

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the School Librarians Association of Western New York, we are delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you. As we embark on this new iteration of SLAWNY, it is with optimism and curiosity that we move forward as an organization.

In recognizing the unique challenges we've faced in the wake of the pandemic, we appreciate the incredible demands placed on educators in this post(ish)-COVID world. The increased responsibilities have, at times, made it challenging for us to maintain the vibrant community we once had. However, we firmly believe that in times of uncertainty, we can lean on each other for support, inspiration, and collaborative strength. By joining the School Librarians' Association of Western New York, you have become an integral part of a network that values professional growth and the collective pursuit of excellence in school librarianship. Your unique perspectives and experiences will undoubtedly enrich our association, and we eagerly anticipate the contributions each of you will make.

One change you can expect with the “new” SLAWNY is more opportunities for members to share their skills with each other. Instead of having one large conference that is expensive and almost prohibitively daunting to plan, we will be having smaller whole group events paired with general membership meetings and focusing on building up our smaller network meetings and book clubs again.

One challenge we have faced over the past few years is re-visiting our status as an organization. We are grateful for the support that WNYLRC has provided and we will continue to partner with them until we are able to become our own non-profit entity. This will allow us to control our own membership fees and organizational structure while still being recognized by NYLA.

Don't forget to apply for one of our mini-grants! Typically these grants are funded up to about \$250.00. [Click HERE](#) to apply by January 15th!

And last but not least, we hope to see you at our general membership/ winter sharing meeting on January 20th. See the [attached flier](#) for more information. [Click HERE to register.](#)

To stay informed about upcoming events, resources, and opportunities, please visit our website: slawnywebsite.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.

Once again, welcome to the School Librarians Association of Western New York. We look forward to a year of growth, learning, and collaboration as we work together to enhance the educational experience for our students and communities.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out to anyone on the leadership team.

Sincerely,

Katie LaFever

Laura Penn

Dan Gattuso

Paul Kloster

Stephanie DeVaney

Megan Moelbert

School Librarians Association of Western New York