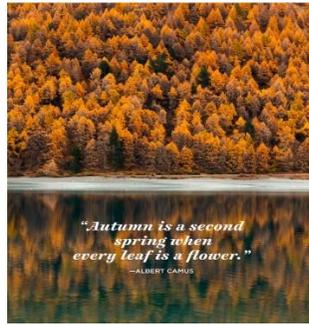


ReAD

The Electronic Newsletter of the New York State Reading Association

November 2019
Volume 16, Issue 3
Editor: Sandi Kurbiel
NYSED Contributing Editor: Kristen Driskill



Issues are published every month except for December-January and June-August combined issues. For more information, please contact Sandi Kurbiel at skurbiel@nycap.rr.com.
(Above image from GoogleImages)

Don't forget, now you can become a friend to NYSRA on *Facebook*! Have you?
Thanks to all who contributed their time and expertise to our issue this month!

Inside: [NYSRA & Legislative News](#) by Sandi Kurbiel; [NYSED News](#) by Kristen Driskill; & [Literacy News/Links of Interest](#) by Sandi Kurbiel

NYSRA and Legislative News

2019 NYSRA Literacy Conference

It's here!!

Please join us for the 52nd Annual New York State Reading Association Literacy Conference, *Empowering Striving Readers*, from November 14- 16. Please read more about the conference below, including an invitation to attend from the conference coordinators, Thea Yurkewecz and Elizabeth Yanoff, highlights from the conference, and a registration form. Please click on the link below for more information:

<https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>



Dear Literacy Leaders,

It is our pleasure to invite you and your colleagues to attend the New York State Reading Association Conference, November 14-16, 2019 in Albany, New York.

<https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

The theme for NYSRA Conference 2019 is *Empowering Striving Readers*. We have an incredible list of inspiring speakers! Current presenters include: Jennifer Serravallo, Stephanie Harvey, Troy Hicks, Laura Robb, Donna Scanlon, Charles R. Smith, Jr., Janet Wong, Sylvia Vardell, Jeffrey Wilhelm, Jim Wright, NYSED leaders, and many more! The conference kicks off Thursday evening with presentations all day Friday and ending Saturday afternoon.

This conference provides excellent professional development opportunities for all K-12 educators including teachers, administrators, literacy specialists, teacher leaders, coaches, library media specialists, and special educators. You can expand your professional learning community through knowledgeable featured speakers, workshops and connecting with other dedicated professionals. CTLE credit is available.

Remember that if you are a member of NYSRA, you will get a discount on the price of the conference. Also, if you have 3-9 educators going to the conference from your school district, there are special rates. Looking to send 10 teachers or more from your district? There are even more savings! See the registration form for this information.

For more information and a complete list of presenters, please contact us or visit our website for updates: <https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

We look forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Albany, NY this November 2019!

Thea Yurkewecz, Ph.D.

President of the NYS Reading Association
Conference

Co-Coordinator of the NYSRA 2019 Conference

Elizabeth Yanoff, Ph.D.

Co-Coordinator of the NYSRA 2019

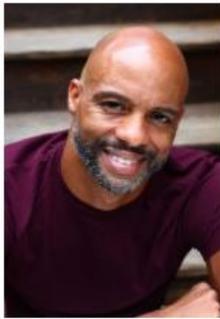


Empowering Striving Readers

November 14-16, 2019
Albany Capital Center, Albany, NY

Register today: <https://www.nysraconference2019.org/>

Keynote Speakers



Charles R. Smith, Jr.



Jennifer Serravallo



Janet Wong & Sylvia Vardell



Earn CTLE Credit Hours!

Come learn from nationally and regionally known presenters, network with fellow educators, check out the latest educational products and earn CTLE credits at the 52nd Annual NYSRA Conference.

Thursday

Evening Preconference:
Empowering Teachers
Virginia Goatley & Thea
Yurkewecz

Friday

Luncheon:
Jennifer Serravallo

Ticketed Dinner:
What Inspires Writing

Additional featured speakers:
Stephanie Affinito, Erica Barnes,
Grace Enriquez, Stephanie
Harvey, Gretchen Oliver, Zoi
Philippakos, Berit Gordon, Erik
Sweet, Laura Robb, Charles R.
Smith Jr., Sandra Athans, Katie
Kelly, Kevin Kurtz & Jennifer Roy

Saturday

Ticketed Breakfast:
Writing for Children and Young
Adults

Luncheon:
Janet Wong & Sylvia Vardell

Additional featured speakers:
Adam Fachler & Jeffrey
Wilhelm, Troy Hicks, Jim Wright,
and Laura Hallgren Flynn,
Peggy Connors & Lynn
Gelheizer, Nancy Castaldo &
Amy Guglielmo

Thank you to our featured speaker sponsors: Corwin, Scholastic & Walck Sales/Heinemann

Save money and register by 9/30/19 and receive the EARLY BIRD discount!

The registration form and more details are posted on our website.

2019 NYSRA Conference Registration Thursday, 11.14.19 to Saturday, 11.16.19 Albany Capital Center
Registration must be postmarked by 11.1.19 to avoid the additional late and on-site registration fee of \$25.

Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
City:	State & Zip:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
Affiliation:	Position:
Valid/Unblocked E-Mail (Required for Registration Confirmation):	
Are you a member of a LOCAL NYSRA COUNCIL or AT-LARGE MEMBER of NYSRA? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
If yes, WHICH LOCAL COUNCIL? <input type="checkbox"/> OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AT-LARGE MEMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Check Here If You Will Need A Sign Language Interpreter (Postmarked by 9.30.19).	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please Check Here and Specify If You Have Special Dietary Needs:	

Registration Fees, Options (Per Person) and Payment Information

<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 NYSRA At-Large Membership (Allows You To Register At The Member Rate.)	
Package A Regular Full Conference Package (Includes: Thursday Evening To Saturday Afternoon Professional Development, Lunch On Friday And Saturday, And Reception On Thursday And Friday Evening) Early Bird Registration Postmarked BY 9.30.19) <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$225 Non-Member Regular Registration (Postmarked AFTER 9.30.19) <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 School Groups Of 3 To 9 (Submit Together) <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Non-Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Full Time Student	<p align="center">PAYMENT INFORMATION</p> (FULL PAYMENT AND/OR PO MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM) <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ Amount: \$ _____ PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSRA. (RETURNED CHECKS WILL BE ASSESSED A \$25 NSF FEE.) <input type="checkbox"/> PO# _____ District: _____ (WE WILL INVOICE THE DISTRICT) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT CARD TYPE: <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC CARD NUMBER: _____ NAME ON CARD: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____ SECURITY CODE FROM BACK OF CARD: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____ E-MAIL TO SEND RECEIPT: _____ (NYSRA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHARGE YOUR CARD THE CORRECT AMT. IF THERE IS AN ERROR IN THE CALCULATION OF THE AMT. DUE.) <p align="center">ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p> 1. A \$25 late registration fee will be assessed for registrations received after 11.1.19 and for On-Site Registrations. 2. Refunds will be made ONLY with a written request postmarked by 11.1.19 and will be processed after the close of the conference. 3. A registration confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address listed above. Please be sure to provide a valid, unblocked e-mail, 4. NYSRA Taxpayer ID number is: 16-6098728. 5. PLEASE MAIL, FAX, OR E-MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION ALONG WITH METHOD OF PAYMENT TO: <p align="center">NYSRA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION C/O MARY & LARRY KLINE 507 BRETT'S WAY WHITESBORO, NY 13492 FAX: 315-736-3519 E-MAIL: NYSRACONFREG@ROADRUNNER.COM</p>
Package B Single Day Conference Package- Friday or Saturday (Includes: Friday OR Saturday Professional Development, Lunch on Friday OR Saturday, and Reception on Friday Evening IF attending on Friday. Please Check Day Attending: <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 School Groups of 3 to 9 Submit Together) <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Non-Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Full Time Student	
A La Carte Items <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Friday Evening Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Saturday Morning Breakfast	
\$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	
<p>Please Note: If you are sending 10 or more from the same district, please contact Mary Kline for large group pricing at 315-867-2079. For other Registration questions, please e-mail our registrars at nysraconfreg@roadrunner.com. For non-registration questions, contact us at nysraconf2019@gmail.com.</p>	

Nominations Committee

by Sharon Kelly

As past president, I am the chair of the Nominating Committee. I have asked all regional directors to help me find a Nominating Committee which is composed of one representative from each council. So, if you haven't had a chance to volunteer, contact your regional director. She will contact me with your name. All meetings will be online, so there will be no traveling.

Our charge for the Nominating Committee is to find a vice president and any other offices that are vacant. So, if you know anyone that would be interested in being vice president, which is a 4-year commitment, please contact me at sharteach17@gmail.com. Vice president moves up to president-elect, then president, and then past president. Thea and I have made it a lot more streamlined by having a monthly "to-do list" for all of these positions. It is easy to follow, and there is always someone to help guide you if you have a question or concern.

So, make the Nominating Committee's job easier, and nominate a fellow NYSRA person, or ask for an application for yourself if you are interested in the position. The biggest thing is that they need to be active in NYSRA, not just their local council. Following, I will share the guidelines for vice president.

NYSRA Vice President Responsibilities:

- In absence of president-elect or president, preside at all meetings
- Assist president with any delegated duties, Chair or serve on committees, prepare reports, and other
- Review council bylaws, motions, budget reports, and meeting minutes
- Assist in program development, conference planning, budget planning, and fiscal responsibilities
- Review the NYSRA Awards Packet and make the necessary changes. Promote and award the grants, scholarship, and awards.
- Assist president and president-elect in a review of the council's performance in achieving its mission and meeting its goals, ongoing monitoring, and formal report to its members at least annually

- Attend all meetings to learn about council operations to better prepare yourself for the upcoming office of president
- With the help of the Executive Committee name a conference chair(s)
- Participate in Board orientation/ NYSRA Leadership
- Maintain membership to ILA and NYSRA throughout term of office
- Put together the ILA Award of Excellence
- Assist on the Program Committee to plan a timely professional development for each Assembly of Delegates meeting
- And other duties, as requested by the president

Advocacy Report, November 2019 BOD

Submitted by Barbara Vokatis, Ph.D.
NYSRA Advocacy Chair

News from New York State:

New York State High School Graduation Measures

Earlier this month, the Board of Regents continued its [discussion about New York State high school graduation measures](#) to restate what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State.

There will be three phases of the graduation measures review:

Phase I: Information Gathering (November 2019 - February 2020)

- Regional workgroups
- Regional stakeholder feedback on guiding questions
- Review of research and practices in other states

Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission (March 2020 - Spring 2021)

- Blue Ribbon Commission will meet to develop recommendations.

Phase III: Regents Discussion (Fall 2021)

- Board of Regents presentation and policy discussion will take place.

The [Graduation Measures web page](#) provides information about this review process. Please use the following link to [subscribe for updates](#).

Senate Hearing on Broadband Access

On September 17, the New York State Senate held a public hearing on broadband access in NYS. During this hearing, NYSSBA (NYS School Boards Association) provided testimony on the importance of improved broadband access, especially in underserved rural areas. More and more schools nationwide assign homework that requires higher speed connection, or communicate through Google Classroom and email. Many schools are also implementing 1:1 technology programs that allow each student to use a device such as a Chromebook and access information, including textbooks, on the Internet. NYSSBA's testimony can be here: [NYSSBA Rural Broadband Access Testimony](#).

Changes in Literacy Coursework in Teacher Preparation programs

The item did not come before the Regents this month (no reason given).

News from Federal Policy

In her efforts focused on a proposed \$5 billion annual "Education Freedom Scholarship" program, Betsy DeVos replaces the term "school choice" with "education freedom" to draw attention away from associating "school choice" with picking one school building over another building.

New York State Education News

by Kristen Driskill
NYSED Contributing Editor

Continued Discussion on Graduation Measures

The Board of Regents is continuing discussion about New York State graduation measures. The purpose of the discussions is to reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State, as well as what the diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students.

The graduation measures review is rolling out in three stages:

- Phase 1: Information Gathering (Nov 2019 - Feb 2020)
- Phase 2: Blue Ribbon Commission (March 2020 - Spring 2021)
- Phase 3: Board of Regents Presentation and Policy Discussion (Fall 2021)

Click [here](#) for the graduation measures website, which provides information about the review process and a link to subscribe to updates.

NYS 2019 Student Research Award Winners

The New York State Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust announced the winners of the 2019 Student Research Awards. This is an annual program where students in grades 4-12 compete across the state in order to be recognized for excellence in research. The award also encourages students to explore the wealth of historical records held in cultural institutions and records repositories across the state.

Click [here](#) for the press release, which includes the names of all winners.

Literacy News and Links of Interest

by Sandi Kurbiel
ReAD Editor

Literacy Ideas for November

Find a calendar of important literacy dates in November, and click on any of them to find interesting lesson plan ideas! (Maybe a class celebration of *Where the Sidewalk Ends* poetry on November 20, perhaps?)

Thanksgiving Literacy Ideas

Find literally 1000s of lesson plans and other modern literacy ideas for Thanksgiving!

Promoting Independent Reading in Schools

Here are 25 ways schools can promote independent reading by students. Many of them you may already know, but you might discover a few interesting new ones!

Jumpstart's "Read for the Record"

"On November 7, 2019, children and adults will gather to learn, laugh, and read this year's campaign book, *Thank You, Omu!* written and illustrated by Oge Mora, as part of the world's largest shared reading experience." (*Reading Rockets.org*). Will you join them?