

TRUSTEE

LTA | LIBRARY TRUSTEES
ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK STATE

formerly known as NYSALB — New York State Association of Library Boards

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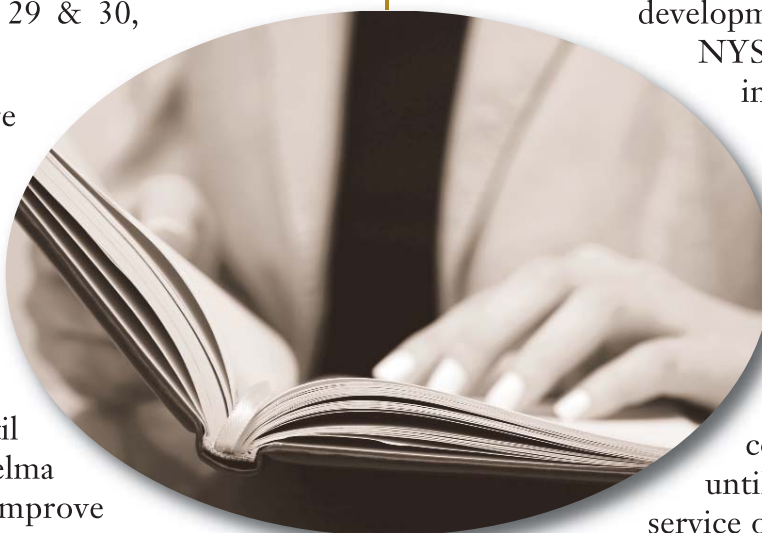
Call for Nominations for the 2011 Velma K. Moore Award | **DEADLINE:** February 15, 2011

The Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA) is seeking nominations for the Velma K. Moore Award to be presented at the Trustee Institute, April 29 & 30, 2011 in Albany, NY.

The Velma K. Moore Award was established with a gift from the Moore family in 1962 to honor the memory of Velma Moore, the wife of former NYS Lt. Governor Frank C. Moore. From 1947 until her death in 1961, Velma actively worked to improve library services in New York State. A member of LTA from its establishment, she also served two terms as its president. In addition, she served as a trustee for many years on the Kenmore Public Library.

The award, presented annually at LTA's Trustee Institute, carries a cash prize of \$750, which is given to the

recipient's library of choice. The award is granted to an individual or group of individuals who has made exemplary contributions to the development of library services in NYS. Nominees may include trustees, a community member, staff or any group of library supporters. Please note the following: current LTA directors are NOT eligible and previous LTA directors cannot be considered for the award until one year after leaving service on the LTA Board.



The official email address for nominations is:
reissig@librarytrustees.org
Please put Velma K. Moore Award in the email's subject line. Submitting nominations to any other email will not be accepted.

Criteria for evaluating nominees includes service to local, county, system or state libraries which measurably advances the effectiveness of these libraries; service in areas of legislation or other support that advances library causes; promotion services through publishing,

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News from the *State Librarian*



From the Desk of Bernard A. Margolis, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries

Oaths of Office – Is Your Board in Compliance with Public Officer’s Law?

An important reminder for library trustees and library directors is that New York State Public Officer’s Law requires public officials to take an Oath of Office and file it within a timely fashion, or the position automatically becomes **VACANT**. Many library trustees are considered to be public officials. Please make sure that the trustees on your board are taking and filing the oath of office, if they are required by law to do so.

The oath of office must be taken and filed by appointed and elected trustees of all types of PUBLIC LIBRARIES (village, town, city, county, special legislative district public and school district public libraries), and public library systems (with the exception of the three consolidated public library systems in New York City which are classified as association libraries). Association libraries are not affected.

Unsure as to whether your library is legally considered to be an association library or a public library? Here is how you can find out:

1. Visit the State Library’s website at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/index.html> .
2. Find your public library.
3. Find the abbreviation code next to the library’s name (such as ACi, PT, PSD) which indicates the type of library. The library’s charter (incorporation) paperwork and annual report also include this information.

The Oath of Office must be taken and filed with the county clerk within 30 days after commencement of the trustee’s term or the position is deemed **VACANT**. Town library trustees have the option of filing the oath with either the office of the county clerk or the town clerk.

For more details about Oaths of Office, please review the fact sheet on the State Library’s website: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/pltrust/oath.htm> If after visiting the State Library’s website, there are still questions about whether or not Public Officers Law applies to your library, please ask your library director to contact the library system director for assistance.

In these times of increased public expectations for accountability, many publicly funded institutions are under additional scrutiny. If a library board is out of compliance with Public Officers Law, this unfortunate situation could potentially place the library’s funding in jeopardy. If there is a compliance issue, the library director should contact the public library system director immediately. The library system will assist the library in working with the State Library to correct the situation as expeditiously as possible. **IA**

Oath of Office

President's Memo

By Mary Ellen O'Connor, LTA Board President

Our success is your success!

LTA had a remarkably successful year in 2010. We changed our name, revamped our newsletter, brought our Trustee Institute to Suffolk, Long Island, developed and printed a *Why Become a Library Trustee* brochure and built a new and exciting website. All of these changes happened because our Board of Directors embraced each segment with enthusiasm, creativity and, most importantly, fearlessness of change.

As we continue on our successful journey, we again invite you to join us with your comments, suggestions and feedback. Our organization exists to serve library trustees, and we listen to what you have to say. We are still developing some areas of our website but please stop by and take a look at what we've done at www.librarytrustees.org

This is going to be an extremely important year for trustees and the library community because of the worsening fiscal condition of the State. Hopefully, under new leadership we will have an opportunity to make the case for restoration of library aid cuts in the State Budget. Library aid is now under 1998 levels even though library services have dramatically increased. You can show your support and strength on **March 1st** by participating in NYLA's **Library Advocacy Day at the Legislative Office Building in Albany**. For further details keep checking NYLA's website at www.nyla.org and remember that Legislators WANT to meet with trustees.

On **April 29th and 30th** our yearly **Trustee Institute** will convene at the Crown Plaza in downtown Albany. We're having a wonderful time planning this year's event and trying to make the best choices so that you will have a memorable experience. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to gather with trustees from all parts of New York State to share information about your library and/or library system, increase



your knowledge of your governance role as a trustee and have a good time visiting the State Capital.

Our agenda and commitment to you for this year is to continue to build our website as a useful resource for you and your library. We are in the early stages of developing a statewide plan for trustee training, and will be reaching out to our members for thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Thank you for supporting our efforts with your membership and contributions. **LTA**

*With all good wishes
for a Happy New Year 2011!*

Kindle Winner!

Thanks to everyone who stopped by our table at the 2010 NYLA conference and entered our free drawing for the Amazon Kindle.

We are pleased to announce that the winner is...

Joseph J. Carroll

Mr. Carroll is President of the Board of Trustees for the Baldwin Public Library, serving his second term. He is also on the board of the Nassau Library System.

Update from *Assemblymember John Bing*

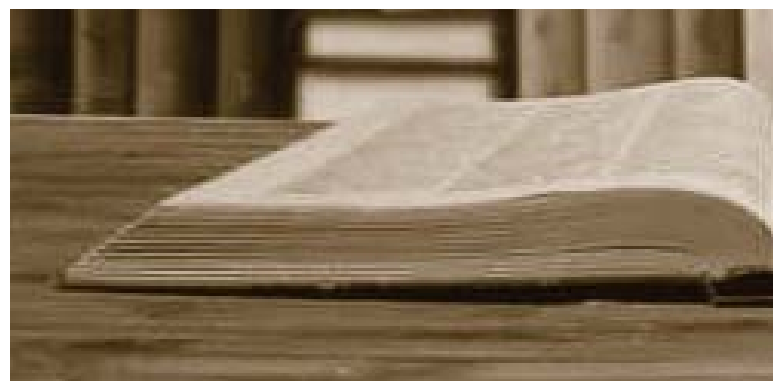
I am proud to have served as the Chair of the Assembly Libraries and Education Technology Committee since March 2010. My appointment to this position was based on a history of supporting this community, including my authorship of legislation adopted in the 2005-2006 budget which updated the state library funding formula to be based on the most recent census. This change resulted in an additional \$2.6 million in statewide library aid.

In the coming year, I will be re-introducing legislation aimed at improving New York State libraries. One measure (A. 9527 of 2010) would supplement library aid based on cost-of-living increases. This bill will allow libraries and library systems to keep pace with inflation in order to maintain and extend services for their member libraries. I also will be re-introducing legislation (A. 10412 of 2010) which would add public library systems to the definition of entities that are eligible to apply for local government efficiency grants in order to correct a loophole from the original 2008 law. In an attempt to increase access to libraries, I will be re-introducing a bill (A. 11036 of 2010) that will make it easier for students to apply and receive a library card. Finally, I plan to re-introduce legislation (A. 10884 of 2010) that will modernize the coordinated collection development aid (CCDA) formula in order to maintain the goals of quality and accessible scholarship among academic and research libraries and the public.

In addition to legislation, I will be working to ensure that libraries are not overburdened by budget cuts and service reductions. During times like these, when people are feeling the pain of economic recession, it is particularly important to keep our libraries open. Libraries across the country are currently seeing double digit increases in usage, as people rely on them for career

training, job opportunities, literacy programs, and computer skills development. In 2009, there were 40 million visits to New York libraries — the largest number of visits in twelve years. While we are facing a large budget gap, it is important that we do not make disproportionate cuts to much-needed services.

Undoubtedly, 2011 will bring a present a number of legislative and budget challenges. I look forward to working with the Library Trustee Association to realize our shared goal of improving access to New York State libraries. **ITA**



Velma K. Moore Award

Continued from cover

speaking or involvement in professional or lay library groups or organizations; service to state or national library organizations; and/or service on state study committees.

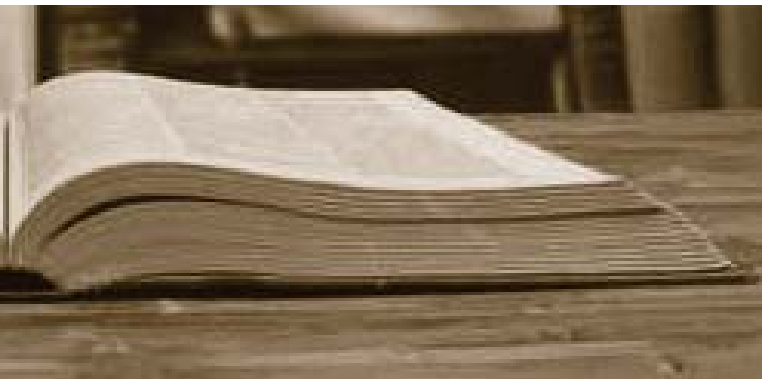
This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the efforts of someone committed to bettering library services. Nominations may be submitted by either email or mail. The official email address for nominations is: reissig@librarytrustees.org. Please put Velma K. Moore Award in the email's subject line. Submitting nominations to any other email will not be accepted. Or, you may mail nominations to: **Rita Reissig, 360**

Library Trustees Association of NYS Board of Directors to present the following three awards:

In an effort to more fully honor outstanding service given by various individuals or groups to the library community throughout New York State, LTA Board of Directors will present two additional awards to be given annually in addition to the Distinguished Service Award and the Velma K. Moore Award:

Distinguished Service Award

This award, which has been presented twice in the past will be conferred to an individual or group of people for noteworthy achievement, as evidenced by substantial activities or exceptional service to the library community. Recipient(s) will be nominated and selected on a state-wide



Castle, Geneva, NY 14456. The DEADLINE for nominations is February 1, 2011. The letter of nomination should include the following for the person nominated: name, address, telephone number, his/her library affiliation, and a statement of no more than 250 words regarding the reason for their nomination. The submitter should also include his/her name, address, telephone number, and email.

Questions regarding the award may be directed to Rita Reissig at rreissig@librarytrustees.org or by telephone 315-781-1849. **LTA**

basis by the LTA Board of Directors and the award will be presented at the annual Trustee Institute.

Outstanding Trustee Award

This award will be presented to a trustee who has shown a true understanding of his/her role as a trustee and has demonstrated unusual dedication and expertise in their role as a trustee. The award will be presented to either a currently-serving system trustee or local library trustee and nominations will be solicited from Presidents of Boards and Library systems in the geographic area in which the Trustee Institute is held each year. The recipient(s) will then be selected by the LTA Board and the award will be presented to the recipient from that geographic area at the annual Trustee Institute.

Outstanding Friends Award

This award will be presented to an individual in a FRIENDS group who has given extraordinary service as a FRIEND and to recognize his/her contribution in helping to make our libraries a vibrant, active, and essential force in our communities. Nominations will be sought from the Presidents of local and system FRIENDS organizations in the geographic area in which the Trustee Institute is held each year. The recipient(s) will then be selected by the LTA Board and the award will be presented to the recipient(s) from that geographic area at the annual Trustee Institute.

More information about submitting nominations will be sent in February of each year to the appropriate individuals in the systems in which the Trustee Institute will be held that year. For 2011, this will be the Upper Hudson Library System. We encourage you to begin considering now who you would like to nominate for these awards! **LTA**

Rita Reissig
Chair, Awards Committee
LTA Board of Directors

from the *Editor's Desk* by Adria Ripka

Welcome to a new calendar year. It seems we just got used to the change back to Eastern Standard Time and now we have wrapped up our holiday celebrations.

The last quarter of year 2010 was filled with options, decisions and changes. For many of our libraries, new trustees have come on board. It will be important for those new trustees and their libraries to pay close attention to the State Librarian article on **oaths of office** contained in this issue. None of us need to be caught unawares for not meeting that simple, yet vital, requirement of office.

Besides changes on your own board, we will all be working with newly elected officials beginning this month. I suggest you *read your library's, and your system's, annual report for 2010*. I have been an active trustee for 10+ years, but I still need a good, concise refresher on my library's accomplishments each year. Being familiar with your current programs and various statistics will bolster your ability to communicate well on library issues. **Be sure to share at least a summary with local and regional elected officials.** Newly elected officials will be swamped with information. A good summary can help them get a handle on your needs. At a luncheon meeting in December, I met the legislative aide for an outgoing official. This young man suggested we help legislative aides understand the value of library services, not only to their constituents, *but to the aides themselves*. When they need to research a topic, our



libraries should be in the front of their minds as a resource for *them*.

The library community benefited from the Fall 2010 New York Library Association (NYLA) annual conference during November 2010. LTA was part of the scene with an information table and as co-sponsor of presentations of particular importance to library trustees. LTA also held a drawing for a Kindle. One of the workshops sponsored by LTA was the **"2020: What's Your Vision for Library Services in New York State."** If you weren't able to attend the conference, or couldn't attend the visioning workshop, materials are available now at the NYLA website. Go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advicns/rac/2020.htm>. The focus of the session is updating the statewide plan for library services. Every library's input is vital and your thoughts are encouraged.

I hope you will enjoy learning about each of the library systems in our great State by reading this, and future, editions of the *Trustee*. The more we learn about each other, the better we can understand the bigger picture of library concerns. If you want a visual breakdown of library systems in New York State, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libs/publibs/1pls.htm>.

I'll close with good wishes for success in your personal, professional and library goals in 2011. Let's remember to work together to keep libraries and library services valued in our communities. **ITA**



Save the Date

Trustee Institute

Crown Plaza Hotel, Albany

April 29-30, 2011

(check our website in March
for the agenda and more details)

system overview

The Westchester Library System by System Director Terry Kirchner

The Westchester Library System (WLS) is a cooperative public library system providing services to 38 libraries located in 44 physical locations throughout Westchester County. With a population of almost 960,000 individuals, Westchester County encompasses a wide range of socio-economic, ethnic and age characteristics:

- 9.9% of family incomes are \$24,999 or less, placing many below poverty levels
- 22 % of family incomes are \$200,000 or more
- 19.5% of all residents self-identify as Hispanic or Latino
- 15.7 % of all residents self-identify as Black or African-American
- 23.9% of residents are younger than 18 years of age, and
- 26.3% of residents are 55 years of age or older.

WLS identifies opportunities to assist populations in need and works with member libraries and other community partners to locate or create the needed resources and services.

In Westchester County, 32% of all 8th grade students failed to meet proficiency on their most recent state mandated math tests. Through the Mixing in Math program, WLS provides children's librarians with the skills and materials they need to promote math literacy activities for youth aged 5-12. These activities help children be better prepared to succeed in the school classroom and in the future job market.

Individuals without a high school degree or GED earn on average \$385,000 less over their lifetime than their peers who have a diploma¹. In Westchester County, 12.8% of Westchester

County residents over age 18 do not have a high school diploma or a GED. Since there are only a few GED instructional programs available in Westchester, WLS staff developed a web tutorial portal and a printed handbook to help adults study for and pass the GED. This portal and handbook showcase free resources and services available onsite at the member libraries or online for library cardholders.

The 7% unemployment rate in Westchester County indicates that approximately 34,000 individuals at any given time are actively seeking employment. The Career & Educational Counseling Services works closely with participating member libraries to help individuals manage their careers, redefine their career options and strengthen their job searching skills. Many of the seminars offered have been geared to individuals aged 50 or older who have recently found themselves unemployed and unprepared for the new employment landscape.

WLS has partnered with local agencies and member libraries to support Senior Benefits Information Centers. These centers help older adults and their caregivers understand benefits and services that will allow them to live more independent, healthy lives in Westchester County, even on a limited budget. Many areas of assistance are offered including:

- Medicare health and prescription plans
- Nutrition assistance, and the
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

These are challenging times for WLS and with challenges come new opportunities. WLS will explore these new opportunities and still remain true to our mission of helping libraries to successfully engage with all members of their communities. **IA**

TRUSTEE

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2010 Onondaga County Trustee of the Year

The members of the Onondaga County Public Library (OCPL) Advisory Council named Elizabeth (Betsy) Weinstein Shahan as the 2010 OCPL Trustee of the Year. The announcement was made at the Advisory Council's October meeting. Adria Ripka, Vice President of the OCPL Advisory Council, presented the award to Ms. Weinstein at the Tully Free Library board meeting in November.

Ms. Weinstein was recognized for her many contributions during her seven years on the Tully Free Library Board. After joining the board in 2004, Betsy served on the Capital Campaign committee with a goal of raising \$450,000.00. She became the official wordsmith for the library's renovation project contributing articles to local newspapers and creating brochures for outreach to educate the community on the library's goals. An accomplished writer, Betsy also has taken on the herculean task of grant writing. Her grant efforts have resulted in support for the capital campaign, follow up projects and facility upgrades. Betsy has also served as vice president and is presently secretary of the Tully Free Library Board.

Both Betsy and the library received a plaque recognizing her accomplishments as well as a check for \$250.00 that will be used to buy library materials of her choice. Congratulations, Betsy! **ITA**



Tully trustee (left) receives her award and check