

# Executive Director's Report

Kim Bolan, Executive Director  
January 2026

## Highlights

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My second round of member library visits happened December 1, 2025 through January 5, 2026. I was pleased to get through as many as I did, especially because of the holiday scheduling challenges. As I continue these visits, my conversations with the directors and board members continue to help me understand our member libraries and gather valuable input about their needs.

- Fort Edward Free Library
- Crandall Public Library
- Waterford Public Library
- Town of Malta Library and Round Lake Library
- Ballston Community Public Library
- Argyle Free Library
- Hudson Falls Free Library
- Richards Library (Warrensburg)

In December, I began work with Capital CFO+ on the compensation study for all SALS employees. We have made good progress in a short period of time and, if all goes as planned, they will present their report at the February board meeting.

The Trustee Handbook Book Club is entering its 6th consecutive year of programming in 2026. There will be a book club meeting every month except July and August, alternating between the new directors' handbook and the trustee handbook. Currently the directors' handbook is only available in PDF format. Directors should contact me if they need a copy. As soon as it's publicly posted, I will let everyone know. There are no plans currently to print these in bulk with the intention that all the systems will locally print copies, as needed.

## Member Support

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### Access to Collections – Polaris & Vega

Jill Ryder, Sharon O'Brien, Jason Thomson, and Michele Largeteau continued working with Clarivate staff to find a configuration for [Vega Discover](#) (our new ILS discovery layer / patron interface) that will accurately provide access to our eContent for our patrons. On November 20, 2025, a virtual JA Operations meeting was held to discuss decisions and status of this project. Next, our team met with Clarivate staff on December 8, 2025 to discuss next steps. *Note: Clarivate has not charged us for Vega Discover because we have not yet implemented the product.*

## Service to Special Client Groups

*Adult Literacy, Youth Services & Early Literacy, Coordinated Outreach, Correctional Facilities*

**Farm-to-Library:** The Women's Round Lake Improvement Society was awarded \$50,000 from the Gioia Foundation to add three new libraries to the program. Ballston Spa Public Library, Round Lake-Malta Branch, and Saratoga Springs Public Library will join the program in late January 2026. The funding will be used to purchase equipment for the participating libraries and to support Comfort Food Community in supplying fresh food to all three locations. The libraries will be meeting with Comfort Food Community on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to tour their facility and discuss the onboarding process.

## Professional Development

We have two new Notary Publics at the Schuylerville Public Library as well as one person from Crandall Library taking the course through SUNY Adirondack this spring semester.

The Adult Program Swap held on January 14, 2026 focused on serving patrons with dementia.

Two 2026 Summer Reading Program workshops have been scheduled. The children's workshop will take place on Monday, February 9 and the Teen Workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 11.

## The Joint Automation Project

The Joint Automation Project Manager search is moving forward. Applicant pre-screen interviews were held by myself and Eric Trahan on December 15 and 16. The three finalists will be interviewed at SALS on January 21 and 22, 2026.

The Joint Automation Council met on November 12, 2025, at SALS. Meeting dates for 2026 were set for January 14 at MVLS, March 11 at SALS, May 13 at MVLS, July 15 at SALS, September 9 at MVLS, and November 18 at SALS. Trevor Oakley (SAR) and Terry Pavoldi (MID) will be reappointed to the JA Council for the term of 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2028.

The annual JA Fees meeting was held at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library on December 10, 2025. The recommendations for 2027 JA Fees were discussed and then go to the JA Council on January 14, 2026 during their regular meeting.

Work to move SALS and member library websites hosted by JA to an updated GoDaddy server is underway. The impetus for this change is to maintain supported operating system software and hardware resources to improve site performance.

Routers, at most member libraries, will be replaced with updated hardware over the next few months. Chris Mundell will be coordinating this effort.

Dave MacFarland and Michele Largeateau met with Pamela DelSignore to review member library software renewal and billing procedures.

JA staff implemented their first Cassie SPOT, a wireless printing solution for patrons, at Schuylerville Public Library,

## Construction

The 2024-2025 State Aid for Library Construction was announced on December 23, 2025. A summary of the SALS libraries receiving funding is included below.

Library Name	Award Amount	County Name	Address	Library System	Description	Project Year	Assembly District	Senate District
Caldwell-Lake George Library	\$37,068.00	Warren	336 Canada Street, Lake George NY 12845	Southern Adirondack Library System	Main and Lower Level interior renovations for rest room accessibility improvements at the Caldwell-Lake George Library.	2025	114	45
Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library	\$124,072.00	Saratoga	475 Moe Road, Clifton Park NY 12065	Southern Adirondack Library System	Install new asphalt, new sidewalk curb cut, and crosswalk markings, creating a safer and more accessible parking lot and sidewalks.	2025	112	44
Easton Library	\$506,221.00	Washington	1074 State Route 40, Greenwich NY 12834	Southern Adirondack Library System	Expansion of the existing Library adding a handicap accessible entry vestibule, staff office, Children's Library Space and Local History/Study Room.	2025	107	43
Greenwich Free Library	\$70,249.00	Washington	148 Main Street, Greenwich NY 12834	Southern Adirondack Library System	Create collection space in the basement, replace ceilings and lighting fixtures with LED lighting to increase services and sustainability.	2025	113	43
Saratoga Springs Public Library	\$464,175.00	Saratoga	49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs NY 12866	Southern Adirondack Library System	The project will upgrade an elevator that has reached the end of its useful life in order to ensure accessibility and safety, and conserve energy.	2025	113	44
Southern Adirondack Library System	\$49,617.00	Saratoga	22 Whitney Place, Saratoga Springs NY 12866	Southern Adirondack Library System	Install new subbase and asphalt, and increase handicapped accessible parking spots due to removing current asphalt and subbase.	2025	113	44

## Advocacy

2025-26 Special Legislative Project Grants from the Assembly were announced on December 4, 2025. These specific funds are additional payments above the amount received in regular library aid. SALS libraries to receive this grant-in-aid funding include:

LIBRARY	AMOUNT	SPONSOR
BALLSTON COMMUNITY PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$30,000	WALSH
BALLSTON SPA PUBLIC LIBRARY	\$30,000	WALSH
CALDWELL-LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY	\$40,000	SIMPSON
CORINTH FREE LIBRARY	\$20,000	SIMPSON
SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$40,000	WOERNER
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	

The SALS Advocacy Committee met on December 4, 2025 and again on January 7, 2026. Jack Scott, Lisa Christopher, and I are working with this group to support planning for [2026 Library Advocacy Day](#) to be held in Albany on February 3, 2026.

## State-wide Engagement

At their December meeting, the New York State Board of Regents appointed Jack Scott to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries for five-year terms beginning December 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2030. The Regents Advisory Council on Libraries works with the officers of the State Education Department in developing comprehensive statewide library and information policy and makes recommendations to the Regents concerning the implementation of the program. The Council is broadly representative of libraries and statewide constituencies served by the New York State Library. For more information about the Regents Advisory Council, visit the [State Library's website](#).

I attended the [NYALS](#) (New York Alliance of Library Systems) meeting on December 9, 2025, PULISDO meetings on December 9, 2025 and January 13, 2026, the PLS Directors meeting on December 18, 2025, and the CDLC board meeting on December 19, 2025.

Also, on January 9, I met with Lauren Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, and several of her staff with the Division of Library Development (DLD) at the Cultural Education Center in Albany. This was part of my new System Director onboarding training.

## Community Engagement

I attended the Saratoga Writers Center Collective meeting on December 5, 2025 and met with the co-founders of [Saratoga Children's Literacy League](#) on December 31 and again with the entire board on January 7, 2026. SCLL is a non-profit organization serving children of Saratoga County by providing them with free books regardless of income level.

## Member Library Spotlight

Celebrating the successes of our 34 member libraries.

Congratulations to **Bolton Free Library's** Director Megan Baker who retired at the end of December after an amazing 44-year tenure. I was pleased to attend the Open House on December 30 to help celebrate and congratulate Megan. The library also took part in a wildlife and literacy program at Bolton Central School. Every student in 2nd-5th grade received a wildlife themed book (paid for by grants), and the students enjoyed a program by a wildlife rehabilitator.

Director of the **Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library** Alex Gutelius shared that almost 400 people attended the library's Happy Noon Year program. The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library holds an annual program on December 31st called Happy Noon Year. "Join us for a craft, story, and a noisy New Year countdown to a dance party. It's all of the fun with none of the yawning!"

Katrena Cohea, Director of the **Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library**, shared that their library also hosted a Noon Year's Eve Party for families to celebrate the New Year without staying up until midnight, and it was a huge success!



Bolton Free Library Wildlife & Literacy Program



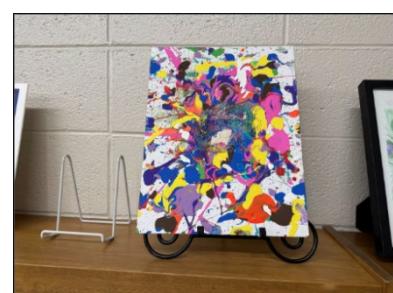
Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library



Caitlin Johnson, Director of **Schuylerville Public Library**, shared that their library hosted their second Homeschool Art Show on December 29<sup>th</sup>, and "we received excellent feedback and participation" with 29 children entering pieces of artwork. "The artwork was all very impressive, and the kids were very proud to get to showcase their work for their friends and families."



Schuylerville Public Library



Marion Allan, Director of **Rockwell Falls Public Library**, shared that Rockwell Falls hosted "our second annual Sweets with Santa. Santa came to the library for 2 hours. Patrons could have their photo taken with Santa. We have multiple holiday crafts including making a magnetic frame for their photo. Christmas cookies and cocoa are served as well. This is a fun, festive family activity that is hopefully becoming a tradition."

Jennifer DeCarlo, Director of **Easton Library**, shared that Easton Library also had several holiday programs, including the Annual Friends of Easton Library Tree Trimming/St. Nicholas Day Party. The Tri-County Literacy Group also meets at the library on Tuesday evenings. Easton Library was also awarded \$506,221 for Addition to the Easton Library for their FY24-25 State Aid for Library Construction.

**Galway Public Library** started a new service, a monthlong wrapping station for community members to wrap gifts using donated wrapping paper, bows, etc.

The **Round Lake Library and Malta Library** held their annual Gingerbread House family program for the 11<sup>th</sup> year, with over 130 participants in two sessions, a huge number!

The **Corinth Free Library** has started a painting workshop in conjunction with 124 Main St. as part of Corinth Free Library does the Big Read.

The **Waterford Public Library** has started a new partnership with the Waterford Wesleyan Church so that the church can utilize their event space for programming from time to time as the library does not have any designated meeting space. This will help offer morning and afternoon programming for Waterford Public Library's patrons, without taking over the whole library.

The **Johnsbury Free Library** was featured in [The Sun Community News](#) for the support and services they provide to the North Country community, highlighting their regular programming such as Family Movie Night, Trivia Night, and Sound Bath Meditation.



Rockwell Falls Public Library



Round Lake Library and Malta Library

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Bolan, Executive Director