



**School Librarians' Association  
of Western New York  
2020-2021**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your summer! The weather has been gorgeous, and summer vacation is always a nice time to tackle some summer reading. As we enter August, my thoughts turn to the beginning of the school year, and with that, the annual summer letter from SLAWNY.

We live in unique times: from the pandemic to nationwide protests, the last five months have presented us with numerous challenges. But school librarians did what we do best: we drew on our professional training (and retooled when necessary!) to provide solid remote instruction, digital resources, and other support to our students and staff. School librarians continue to demonstrate resilience, optimism, and flexibility when running our programs, and we have shown our schools just how essential we are to student learning. Especially in these times.

And that's why this year's theme is **Meeting the Challenge**. While we don't yet know the exact challenges we'll face, we know that we can meet them by drawing on our own skill sets, as well as by expanding our professional capacity by learning from colleagues and from high-quality professional development opportunities. SLAWNY is at the heart of this enterprise, and we are happy to share with you that we've planned an exciting slate of virtual professional development opportunities for the coming school year!

But first: here are your SLAWNY Executive Board Officers for 2020-2021:

President	Dan Gattuso
President-Elect	Laura Penn
Past President	Katie LaFever
Membership and Advocacy	Maria Muhlbauer
Grants and Awards	Megan Moelbert
Secretary	Stephanie Devaney
Treasurer	Paul Kloster
UB Student Representative	Kaitlyn Rak

**So how do I become a SLAWNY member.** Whether you're currently a member or not, we'd like to welcome you as a SLAWNY member for 2020-2021. Your membership helps us make programming possible, so we would appreciate your considering becoming a member. You can join SLAWNY by clicking on this link:

<https://www.wnylrc.org/slawnny>

**We will have three SLAWNY general membership meetings this year.** The first general membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:30 (immediately following a virtual pd presentation we will share with you soon). The second general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3rd at 4:30. The third general membership meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 25th at 4:30.

SLAWNY-sponsored **SEL training** is happening on August 20th. Details went out in a SLAWNY email several days ago, as well as on Facebook and Twitter. Check your email and/or SLAWNY social media to find out more!

Virtual **Fall Sharing** will take place on Saturday, October 17th from 10:30 until 4:00. Our keynote and closing presenters will be the outstanding educators Chad Everett and K.C. Boyd, respectively, and we will also have hour-long presenters, vendor time, lunch time, etc. Even more good news: Fall Sharing is free this year with your SLAWNY membership! We will still have registration for Fall Sharing, though, and more details will be released soon.

The **Advocacy Committee** has scheduled four meetings for this school year. They are: Thursday, November 5th; Thursday, January 7th; Tuesday, March 9th; and Tuesday, April 27th. All meetings will take place via Zoom at 4:30. Advocacy work is critical for our vocation, so please come and join the Advocacy Committee!

Five titles were nominated for **book clubs** this year, and they are listed in the order in which we will read them. We will read *Prairie Lotus* on 9/8 through 10/20; *Stamped* from 11/18 through the beginning of January; *This Book Is Overdue* from 1/5 through 2/15; *Maybe He Just Likes You* from 2/15 through 4/1; and *What Lane?* from 4/15 through 6/1. These dates are estimates; as we get closer to the date(s) of the book(s) you want to read, watch SLAWNY's social media accounts and your email for information on these book clubs.

Because last school year's SLAWNY-sponsored virtual professional development was so successful, we will be offering you even more virtual pd opportunities this year! Stay tuned for details on these opportunities.

Regarding our regional partnerships, we are in the process of beginning to collaborate with both the BECPL as well as with the school librarians of Buffalo Public Schools. As always, as the details become available, we will share the news with you.

We are excited to share that SLAWNY is once again offering mini-grant opportunities to our members. If you are looking to enhance your program, add some key titles to an area of your collection that needs attention, or maybe acquire new makerspace items, apply for a mini-grant! The committee is looking for projects to approve that could make an impact at

your library. We offer four cycles with deadlines in November, February, May, and August. Questions can be directed to [mmoelbert@hcsdk12.org](mailto:mmoelbert@hcsdk12.org). Apply for a mini-grant here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ujhSUJOMzmF1SGxGGIZyNd7J\\_eSwy2OSZiHjY4TlfuA/preview?skip\\_itp2\\_check=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ujhSUJOMzmF1SGxGGIZyNd7J_eSwy2OSZiHjY4TlfuA/preview?skip_itp2_check=true)

We cannot predict what this school year will bring us, but rest assured that SLAWNY will be here to help you with your professional needs. Together, we will be **Meeting the Challenge** of the new school year.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and please consider joining SLAWNY and attending our events. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours,

Dan Gattuso  
SLAWNY President