The Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA) was chartered by the Board of Regents over 35 years ago. LTA is governed by a board of up to 23 members, each of whom is a library trustee representing a library system.

In New York State there are 7,000 library and library system trustees who are responsible for governing 755 local and public libraries and 23 library systems with 1,100 facilities.

Your LTA board is always interested in recruiting directors from systems who do not presently have a representative on the LTA Board. If your system does not have a representative, we hope you’ll consider becoming a part of this vital trustee organization.
Q. Is there a “standard procedure” to be followed by a library board in regard to limitation of the number of years an incumbent board member may serve as chair or as an officer of the board?

A. Since there are 750 association or public libraries in New York State, it cannot be confirmed that there is any “standard procedure” followed by a majority of those library boards in regard to the question.

However, there is no statutory mandate which limits in any way the number years a library board member may serve as an officer of a board. Thus, unless a library board has previously adopted a by-law which provides for a limitation, such as the number of years or terms an officer of the board may serve in a specific capacity, it is within the discretion of a majority of the board, acting at a public meeting convened in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law (OML), to either appoint or elect a new chair/president or any other board officer at a time and by the method indicated in the library’s by-laws.

If a library board has a set of by-laws, the procedure for nominating officers for election to the chairmanship/presidency or any other office should be followed. If a majority of the Board deems that particular by-law not to be suitable, it can be amended following the procedure in the by-laws which spells out notice which must be given to the board members indicating that a change in the procedure will be scheduled for a vote, and when (time, date, text).

It is suggested that consideration should be given to whether it is more important

1. to replace the present chair/president or other officer, in order to provide another board member with the experience of being in that position?; or

2. all things being equal, if the current board chair to be doing a good job, re-elect the current incumbent with the proviso that it is important to provide opportunity for the vice-chair/president to be given some opportunity not just to preside at board meetings, but to participate with the chair/president and the library director in the preparation of the agenda which will list what is to be discussed at each Board meeting?

3. such joint participation in the preparation of the agenda is important, leading to more informed and productive discussions at board meetings, as well as providing some insight and experience to another board member which would prove valuable in the future when necessity would dictate the election of new chair/president, or provide another board officer with insight into the duties to be performed by a board member who is elected to replace him/her.
With the start of a new legislative session, it’s a good time to discuss why advocacy is important. Simply put, advocacy is sharing your story. Libraries have many wonderful stories to share, but the most important one is that libraries of every type - public, school, academic and special - are relevant. In fact, libraries are more important than ever. Libraries of today are so much more than a repository of books, but not everyone realizes this. I encourage library trustees and staff to be proactive and share all the extraordinary things happening in your libraries that make your local community thrive!

New York libraries are making a difference in the communities they serve every single day. It is important to be vocal and tell others – at the local, state, and federal level – about the wonderful materials, programs and services your library offers. Advocacy stories vary by library - using a 3D printer to create a tool for a farmer to fix his farm implement, providing online resources and homework support for students of all ages, promoting early literacy to children and families, assisting with workforce development through resume creation and online applications, and so much more.

Informal advocacy opportunities present themselves to trustees all the time. You are probably engaged in informal advocacy without even realizing it. Your expert staff are doing the same - sharing information via social media, reader’s advisory or reference help, guiding library customers in using new technologies, or reaching out to the community at local parks, farmers markets or other community events. These are all informal opportunities to show the value of your library. You may look at these activities as outreach or community-building – and it is. But these opportunities also provide you the chance to advocate on behalf of your library.

Formal advocacy may include working with your public library system, the New York Library Association and/or the Library Trustees Association of New York State in contacting legislators about library funding or a bill that impacts libraries, at both the state and federal levels. It might also include giving a “State of the Library” report to your village, town, city or county government, to local voters or to another funding partner. (See the new edition of Helpful Information for Meeting Minimum Public Library Standards for some good tips on developing effective reports to the community: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/helpful/index.html).

Trustees and library staff often have opportunities to present to a community group such as your local Rotary, Kiwanis, or the Chamber of Commerce. I encourage you to take any and all opportunities to tell your library’s story and build your advocacy muscles. Find the library champions in your community, and if there are none, create them. Your library system can help you with expert advice, training and support. I wish you a Happy New Year – a year filled with lots of great opportunities to tell your stories and advocate for your library, library system, and libraries across New York State!
The Library Trustees Association of New York State is in a period of transition. We have a new Executive Director, a new website, and a new board members joining while other board terms are ending. In this period of change, we are looking for feedback from you, the membership, about another possible change. The discussion we are having centers around how to offer trustees the best possible services we can provide.

In these discussions, one proposal that has been entertained is some sort of partnership with the New York Library Association. There are different degrees of affiliation that we would like your input on.

- All options would include the LTA board maintaining complete control over its activities, board composition, bylaws, and the content of its communications.
- In no option would the LTA cease cooperating and working with NYLA to further the interests of the library community.

The following options are summaries of the ones NYLA has presented to us. Please read the following and give a score on a scale of 1 to 10 as to how strongly you feel your LTA should pursue that option, with 1 being not at all and 10 being absolutely, definitely the way to go.

1. Maintain the current, independent relationship with no changes.

2. Maintain the current relationship with NYLA providing administrative support services on a fee for service model.

3. Have LTA become a ‘section’ of NYLA. NYLA would assume majority administrative support of the LTA and the LTA would operate under the bylaws of both organizations. The exact details of how memberships in the LTA would be acquired has yet to be determined.

To return this questionnaire, please either complete it online at

http://librarytrustees.org/ltawnyla-partnership-survey/

or mail it to:

Library Trustees Association
PO Box 11048
Albany, NY 12211 LTA
Happy New Year, LTA members and supporters. Despite challenging weather, I hope your year has gotten off to a good start.

We’ve all had a month or more to recover from our busy holidays. I know many libraries have long had plans for upcoming school breaks with their youth programs. Your LTA and NYLA have been busy, too, with opportunities for you to be active in learning and representing your library.

First is LTA’s survey of members regarding our exploration of becoming a section of NYLA instead of remaining an independent trustee organization. You’ll find our survey in this edition and I can’t ask you passionately enough to please share your thoughts on this option. We are a member organization. That means your voice is important in how LTA proceeds. Besides responding using paper and pen, an online option is also available. The LTA Board of directors will be reviewing your responses at our March 23 board meeting in Albany.

Next is NYLA’s annual Library Advocacy Day on February 27. We hope this issue reminds you to be a part of the event in Albany. See more about that important date in this edition. Jeremy Johannesen provided an excellent article on NYLA’s legislative update in our December edition. If traveling isn’t in your plans, please take time to contact your local representatives on your own to keep library funding on their front burner. Use Jeremy’s guide to help you clarify the issues important to libraries across the state.

Also, on the front, the Department of Library Development has made the updated Minimum Standards available to you on their website. It can be accessed at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/helpful.htm. As it says on that page, “The current standards will expire on December 31, 2020, and all “new” updated standards will take effect as of January 1, 2021.” You’ll see amendments to existing standards and three new standards. There is plenty of time to review these details before the expiration date of the current requirements.

Another topic that will involve libraries is the upcoming 2020 US Census. Because this census will be an online census, libraries will have an important role in gathering information because many patrons do not have online access in their homes. Your director and staff will be getting clearer direction as the year progresses. LTA will keep you informed as we learn more.

Lastly, LTA is in the planning stages for a regional trustee workshop on April 27, 2019. We have held very successful regional workshops over the past two years in Batavia, Binghamton, Long Island, and Corning. We want to give our members and supporters in the eastern part of the state a chance to benefit from a session tentatively in the Utica area. More details will be available in March. If you have a topic you would like to see in one of the workshops, please let me know soon.

You will see more information in this issue on a variety of topics. As always, share your thoughts with us.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Adria
NYLA’s Library Advocacy Day
WEDNESDAY, February 27, 2019

Each year library advocates from across New York State converge on Albany to voice their support for funding and policies that benefit libraries.

Together our efforts have resulted in over $17M in additional library aid since 2011.

Summary of Event
Most activities will take place in the Legislative Office Building (LOB). The LOB is most easily accessed from the Concourse, or through the Capitol Building. Prepare for airport-like security while entering the building. NYLA ‘Base Camp’ will be available in LOB120 beginning at 8:00AM for packet pick-up and sign-in.

Advocacy Day Packets
Materials are distributed to Library Advocacy Day attendees to use in their meetings with legislators and staff and can be picked up in room 120 of the Legislative Office Building.

READ Posters
Members of the Legislature have been invited to have their photographs taken for READ posters between 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. (Invite your representative to have their photo taken for a READ poster!)

The Rally for Library Advocates 12:00 PM
Gather in the “Well” of the LOB at 12:00 PM for a Library Advocate’s Rally!
Join fellow Library Advocates and plan to make your voices heard!

Legislative Office Visits
Meetings with individual Legislators (or their office) are coordinated by library systems, or regional coordinators. NYLA will have a listing of all the legislative office visits that we have been made aware of at the NYLA Base Camp (LOB120).

Security Information
Please plan for airport-like security measures in place in the New York State Capitol, the Legislative Office Building and its surrounding buildings. Please be prepared to pass through a metal detector and have your belongings go through an X-ray machine to enter.

All adults (16+) must show a photo ID to enter - it is recommended that attendees carry a photo ID at all times.

In addition, items that are sharp or may be construed as weapons are not allowed in any of the Empire State Plaza buildings (including “sticks” attached to Rally signs). Due to the security measures and the number of people expected in Albany that day, please leave yourself plenty of time to through security before meetings with legislators.

LET’S GO TO ALBANY
NYLA Advocacy Day
Wednesday, February 27
2019
LTA Library Membership Invoice

Library Name: ____________________________________________________________

Library System: __________________________________________________________

Director’s Name: _________________________________________________________

Library Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ___________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________________________

Facebook URL: __________________________________________________________

Website URL: ____________________________________________________________

Your library’s budget is: _________________________________________________

Total population served by your library is: _________________________________

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

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Your membership dues are (based on budget and scale above): $ __________________________

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

WHEN MAILING YOUR REGISTRATION, PLEASE:

1. update your trustee or library’s name and contact information
2. mail a check for your library’s membership to: PO Box 11048; Albany, NY 12211
3. include up-to-date e-mail addresses

(Reminder: all contact information shared with LTA is kept confidential and is used only to share news and resources.)

If you have any questions, please contact John McCarthy, Executive Director, at jmccarthy@librarytrustees.org

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LTA, formerly NYSALB, has been supporting NYS library trustees since 1949, and is the only state chartered organization for NYS trustees.
LTA welcomes these sponsors to our offerings!

COOL INSURING AGENCY, INC.

New Benefit for LTA Members!
Discounted Group Insurance Program
Buying insurance as a group allows members of all sizes to enjoy the same level of tailored coverage along with highly discounted rates that would likely not be available to an individual library.

Contact Colleen Parmelee, Program Director at: cmparmelee@coolins.com or (518) 698-9033.

THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE HAS BEGUN! PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW TODAY

Keep these dates on your calendar so you don’t miss an opportunity to connect in 2019.

LTA board of directors meeting in Albany, March 22-23, 2019
Tentative regional workshop in the Utica area, April 27, 2019

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