



Executive Director's Report

November 2025

Kim Bolan, Executive Director

Executive Director Highlights

As part of my onboarding, I visited Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library on November 4. I received a warm welcome from Alex Gutelius, Director, and Assistant Directors Jim Foster and Rebecca Verhayden. I was also happy to meet and talk with several other staff members. Lisa Christopher is working with me to schedule the remainder of the member library visits so I can keep on track to see everyone before the end of 2025.

Pamela DelSignore and I continue working with Priority One Payroll, based in Malta (NY), to transition SALS' payroll, timecard, and accruals processes to a paperless online system with the goals of streamlining these processes for all SALS' staff, increasing efficiency, and simplifying reporting.

I attended my first Capital District Library Council Board meeting on October 17. The primary order of business was CDLC's Plan of Service and next steps for the upcoming survey and member forums. [Forums](#) will be facilitated by CDLC Board members throughout the month of November. These sessions are designed to help CDLC listen to its members, learn from their experiences, and strengthen connections across the community. All library staff from all library types are encouraged to join. I sent an email to our member directors in early November encouraging them to register for a session and share their thoughts.

At this time, DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) has not yet announced the 2025 State Aid for Library Construction funding. In 2024, the announcement was made on October 1.

Member Support

I, along with Jill Ryder, Jack Scott, Pamela DelSignore, and Michele Largeteau, attended the SALS Directors Council meeting on 10/21. Faith St. John, the Director of the Argyle Free Library, was nominated to be the next Council Chair. The vote to officially accept her nomination will be held at the next Directors Council meeting. I will be working with Faith after the vote to discuss the Council moving forward, including having her report at SALS Board of Trustees meetings in 2026. And a huge thank you to Deb Flint, Galway Public Library's Director, for her past leadership with this group.

Collections

Jill Ryder continues to work with our members on alternative solutions to procuring books after last month's announcement that Baker & Taylor (B&T) would close their doors by the end of 2025. Many members have opted to establish accounts with Ingram, but the process is slow due to the number of libraries across the U.S. and beyond requesting new accounts. Jill met with sales representatives from Brodart and Amazon to learn what services they can provide. Brodart is a smaller company and has put restrictions in place to limit new customers at this time to only those with \$150,000 or greater book budgets. This eliminates most SALS' members from eligibility for Brodart accounts. Amazon is taking book orders from libraries with Amazon Business accounts; however, they do not offer electronic ordering through Polaris, catalog records, or book processing (i.e., providing book covers, spine labels, barcoding) at this time.

Access to Collections - Polaris & Vega

Michele Largeau, Jason Thomson, Jill Ryder, and Sharon O'Brien (MVLS) continued their work with Clarivate/Innovative to configure and test Vega Discover. There continues to be challenges with Vega Discover and SALS' eContent. Clarivate offered a few configuration options, but currently none achieve the desired results for patrons and staff, as per our team. An in-person JA Operations Committee meeting was held on October 29 at SALS to show the progress on this topic, discuss differences and decisions, and determine next steps. The committee asked for time to test the current configuration before making decisions.

Service to Special Client Groups

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

Farm-2-Library

We are working toward onboarding three additional libraries to the Farm-2-Library program: Ballston Spa, Malta, and Saratoga Springs. An updated grant application was submitted on October 31. Thank you to Jennifer Hurd, Director of the Round Lake Library & Malta Branch, and the Women's Round Lake Improvement Society for their support in this endeavor.

Big Read

Mary Roach joined us on October 8 to discuss her novel *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*. Ninety-four people viewed the webinar live, either on their own device or at viewing parties hosted by participating member libraries. The video recording was available to member libraries and the public on SALS' YouTube page until November 9.

Summer Reading 2025

This year's Summer Reading Program—Color Our World— presented an increase in participation, with data exceeding pre-pandemic numbers. However, it's difficult to accurately compare the total amount of reading to previous years since participants tracked their progress in different ways, including by books, by minutes read, and by pages read. For additional details, see Jack Scott's [2025 Summer Reading Report](#).

Professional Development

Path-2-Belonging

We held two virtual sessions on September 17 (27 attendees) and October 21 (28 attendees). Feedback from both webinars was positive with several comments asking for a longer webinar.

GOAT 2025

On October 22 we held SALS' annual "Greatest of All Time Teen Services Meetup" at East Greenbush. The day is a collaboration between MVLS, SALS, and UHLS. We had 26 people attend from NY, MA, and VT. It was a great day of learning and networking. Special guest speaker Dr. Kristine Gloria held a discussion on teens, mental health, and AI. Teen librarians had the chance to meet with their peers, build relationships, share program ideas, and leave the day with actionable items.

Adult Program Swap

The Adult Program Swap was held on October 28 in collaboration with NYS and UHLS. Sixty attendees joined the session which focused on inclusive adult programs.

The Joint Automation Project

Work continued on the new JA Agreement between SALS and MVLS. Additional information will be available in December and January.

I finished the job posting and job description for the Joint Automation Project Manager and posted it via NYLA, CDLC, NYLINE, on my LinkedIn page as well as on the SALS, MVLS, and JA websites. Applications are due to me by November 23, 2025, at 11:59 pm. The plan is for me to compile the applications and distribute them along with a review matrix to the review committee in early December.

JA staff began processing the final 2025 group PC order for member libraries.

Chris Mundell, Dave MacFarland and Jim Baker have made site visits to Amsterdam Free Library, Ballston Community Library, Bancroft Public Library, Cambridge Public Library, Galway Public Library, Horicon Free Public Library, Mechanicville District Public Library, Round Lake Library, Round Lake Library Malta branch and Town of Indian Lake Public Library.

Michele Largeau and Jim Baker visited the Canajoharie Library for new director training.

Chris Mundell, Jason Thomson, Dave MacFarland and Jim Baker have been working on many projects including working with Clarivate and Overdrive to resolve an issue with Mohawk Valley Library Systems eMagazine records, providing security camera installation information to Gloversville Public Library, installing a new virtual server to get our firewall and VPN software fully updated, investigating and implementing a solution to a recent Cassie public computer printing issue that was caused by a recent Microsoft Windows update, assisting Saratoga Springs Public Library to allow new credit card terminals on the network and assisting Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library to deploy new self-check units.

The next Joint Automation Council meeting will be on November 12 at SALS at 9:30 a.m. The annual JA Fees meeting is on December 10 at Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library at 9:30 a.m.

Advocacy

State-wide Engagement

I attended the 2025 NYLA Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs on November 5 and 6. In addition to general networking and meetings with colleagues, I attended a continuing education session on building projects and NYS, a PULISDO meeting, and a NYALS meeting. Work on eBooks Licensing Reform is continuing as is NYLA's support of Governor Hochul signing the Freedom to Read Act (S.1099 - May/A.7777 - Simone) into law before the end of 2025. I continue to engage with my colleagues across the state to become more informed about 2026 and 2027 NYS priorities.

Community Engagement

I was invited to help lead a new initiative - the Saratoga Writers Center (SWC). The Center will offer opportunities for learning and enjoyment, through workshops, classes, guest speakers, literary events, publications, collaborations, and partnerships. Initially, it will be a quiet space for writers to write, and for writing groups to meet. I will be part of a Collective, a group of people involved in promoting literature in our community that will guide the development of the SWC. Other members of the Collective, to date, include Theresa Dickinson (Saratoga Arts), Jay Rogoff (Saratoga's Poet Laureate), Carol Graser (Cafe Lena), Elaine Handley (poet), Lale Davidson (author, poet, ACC professor), and Mark Mayer (Skidmore professor). The first meeting of the Collective is scheduled for early December.

Member Library Spotlight

Celebrating the successes of our 34 member libraries.

Crandall Public Library's Director Kathy Naftaly announced the 2026 Crandall Public Library budget passed on all three of their municipalities. She credited, "their astute voters and the hard work, dedication, prime customer service, and general awesomeness of our staff and volunteers."

Sarah Murphy, Director of the Greenwich Public Library, presented at two events in October - NYSL's *Libraries Transforming Communities: Enhancing Accessibility for People with Disabilities in Small and Rural Libraries* and the Adult Program Swap for SALS, UHLS, and NYSL.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) awarded nearly \$15,000 to The Richards Library in Warrensburg to fund the restoration of the historic building's chimney in hopes the restoration will help ensure this "important public community space remains available for years to come."



The Saratoga Springs Public Library celebrated its 75th anniversary on October 24.

<https://saratogaliving.com/the-saratoga-springs-public-librarys-75th-anniversary-diamond-jubilee/>

Library Director Katrena Cohea created a social media blitz around the Lake Pleasant Public Library's "Winter Coat and Backpack Full of Books" programs while also promoting childhood development. See images below. The library is also trying something new. It's offering "Try It" kits for loan to the public. The kits enable patrons to try new interests such as calligraphy, origami, jewelry making, and crocheting for free. The kits include instructional books and all necessary materials to get started.



Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Bolan, Executive Director