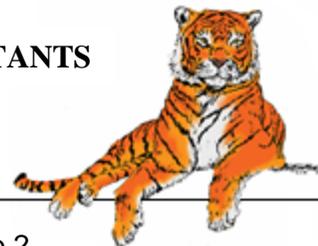


# NJALA QUARTERLY REVIEW

## A Newsletter for Library Assistants



A Publication of the  
NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS



**Editor:** Annette Tyler

**Distribution Manager:** Heather Rivera

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### *Message from the President*

“Today’s Challenges Will Build a Stronger Tomorrow,” this year’s conference theme, is truer than ever. Budget cuts across the state, have and will have an impact on the way libraries run and what library assistants’ roles will be. **SEE table to the right and article on page 3.** Training, programs, databases, and jobs are being cut, so we will need to work together more than ever. As NJALA members we can help each other through the networking the organization offers. Send in your great ideas and programs to NJALA Newsletter Editor Annette Tyler, [Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org](mailto:Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org) so she can include your success stories in the next newsletter. Tell us about your free programs or how your library is using staff differently or how your library is keeping up morale. With all the negatives it is crucial to share the positives of library services across the state.

Come to the NJALA Annual Conference on June 7 and 8 at the Burlington Enterprise Center in Mount Holly NJ, take great training classes, see other library assistants, and hear their stories. **The conference registration form is on the website.**

Volunteer to be on the Conference Planning Committee or any of the other NJALA committees. We currently need people to help with the newsletter. Annette Tyler is a part time library assistant in Morristown, and she is the only member of the newsletter group. If joining this committee interests you give her a shout; she will be grateful for the help.

*President continued on page 7.*

#### **Facts About NJ Libraries:**

Fiscal Year 2011 draft budget includes 74% funding cuts for statewide library services.

The \$10.4 million in library programs cut from the Governor's budget represent little more than \$1 per capita in state funds.

Local library funding targeted in A2555 typically represents less than 3% of local property taxes.

In 78% of NJ municipalities, libraries are the only point of free internet access for residents.

75% of NJ libraries say that helping job seekers is a primary activity.

170,000 people enter a NJ library every day – over 48 million visits a year!

#### **Details About the Budget**

The proposed State budget cuts of 10.4M will eliminate all statewide library services.

If local libraries have to provide these services on their own, they will end up paying more because they will lose the advantage of group purchasing.

If the State Library loses that \$10.4M in aid to local libraries, we won't be able to match federal aid and we will lose an additional \$4.5 million in annual federal aid next year.

Since that \$4.5 million in federal aid pays to operate the Talking Book and Braille Center for the blind and handicapped, TBBC will close its doors when the present grant expires in 2012. Unfortunately for the taxpayer, TBBC is federally mandated so the without the federal dollars, the NJ taxpayers will have to pick up the tab.

## RECOGNIZING VALUE, ENCOURAGING GROWTH

### THE LIBRARY SUPPORT STAFF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

#### Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program Welcomes Candidate Applications

The American Library Association's Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) is [accepting applications](#) from potential candidates interested in achieving the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC). The LSSC Program is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. Over forty Candidates have applied since the program opened January 25, 2010.

Why are library support staff across the country applying for LSSC candidacy?

Eva Fiffie is excited that the LSSC program "will give me the opportunity to strengthen my supervisory skills, become familiar with new aspects in the library field and allow me to provide better services to library patrons and my staff."

Candidate Kathleen Laurente agrees: she is confident that the LSSC "will give credence to the knowledge that I [already] possess, and will also advance me to the forefront at my current position."

"At this time, I wish to focus on having a family but also improve my career prospects and so, the LSSC Program is an excellent fit for me," shares candidate Shirley McCoy. "I believe it will give me the opportunity to demonstrate that I am eminently qualified to be a member of any library support staff."

Molly Moore is excited to begin LSSC course work on Collection Management. "A better understanding of this department in our library would allow us to be better informed and to provide better information when decisions are required."

The LSSC Program is open to any library support staff person with a high-school diploma or its equivalent and at least one year of full-time experience in a library within the last five years. Applicants do not have to be a member of ALA. The application fee is \$325 for ALA members and \$350 for non-ALA members. Candidates who choose to take an approved course may have to pay a fee set by the course provider. There is no cost for submitting portfolios. Candidates have four years to complete the program.

The LSSC Program website, [www.ala-apa.org/lssc](http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc), has complete information about the competency sets,

approved courses, and how to develop a portfolio. The Program has adopted ten competencies sets; Candidates are required to show achievement of three sets -- Foundations of Library Service, Communication and Teamwork, and Technology -- and must choose three additional sets from Access Services, Adult Readers' Advisory Services, Cataloging and Classification, Collection Management, Reference and Information Services, Supervision and Management, and Youth Services.

The LSSC offers Candidates two ways to demonstrate achievement. The first is through completing approved courses from library education providers across the county. These providers set the course's fee, schedule, and requirements. Recently, the LSSC Program approved a Supervision and Management course from the State Library of Louisiana. Michael Golrick, one of the course's instructors, was pleased by the "level of enthusiasm and interest" demonstrated by the seventeen students who completed course. The LSSC Program encourages interested education providers to contact the program to find out more about course approval.

Candidates can also develop portfolios that demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and experience in a competency set. The LSSC Program offers help to Candidates who wish to develop and submit portfolios. Librarians with expertise in the competency set will evaluate portfolios and the Program is seeking more librarians who wish to do so. The application to become a Portfolio Evaluator is available on the LSSC website.

Candidates may wish to complete courses in some competency sets and submit portfolios in others.

The LSSC Program was inspired by many years of discussion and by needs assessments with library support staff. In 2007, the American Library Association received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program to fund the development of such a national certification program.

More information about the LSSC Program is available online at <http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc>. Direct questions to [lssc@ala.org](mailto:lssc@ala.org) or call 312-280-2424. The LSSC Program is being managed by the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA).

# Budgets Cuts To Eliminate Library Services

Many of you have heard about the cuts that are included in the proposed FY2011 State budget. What you might not know is that the proposed cuts for libraries will eliminate ALL statewide library programs and services. Three out of four budget lines have been eliminated completely and the fourth has been chopped in half. These cuts will have a devastating impact on all NJ libraries if they are approved.

## How will this impact your library?

Local libraries would lose ALL their access to shared resources: interlibrary loan and delivery; all statewide electronic resources on health care, business, and education; email, as well as internet access and help desk services for most of the public libraries in New Jersey. In addition, a 50% reduction for Per Capita State Aid will result in reduced funding for staff and materials.

## How will this impact your customers?

- Without interlibrary loan and delivery your customers will not be able to get the items they need from other libraries.
- Without online resources your customers will lose the best and latest information that they need in health care, business and education.
- Without statewide technology system, over 200 libraries will lose their web and email hosting, internet access and help desk services making it impossible for your customers to go online and use the internet; reserve or renew library items; or get updated information about their library's programs and services.
- Libraries will be losing half of per capita state aid at a time when municipalities seek to eliminate local support meaning customers may have to endure shorter hours, less materials, fewer staff and maybe even having the local library close its doors completely.
- The Talking Book and Braille Center (known as the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) will close leaving all Veterans and New Jersey residents who cannot read the printed word because of a visual or physical handicap without a library.
- Group contracts that have brought down the cost of other electronic resources purchased by libraries will cease resulting in increased costs to individual libraries and communities.

## A Second Assault

At the same time the state is eliminating funding for library programs, Assemblyman John DiMaio has introduced A2555, which eliminates the minimum local funding requirement for municipal public libraries. **If passed, there is no guarantee your municipality will continue to fund your library and could result in many libraries closing their doors or drastically reducing their hours.**

"The library community understands that we all need to make shared sacrifices, but this represents the complete elimination of statewide library services, and that's unacceptable to the millions of people who depend on our libraries," said Pat Tumulty, executive director of the New Jersey Library Association.

## What can you do?

As a Library Assistant, you have daily contact with customers. It is vitally important that you communicate that we need people to stand up for libraries by asking their legislator to put \$10.4M statewide library funding back into the budget and to oppose Assembly Bill A2555. If we all work together, we can Save NJ Libraries.

1. Ask your customers to become a Library Champion at [www.ilovenjlibraries.org](http://www.ilovenjlibraries.org).
2. Ask them to call or send a message to the Governor or their State Senator and Assembly representatives opposing the elimination of funding for library programs and A2555. Tell them a form letter and links to their elected officials can be found on the [ilovenjlibraries.org](http://ilovenjlibraries.org) Website.
3. Make sure you have signed up to be a champion, sent letters to the Governor and your State Senator and Assembly representatives. Not only will it help libraries, but also you'll get a sense of how easy the process will be for your customers.

It's not always easy to ask customers to speak up for a cause, but in this case, you are asking them to stand up for themselves. If they don't speak up now, there is no guarantee the services they have come to rely upon will remain.

The New Jersey Library Association has set up a page for you and your customers with continual updates on the issues facing libraries at [ilovenjlibraries.org](http://ilovenjlibraries.org).

# **RITA L. HILBERT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2010**

The NJALA Scholarship Committee is proud to announce our annual scholarship award of \$250.00 for the 2010-2011 academic year. This scholarship is offered to a library support staff person who would like to pursue a degree or certificate program that enhances work skills.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicant must be a legal resident of New Jersey.
2. Scholarships are available to current NJALA members only.
3. Recipient must attend an accredited college program or certified post-secondary program.
4. Recipient must use the award in a job-related field.
5. Applicant must enclose a 150 word essay explaining how this scholarship will help her/him reach career goals.
6. If the Scholarship Committee deems a personal interview necessary the applicant must be available to meet with the committee.
7. The scholarship recipient will receive the award money after proof of completion of the course is shown.

If you have any questions or would like an application please contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson:

East Orange Public Library  
Attn: John Guido  
21 South Arlington Avenue  
East Orange, NJ 07018  
Phone: 973-266-5601 or  
E-mail: [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org)

There is an application form on the next page, and you will also find one on the NJALA website, [www.njala.org](http://www.njala.org).

All applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2010.

# RITA L. HILBERT 2010 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. **NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (Middle)

2. **Legal Residence:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone: \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Post Secondary:**

Have you applied for admission to any school(s)? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Specify school(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been accepted for any school(s)?

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently attending a post secondary school? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

4. **Education:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(College) (Year)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Degree) (Major) (G.P.A.)

**Post Graduate Education:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(College) (Year) (Degree) (Major)

5. **Work Experience: (Most recent employment first)**

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Employer's Name) (Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Employer's Name) (Address)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Position/Title) (Employment Dates)

I understand that it may be necessary to be interviewed for this scholarship and agree to make myself available for this interview if so requested by the scholarship committee. I understand that in order to be considered for this scholarship I will be required to submit proof of course completion.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## "NJALA RECOGNITION" AND "KEHNAST" AWARDS Application

Each year at the conference of the **New Jersey Association of Library Assistants** the "NJALA Recognition" and "Kehnast" awards are presented.

The NJALA Recognition Award is given to a dedicated Director, Trustee, or Librarian in a New Jersey Library or Libraries who encourages and supports participation in career development or activities for library assistants in New Jersey.

The Kehnast Award is given to a dedicated library assistant in a New Jersey Library who has made a significant contribution to the profession or to his/her library and actively participates in career development or activities in New Jersey. This award is named for AnnaMarie Kehnast who served as President and Liaison of NJALA. The recipient must be a current member of NJALA.

To nominate a candidate for either award please include the following:

### Your information:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print.) (Last) (First) (Middle)
2. Library name & address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box #)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)
3. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Candidate information:

5. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print.) (Last) (First) (Middle)
6. Library name & address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street or P.O. Box #)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)
7. Title: \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Award you are applying for: \_\_\_\_\_

Include an essay of no more than 200 words explaining why the candidate deserves this award. This application along with the essay must be postmarked by April 30, 2010 and sent to:

East Orange Public Library  
Attn: John Guido  
21 South Arlington Avenue  
East Orange NJ 07018  
Phone: 973-266-5601  
Email: [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org)

*President* continued from page 1.

Please visit the NJALA website, and send a message to the Governor and your State Senate and Assembly representatives asking them to restore library funding and oppose A2555. **Take Action!** Sometimes the people's voices **are** heard; take a few minutes; it can make a difference.

While at [NJALA.org](http://NJALA.org) take a look and let us know what can we do for you to make it better. What information is not needed; what should be added? We are trying to "Go Green" by posting more on the web site and not use so much paper, but if you are having trouble using the website let us know. As president I can always be reached at [creese@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:creese@theoceancountylibrary.org). I would love to hear from you!

Remember to nominate your fellow NJALA members for our Kehnast Award or the Rita Hilbert Scholarship Award. The forms can be found in this newsletter and at [NJALA.org](http://NJALA.org); fill them out, and e-mail them to John Guido, [jguido@eopl.org](mailto:jguido@eopl.org). The awards will be presented on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at our business meeting.

The Kehnast Award recognizes the great work of a library assistant in New Jersey. We all have someone at our library who goes above the call of duty; nominate her/him to be recognized for her/his hard work.

The Recognition Award honors a director or supervisor who supports library assistants and NJALA's efforts; if your supervisor is outstanding send in her/his name!

The scholarship award is for any member participating in further library-related education; if you are going to school get some of your money back by nominating yourself!

Times are tough but hang in there together; we can accomplish great things!

See you at the conference!

Connie Reese  
Ocean County Library



**DEADLINE**

for the next  
***NJALA Quarterly Review***  
is July 5, 2010.

Feel free to send your articles or other information anytime before this date to:

***NJALA Quarterly Review***  
Editor Annette Tyler  
Morristown & Morris Township Public Library  
1 Miller Road, Morristown NJ 07960  
973-538-3473 FAX 973-267-4064  
E-mail: [Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org](mailto:Annette.Tyler@mainlib.org)

The NJALA website is <http://www.njala.org>.