at the table just to tell us how much they loved their local libraries. I guess I am not the only one who felt so special. My reading experiences were not just libraries. With my allowance in hand, I would go downtown to the local department store and purchase the latest Carolyn Keene masterpiece. \$1.00 and .03 tax and go home to curl up with Nancy Drew, her pal George, Ned Nickerson and Hannah Gruen.

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My other reading experiences were less typical. My dad belonged to the Book of the Month Club. So in my early teens, I was reading Franz Werfel's *The Song of Bernadette* and MacKinley Kantor's *Andersonville*. In *The History Boys*, playwright Alan Bennett wrote. "The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things which you had thought were special and particular to you. And now, here it is, set down by someone else, a person you have never met, someone even who is long dead. And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours." We are not alone! But libraries were always that special place where everyone is equal and has the same opportunities I wanted. And I still want those opportunities for everyone. And so I became a trustee of the Ethelbert. B. Crawford Library. And even though I have retired from the Board, I still immerse myself in library programs, events and am presently working on a local history project. Marian Wright Edelman, former Director of the Children's Defense Fund said, "Service is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time." And my life has been richer, fuller, and more splendid by your allowing me the honor of sharing my love of reading and libraries with all of you here today and our community! I cannot tell you how honored and humbled I am to receive this award, the Velma K. Moore, named for someone whose lifelong work for libraries I can only hope to aspire too. Thank you.

**AT THE ETHELBERT PUBLIC LIBRARY, MONTICELLO
LYNN SKOLNIK AND JEAN CURRIE**



**MARTHA ANDERSON,
JEAN CURRIE
TWO LIBRARY PATRONS**



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From Nancy Maron:

Over the last few years, I've gotten better at talking in support of the library, the library budget, the arts, and other things. I'm much less at ease when the topic is myself! But I thought this would be a good opportunity to thank the people around me that make YPL great, and also to reflect on why it is we all spend so much time working to support libraries in the first place. You may not know this, but Library Trustees only have 3 actual "jobs" – financial responsibility; hiring and evaluating the library director; and setting the vision for the library. In the 12 years since I joined the YPL Board, the need for each of these things has come into focus at different times.

BUDGET. When I first started in 2012, the budget was in rough shape; YPL was still pulling out of severe recession-era cuts and each year, we'd see things like our line for activities slashed as the city reviewed the budget. The Board's role then, was to forge closer ties to city govt, to city council, to open lines of communication, so that City became aware that success for us would also mean success for the entire city. We started getting ourselves on the Mayor's calendar and visiting with City Council members.

I also saw that there were things a Foundation could achieve – advocacy & fundraising – that the YPL Board and staff alone could not. With my colleague Anietra Guzman-Santana, and the support of then-director Ed Falcone and Susan Thaler, we created the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library. This year marks our 7th year of operation, and since Year One, the organization has made significant annual contributions to YPL to further its most innovative programming.

DIRECTOR. Setting up that Foundation would not have been possible without the support – in every way – of the then library director, Ed Falcone and subsequent LD, Susan Thaler. And indeed, hiring the director is the second key role – really the first! – for Trustees. I could not be happier to see the directors I have worked with here today. From Ed Falcone, then Susan Thaler, who was the picture of calm as the pandemic began;

And our current director, Jesse Montero and deputy director Shauna Porteus. This is literally a dream team of library leaders, who have in turn hired and are nurturing a new generation of library leaders. The City of Yonkers should be extremely proud of the leadership this library has had and continues to build.

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NANCY MARON RECEIVING HER VELMA K. MOORE AWARD AND A PROCLAMATION FROM THE MAYOR OF YONKERS

AT THE YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY



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TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP IN NYLA

By now, you probably know that NYLA has made many major changes in its finances and membership structure – these have impacted trustees so here is what you need to know! All the finances for NYLA itself, the Sections and Roundtables, have been centralized. In the past, membership dues were apportioned to units based on the unit's membership and our activities were supposed to have fitted within those funds. We now submit a budget proposal for our projected activities in 2024-2025 to be considered as part of the whole NYLA budget. We proposed funding for conference programs and a booth for the NYLA Conference in Syracuse next November, expenses related to the Velma K. Moore Award, having a webinar and a regional meet and greet, and some expenses for your Board.

Membership in LTAS can be achieved in one of three ways:

1. You can join as a personal member at the Trustee rate and select LTAS as your first (free!) Section.
2. Your library or system becomes an Organizational Member and depending on its budget range, it can elect to add a number of staff and/or trustees as part of that organizational membership. Ask your director to check LTAS as the Section for any such Trustee members. Staff will want to join whatever Section or Roundtable is of interest to them. As an example, my library can have 5 members in this category and as we are small, the Director was one and the key contact, and she added 4 trustees to make up the allowed 5 members. The key contact can manage the information for this membership.
3. You can have up to seven more trustees for a fixed fee in what is called a Trustee Group. More members can be added to this Trustee Group for additional fees. One person in the group is designated as the key contact and you can check the box for LTAS as the chosen Section. The key contact will need to contact the NYLA office to make any changes in such a group. As an example again, my library was able to add the rest of our board of 11 to a Trustee Group and therefore make all of us members in NYLA.

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HANDBOOK FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF NEW YORK STATE

The substantially revised edition of the Handbook has been distributed and I hope you have received your copy. LTAS is proud to be one of the sponsors and to have helped in a small way with the revision. There is good news – in 2024 there will be three more Book Club sessions. Remember that these sessions can be used to meet your annual two hours of required trustee training. You can register for these at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/>

What's New in the 2023 Edition of the Trustee Handbook

Tuesday, March 19th, 5:00-6:30 PM

Libraries for the Future: An Introduction to Sustainability as the Newest Core Value

Tuesday, June 18th, 5:00-6:30 PM

Governance Structure: The Role of Board Officers and Board Committees

Tuesday, October 15th, 5:00-6:30PM

In addition there is another recorded "After Party" session to answer a bunch of the questions received during 2023 sessions that we ran out of time to answer during a particular webinar: <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/>

All past sessions (2021-2023) have been archived here:

<https://midhudson.org/trustee-handbook-book-club-archive/>

Looking for the online version of the new Trustee Handbook? DLD has not completed the new LibGuide version of the new Trustee Handbook but you can go to the PDF version in the State Library's catalog through this [link](#)

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2023 NYLA CONFERENCE



To my library trustee colleagues, all the best for the holiday season, have a great New Year and a happy, healthy 2024! Here is some news from the Library Trustees Association Section of NYLA.

NYLA Conference 2023: The Library Trustees Section had a very successful conference. We had a pre-conference on Practical Approaches to Sustainability in Libraries with Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. We found the practical, easily used tools to implement sustainable practices in our libraries very helpful. Stephanie Cole Adams presented another entertaining but really helpful scenarios for serious legal compliance. If you were not there you also missed some lovely, related images of quilts housed at the Met! You can see her handouts at [Nyla.stephaniecoleadams.com](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TOKSAw6dEdILM6kVhcnZGfVXWbiGS0y3/view) or at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TOKSAw6dEdILM6kVhcnZGfVXWbiGS0y3/view>



SECTION UPDATE

First, the Library Trustee Association Section would like to say Happy New Year to all of our members. With the first month of the new year almost at an end, we want to give all of our members an update of the last quarter of 2023 and what we are planning for the this year.

The NYLA conference was another success with great speakers, insightful sessions and a promising future for the organization. Second, we handed out the Velma K. Moore awards for the Ramapo Catskill Library System and Yonkers Public Library and held amazing ceremonies. Lastly, the NYLA has finally finished updating their website, it is much more user friendly. I highly recommend you check it out.

We are currently planning events throughout the State, growing our membership, educational programs for trustees and so much more.

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2024 VELMA K. MOORE AWARD

PRESENTED BY THE LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION SECTION (LTAS) OF NYLA

The Velma K. Moore Award was established to honor the memory of Velma Moore, one of the charter members of the of The New York State Association of Library Boards (NYSALB), now the **Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS)** of New York Library Association (NYLA), and wife of former New York State Lt. Governor Frank C. Moore. Mrs. Moore worked actively for the improvement of library service in New York State from 1947 until her death in 1961.

Mrs. Moore served two terms as president and was a member of the NYSALB Board from its establishment. For thirty-three years Mrs. Moore was also a Trustee of the Kenmore Public Library near Buffalo, New York.

The Award, to be given annually, was originally established in 1962 with a gift from the Moore family. The Award—with its \$1500 cash prize—will be announced at the 2024 NYLA Conference in Syracuse, NY and then personally presented to the recipient, along with a check, payable their library or system of choice, at their home library at a later date.

Eligibility

Any individual or group of individual volunteers who have made exemplary contributions to the development of library services in New York State is eligible for nomination. Nominees may include trustees, a community member, library boards, or any volunteer individual or volunteer group who supports libraries. Nominations can be made by anyone in the library community.

Nominating Procedure

Nominations may be submitted by e-mail to: VKMAward.LTAS@gmail.com or by mail to:
LTAS Velma K. Moore Award Committee

Suzanne Stockman
58 Clarkes Crossing
Fairport NY 14450

The letter of nomination should include:

- Name and address of nominee.
- Library affiliation.
- A statement of not more than 500 words on the reason for nomination.
- Name, address, contact information and library affiliation of the nominator.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is Sunday, June 30, 2024. Criteria for Evaluating Nominees

- 1) Measurable service to local, county, system or state libraries, advancing the effectiveness of these libraries.
- 2) Service in areas of legislation or other support that advance library causes with local or state government.
- 3) Promotional services through publishing, speaking or involvement in professional or lay library groups or organizations.
- 4) Service to state or national library organizations, e.g. Library Trustee Association Section, United for Libraries, New York Library Association, American Library Association or service on State study committees.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the efforts of a volunteer committed to bettering library services in New York State.

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