



Board News

From The President

Liz Bailey

Attending the SLMS Conference in Tarrytown this past May reminded me how powerful professional organizations can be to share information and inspire best practices in our field. ENYSLMA vice president Maggie McCabe offered a presentation for new participants that explained how our local affiliates fit into the bigger picture of SLMS, and then how SLMS fits into AASL, our national organization, and that into ALA. It is important to remember that the American Library Association is built upon the back of multiple small, energetic, and determined organizations such as ENYSLMA.

We are happy to announce that Mary VanPatten from Fort Plain Central School District has agreed to take a board position representing one of our School Library Systems. We are looking for a treasurer to begin our 2008-09 calendar year to replace the capable Donna Smyth, our current treasurer. If you are interested, contact me at baillau1@shenet.org.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to jump start next year's library program by attending the workshop designed by membership chair Santina Florio being offered this summer. Participants will use Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 and ALA's READ CD to produce "Read" posters starring their own staff and students. Also, I hope to see many of you on the annual NYC bus trip on July 23. Check out the offerings for professional development being offered by your school library system as well! We are fortunate to have so many talented colleagues in our midst who are willing to "pay it forward" so that we can all keep moving ahead in our career.

SLMS 2010 – Albany, NY We need you!

Melissa Bergin

ENYSLMA will be hosting the SLMS statewide conference in Albany in May of 2010. Putting on this conference is a great opportunity for ENYSLMA both financially and in terms of prestige.

But a conference like this is a huge undertaking. We have already secured the Crowne Plaza in Albany for the event, and now we need to begin to assemble volunteer staff to organize the conference. Working on a conference is a great way to meet your colleagues and learn more about your profession.

We will begin putting together the staff this summer, but most committee members will not have a lot of work to do until Spring of 2009. We are not allowed to publicize until the 2009 conference is completed, so much of the work will wait until after that time. We need people with all types of interests and skills. Some will become key players in the development of the conference but we will also need local folks who can pitch in just before and at the conference. Some jobs may require a small subcommittee, while others can be done by an individual from the comfort of home. If you and a friend would like to work as a team on one of these jobs, that's great too! Some of the positions we need to fill include treasurer, vendor coordinator, publications, registration, transportation, technology, web master, food, local arrangements and more.

If you would like to learn more about the process, please contact Melissa Bergin, conference chair, at mcb@missabears.com or (518) 399-5045. You are not committing to anything by asking! If you see something right off that you know you would be interested in working on, please specify it. Newbies to retirees are welcome, since everyone brings a different perspective to creating a conference that serves all the LMS in New York. If you've ever attended a conference and thought "Why didn't they.....?" then this is your chance to make it what you think it should be.

Retiree News

Survey says.....

40 retirees were surveyed with 10 completed and returned. The results show that retirees are still very much interested in our work and are interested in our meetings. They are also interested in programs about book talks, trips, authors, literature, illustrators and issues in the field. Seven of the ten would also be willing to serve as a resource to Master's Degree students or beginning SLMS.

SLMS Update

Beth Davis, Region IV Coordinator



On May 1-3, 2008, more than 340 School Library Media Specialists met in Tarrytown, NY for the 2008 SLMS Conference. Many of the workshops focused on the importance of being knowledgeable in Web 2.0 and technology in the library. Attendees also heard from such authors as Richard Peck, Charles Smith, Elizabeth Levy, and Rose Kent. Numerous members of ENYSLMA attended and a good time was had by all.

Plans are underway for the 2008 SLMS/NYLA Leadership Retreat. It will take place August 4-5, 2008, at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Gail Dickinson and Barbara Stripling will present the new AASL standards in their two day workshop titled, "Standards for the 21st Century Learner: Ready! Set! Action!" Besides being a wonderful educational experience, the annual Leadership Retreat is a wonderful opportunity to network and have fun with School Library Media Specialists from all over the state. The registration brochure can be found at:
http://www.nyla.org/content/user_19/retreat_brochure_08.pdf

Proposed Change in Constitution

Barbara. Zuccaro

It has been proposed that we change from a 1 year membership for \$10 to a 2 year membership for \$20. This will eliminate a large amount of paperwork for our membership chair and treasurer, plus go back to the way our organization originally collected its dues.

Currently:

Article VII. Finances

The dues of membership shall be \$10.00 to be paid on or before the first meeting of the school year.

Proposed change to:

Article VII. Finances

The dues of membership shall be \$20.00 to be paid every two years on or before the first meeting of the school year in which there is no election of officers. Payment of dues for a new member joining in the alternate year shall be discounted to \$10 to reflect the time left in a two year membership.

This will be discussed and voted on at our summer meeting. If approved, the change will take effect for the 2008-09 year.

Please pass along any questions or comments to the Board.



Legislative Report

Jill Leinung, SLMS Legislative Representative

Through the efforts of Michael Borges, NYLA, and SLMS we have had terrific media coverage. Many newspapers and some capital region TV stations picked up on the press release and press conference concerning the age of NYS school library collections and other issues. You can see all of the coverage on the NYLA and SLMS web pages. The latest is in the NYS School Boards Association's publication (www.nyssba.org) which ties all of our issues together.

Budget Priorities

- Aid for school library materials continues at \$6.25 per student despite obtaining the largest increase in education aid to date. The Board of Regents and NYLA aligned their budget priorities and asked for an increase to \$10 per student. This would cost \$9-10 million.
- Also not adopted was the budget priority of \$7.4 million in additional aid to systems and \$280,000 in merger aid for previously merged school library systems.
- The Contracts for Excellence were not amended this year to allow the funds given to high-need school districts to be spent on hiring school librarians and to buy library materials. This did not happen despite the fact that the Syracuse study showed that schools with a certified school librarian scored 10 points higher on the 4th grade ELA exam than schools without a librarian.

Legislative Priorities

Now we need to concentrate on Legislative Priorities. The Leg. Committee moved our mini lobby day to May 19 (almost a month earlier) so we can deliver our message well before the end of session. Of interest to SLMS are:

- Sales Tax Exemptions for Book Fairs (S.1722A LaValle/A.3463ACahill) This bill would exempt book fairs held by school and library organizations (PTA & Friends groups) from sales tax.
- School Library Media Specialist (S.1686Farley/A.8543Galef) The bill would require library media specialists in K-6 schools.
- BOCES Libraries Internet Partnerships (S>2082Larkin/A.6592Gunther) Authorizes BOCES to enter into contracts with public libraries or library systems to provide internet access and communication services.
- Knowledge Initiative (S2125Farley/A.7272Paulin) The bill would amend state aid formulas to libraries to make permanent the \$8 million increase in aid to library systems. It would provide \$10 million annually for Statewide Internet Library (NOVEL)

Unfortunately in this economic climate where the \$5 million that the Legislature restored to NYLA was cut by \$1.9 million (a 2% cut to aid across the board) any legislative initiative or bill that carries a price tag will not pass. On the positive side, where other programs received huge cuts in the budget, libraries fared better by having aid restored by the Legislature.

Lobby Day

Lobby Day was attended by 1000 plus librarians from across the state and many legislators came to the breakfast. I think our Virtual Lobby Day and Bring Your Child or Student to Lobby Day was effective, too. Diana W. and Ellen R. both brought their child/ students and Sue Rokos's son brought down the house during the rally by taking part in the "play" part of the speeches. Many legislators came to the rally and our big supporters Senators Farley and Saland, Assemblywoman Paulin, and City Councilman Gentile gave rousing speeches. Unfortunately current events prevented this great day from receiving much press attention. If you have not attended this event, plan on attending next year.