



Association of Law Libraries of ALLUNY Upstate New York

Volume 51, Issue 1

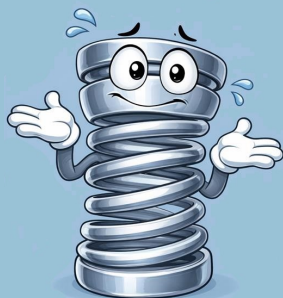
March, 2026

Issue Highlights:

- Upcoming Spring Institute, Advocacy Training, and AALL Annual Conference
- ALLUNY Board Nominations!
- Retirement announcement and reflections from long-time ALLUNY Member Jay Deveau

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Message From the President

Kristin Neri

Happy Spring... I think?

As the weather finally begins to thaw, the ALLUNY Planning Committee is hard at work preparing for our Spring Institute. This year's program, *Managing Library Anxiety and Burnout: Strategies for Law Librarians* (see [page 3](#)), features an outstanding lineup of speakers. I am especially looking forward to the networking event and hope to see many of you there.



Our newly reenergized Government Relations and Advocacy Committee is also launching an exciting new workshop series. The first session, *Advocacy 360 with Assemblyperson Jen Lunsford* (see [page 5](#)), will offer a practical introduction to advocacy and how we can engage more effectively in this space.

We will soon have several board positions opening and encourage both new members and those who have not served recently to consider running (see [page 4](#)). There are also openings on a number of committees. Getting involved at the committee level is a great way to contribute, build connections, and explore future leadership opportunities. As many of you know, networking remains one of my favorite and most valuable tools.

Registration is now open for the AALL Annual Conference, *Leading with Aloha* (see [page 2](#)), taking place July 18 through 21 in Cleveland, Ohio. I hope you will consider attending. If cost is a concern, please be sure to review the grants available through ALLUNY (see [page 2](#)), as well as [those offered by AALL](#).

We are also excited to once again partner with the CNY Women's Bar Association, the Pride Alliance of the New York State Courts, and the NYS LGBTQ+ Judges Association for the CNY Pride Parade on June 13, 2026. Whether you prefer to march, or even roller skate, we would love to have you join us. We had nearly 40 participants last year and are hoping for an even greater turnout this year. We will also be tabling at the event, which was a highlight last year. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me at president@alluny.org.

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Message From the President (Continued from [Page 1](#))

After such a long and difficult winter, I have found myself thinking more intentionally about balance. Like many of you, I am still figuring out what that looks like day to day. For me, it has meant spending time playing games with my five-year-old and finding small moments of humor and connection where I can. It is not always perfect, but it matters.



This past February, my family experienced a profound loss when my cousin passed away unexpectedly. There were over 1,000 people who waited hours in the rain to pay their respects to her and her family. What stayed with me, though, were the stories shared about how she showed up for others: her constant support, her presence, and the time she gave so freely. It was a powerful reminder that, even in the midst of busy schedules and responsibilities, those moments of connection are what endure.

I hope this season encourages all of us to make space for the people and experiences that matter most. Whether that means a visit, a call, or simply setting aside time to be present, those efforts have lasting impact. And when possible, take time to step away and recharge. Even a short trip or a change of scenery can make a meaningful difference.

Wishing you all a restorative and hopeful spring.

AALL Conference 2026 Info and Grants

Registration is now open for the 2026 [AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#), taking place from July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio, offering “65+ [dynamic programs](#) addressing the biggest challenges in legal information, plus hands-on preconference workshops.” Register by May 20th to get the Early Bird rate!



We’re also planning another joint meet-up during the conference with our fellow chapters LLAGNY and NJLLA. Keep an eye out for more details regarding this event in our June newsletter issue.

Need financial help to attend the annual meeting in Cleveland this year? Consider applying for the ALLUNY AALL Annual Conference Grant. The grant may be awarded to one or more persons who are active ALLUNY members. Preference will be given to those who have not received an ALLUNY grant in the past.

You can apply by filling out the form here:

[AALL Annual Conference Grant – ALLUNY – Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York](#)

Please [contact Karen Oesterle](#) if you have any questions.

2026 Spring Institute



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, April 24th, 2026

ALLUNY 2026 SPRING INSTITUTE

Central New York Philanthropy
Center and Virtual via Zoom

“Managing Library Anxiety and Burnout: Strategies for Law Librarians”

Thriving in law librarianship starts with protecting your well-being. Join us for a day of conversations and ideas for navigating stress, burnout, and well-being in the profession. Stay tuned for more details, including registration and agenda updates!

● QUESTIONS?

Contact: Ella Pieterse, Vice President
epieters@nycourts.gov | 845-483-8399



“Thriving in law librarianship starts with protecting your well-being. Join us for a day of conversations and ideas for navigating stress, burnout, and well-being in the profession.”

On behalf of the 2026 Spring Institute Planning Committee, we invite you to **SAVE THE DATE** for our upcoming Spring Institute held on Friday, **April 24th, 2026**, at the **Central New York Philanthropy Center in Syracuse, New York & Virtually over Zoom!**

Our topic this year is **“Managing Library Anxiety and Burnout: Strategies for Law Librarians.”** Thriving in law librarianship starts with protecting your well-being. Join us for a day of conversations and ideas for navigating stress, burnout, and well-being in the profession. Stay tuned for more details, including registration and agenda updates!

For more information, please contact: Ella Pieterse, Vice President at epieters@nycourts.gov or call me at 845-483-8399.

We look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces in-person and over zoom!

Member News

Welcome to the following new members, who have joined ALLUNY since our last issue:

- Nick Brenner
- Casey Orr
- Kelly Sickler

Congratulations to the following members on reaching the milestone membership anniversaries noted below. Thanks for being ALLUNY members for so long!

- Rebecca Chapman (5 years)
- Nancy Warren (5 years)
- Olli Baker (10 years)
- Melissa Lamb (15 years)
- Lisa Worhacz (15 years)
- Laura Suttell (25 years)
- Jay Deveau (40 years)
- Julie Gick (40 years)

ALLUNY member **Robert Weiner** recently published a great article in [the latest issue of New York Archives Magazine](#). In this article, he discusses the life of the Rev. Daniel Waldo, who was one of the few Americans to live through both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. It's a fascinating look into the life of a unique individual in American history.

If you've recently presented at a conference, authored a new publication, changed jobs or job title, retired (or are planning to retire) or if you have any other news you'd like to share, please submit your updates to Newsletter Editor Melissa Sievers or to Newsletter Committee Member Chris Lund.

Call for Nominations

ALLUNY is seeking nominations for the following Board positions:

- Vice President/President Elect (2026-2029)
- Board of Directors (2026-2028) [One position]

Summaries of job duties for each of these positions are available in the [Operating Manual posted to the Members Only section of our website](#).

ALLUNY cannot function without the commitment of its members, so please consider running for one of these offices.

If interested, please contact [Chris Lund](#) or [Karen Oesterle](#).



Updates from the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee



The Government Relations and Advocacy Committee has been hard at work. We are introducing a webinar series tailored to the needs of law library professionals, which will begin this Spring and will run through the Summer. Some of our topics will include the basics of advocacy, how to get involved with organizations, and other things you can do to participate and engage with advocacy work. Join us for Advocacy 360 with Assemblywoman Jen Lunsford on May 8th at 12:15 PM EST. This session will be a great resource for anyone interested in getting started with advocacy work, ramping up their advocacy work, or just taking the nerves out of speaking with a legislator. Register [here](#), and we will see you there!

**“Build Your
Advocacy
Skills.
Strengthen
Our
Collective
Voice.”**



ADVOCACY 360:

Advocacy 101 with Assemblymember Jen Lunsford

May 8th at 12:15 PM via Zoom

Register Here!

Exhausted by the chaos of politics? Worried about the future?
Feeling like your voice doesn't matter?

You're not alone. Join us for a lunchtime webinar with Assemblymember Jen Lunsford. She'll lead a discussion about advocacy and what it means today. You'll leave feeling a little more positive about the future.

**Build Your Advocacy Skills.
Strengthen Our Collective Voice.**

Alternative Registration:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/vZwEnzwpTGiO8aI7_xmAvg



Government Relations & Advocacy Committee



Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York **ALLUNY**



Reflections on 40+ years of ALLUNY Membership

J. Jay Deveau

Fellow ALLUNY Members,

The time has come for me to step away from my career and move into retirement. I look forward to this next chapter but I also reflect with pride on my years serving as a Law Librarian. At no point have I regretted this choice of career. I've had the pleasure of working with many attorneys, law clerks, professors, paralegals and legal secretaries and, of course, most rewarding has been the years of working with and working for a wide array of amazing law librarians, many of whom I met through ALLUNY and many who have become lifelong friends.

The Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York has been an instrumental part of the success I've had as a Law Librarian. The contacts it has provided are priceless. My career has taken me to library positions in private law firms, academic and government sectors. Even a very short stint as a vendor. ALLUNY has been a part of all of those stops.

Looking back at my years of involvement in ALLUNY, I recall the time and effort expended but more importantly the professional and personal fulfillment received in working with such a great group of people. I joined ALLUNY in 1984 shortly after I accepted my first professional position at the Buffalo law firm of Saperston & Day. It was fellow Buffalo law librarians who suggested I consider membership. After a slow start I moved into committee and leadership positions:

Nominations Committee 1993-1994
Vice President 1998-1999
President 1999-2000
Board of Directors 2000-2001, 2009-2011, 2018-2023

Twice I served as an Annual Meeting presenter:

Buffalo – October 1993
Syracuse – October 2014

Most memorable was the meeting planning:

45th Annual Meeting – Binghamton – September 1999 Chair
Spring Institute – Syracuse – April 2000 Chair
46th Annual Meeting – Niagara Falls – September 2000 Co-Chair
50th Annual Meeting – Albany – October 2004 Chair
58th Annual Meeting – Buffalo – September 2012 Local Arrangements
64th Annual Meeting – Buffalo – September 2018 Local Arrangements
65th Annual Meeting – Albany – October 2019 Local Arrangements
66th Annual Meeting – Syracuse – September 2022 Chair

Those meetings were lots of work but oh so satisfying to see them brought to successful completion. Maybe this list brings back some fond memories for you too.

I remain most grateful for the kindness shown by ALLUNY when in 2005 they established the Katie M. Deveau Volunteer Spirit Award. My late wife attended our Annual Meetings from 1999 through 2003. Although she was a Registered Nurse by profession, she was always looking for jobs to assist with at those library meetings. Hopefully many of you "old-timers" remember her warm presence around the registration table (sometimes also accompanied by my daughter, Victoria). Katie passed away a few weeks before our big 50th Annual Meeting celebration.

I appreciate the opportunity to wander down memory lane. I cherish so many memories of times spent with members of ALLUNY and I suspect I will still make occasional appearances at future chapter functions.

Special words of thanks need to be shared with Karen Oesterle and Chris Lund who saved ALLUNY from dissolution. In a period when memberships were lagging and volunteers were not coming forward, they stepped up and brought new life to our organization. THANK YOU!

Please feel free to remain in touch. My personal email is jdeveau59@yahoo.com.

Jay

“[ALLUNY] has been an instrumental part of the success I’ve had as a Law Librarian. The contacts it has provided are priceless. My career has taken me to [many different] library positions ... ALLUNY has been a part of all of those stops.”

ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes November 3, 2025 (Approved January 5, 2026)



ALLUNY Board Meeting

Held on Zoom

Monday, November 3, 2025, 10:00AM

Present: **Karen Oesterle, Angela Patti, Melissa Sievers, Kristin Neri, Lisa Worhacz, Yage Huang, Chris Lund, Ella Pieterse, Olli Baker**

Meeting called to order at 10:04 (Neri)

Approval of Prior Meeting (9/8/2025) Minutes

(Lund, Oesterle, Unanimously Approved)

Committee Reports

- Committees presented updates during ALLUNY's Annual Meeting held on 10/24/2025 but a few committee chairs and members shared additional news/plans.
- Communications
 - Public Relations – President will issue a Listserv announcement inviting additional members to volunteer for the Public Relations Committee.
 - Listserv – Listserv Chair and President are troubleshooting issues with email bounce backs. Emails with presentation slides failed. Members from courts and firms reported issues.
 - Newsletter Committee –
 - Requests President's message for next newsletter.
 - Plans to include a write-up about the Annual Meeting, along with pictures, the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, and approved Board Meeting Minutes in the next publication.
 - Will continue to ask for and promote member news.
 - Website – Webmaster plans to:
 - update officers and committee members.
 - update events page, moving Annual Meeting to past events.
 - update calendar/website regarding Chapter Liability Insurance (AALL current policy valid through November 25 and Treasurer will confirm new policy).
 - create a page specifically for presentation slides.
 - create a photo gallery for Annual Meeting.
 - make the Board Meeting link more prominent.
 - Social Media – plans to:
 - delete X account.
 - reinstate the blog at <https://alluny.blogspot.com>.
 - evaluate whether to make LinkedIn and other social media public.
- Elections - Nina Scholtz has agreed to continue running elections.
- Parliamentarian – Nichole McCarthy has agreed to continue as parliamentarian and also serve with Chris Lund on the ad hoc Bylaws/operating manual Committee. That committee is looking for another member.

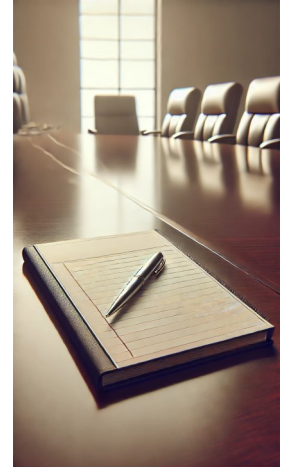
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**ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2025 (Approved January 5, 2026)
(Continued from [Page 7](#))**

New Business

- VIP program –
 - Discussion about whether ALLUNY should pay for travel and lodging. AALL covers registration fee.
 - Next AALL Annual Meetings are in Cleveland and Philadelphia, so Chris Lund will research and provide a cost estimate for travel/lodging.
 - Suggestion to cap travel and lodging expenses.
 - Plan to approve plan, invitee, and expenses at January Board Meeting.
- Zoom account –
 - Discussion about whether ALLUNY should purchase a Zoom account to host Annual Meetings, Board Meetings, Lunch and Learns, Committees Meetings, etc.
 - Estimated cost would be \$619/per year.
 - Kristin, Angela, Chris, and Melissa will meet to discuss tech/webhosting and logistics.
 - Motion to approve Zoom subscription and related expense.

(Lund, Pieterse, Unanimously Approved)



Announcements

- Board meetings will continue bimonthly on the first Monday at 10 AM.
- Planning Committee requested ALLUNY donate \$250 to the William & Diane Hein Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization, as a thank you for hosting the Annual Meeting and this donation was made.
- President will send Board Meeting calendar invite to Committee Chairs.
- Treasure will send AALL another \$50 for the Deborah “Debbie” Simonik Memorial Scholarship (as agreed during 7/7/2025 meeting).

Adjourned 10:45 AM (Neri)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Worhacz, Secretary

ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026 (Approved March 16, 2026)



ALLUNY Board Meeting
Held on TEAMS
Monday, January 5th, 2026, 10:00 AM

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM (Neri)

Present: **Kristin Neri, Samuel Braden, Nichole McCarthy, Lisa Worhacz, Olli Baker, Melissa Sievers, Karen Oesterle, Erin Kovalsky, Chris Lund, Jessica Petitto, Angela Patti, Ella Pieterse, Laura Suttell, Michele Coolbeth, Sue Ludington, Rebecca Chapman, Suzanne Johnson.**

Approval of Prior Meeting (11/3/2025) Minutes
(Oesterle, Lund, Unanimously Approved)

Committee Reports

- Communications
 - Public Relations Committee
 - Erin Kovalsky joined the committee; she and Committee Chair, Sue Ludington, are looking for additional members for the committee.
 - Added a submission form to the job opportunities page.
 - Next steps: promote the job opportunities page and submission form; connect with employers, law firms, library schools, and potentially law schools.
 - Listserv Committee
 - No updates to report.
 - Newsletter Committee
 - Published December newsletter.
 - Continues to receive regular contributions and content.
 - Website Committee
 - Updated officers, committee members, and events page; moved Annual Meeting to past events.
 - Progress on page for presentation slides, photo gallery for Annual Meetings, and page summarizing Past Events from 1955 to date.
 - Will explore additional payment processing options (e.g., PayPal) to improve compatibility.
- Social Media Committee
 - Will delete X account today.
 - Reinstated the blog and will move the content from <https://alluny.blogspot.com/> to the main ALLUNY.org page; no new content yet.
 - LinkedIn will be set to “public”; committee chair secured the necessary access rights.
 - Will post membership renewal announcement to social media today.
- Elections Committee
 - Open positions for 2026 elections include one Board Member-at-Large and Vice President/President-Elect.
 - The election cycle will begin in the Spring.
- Parliamentarian Committee
 - By-laws committee will start work soon and hopes to add a long-standing ALLUNY member with institutional knowledge to the committee.
 - Will update the calendar regarding Chapter Liability Insurance.

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ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2025 (Approved March 16, 2026)
(Continued from [Page 9](#))

Old Business

- New grant or award in memory of Debbie Simonik.
 - Discussion focused on how to make this recognition impactful, particularly given that ALLUNY receives fewer grant applications following the format change and reduced cost for the Annual Meeting and Spring Institute.
 - Suggestions include offering a scholarship for a local grad student interested in law librarianship; providing \$150 toward travel/hotel expenses to attend the ALLUNY Annual Meeting; increasing AALL conference grant from \$ 500 to \$1500.
 - The Treasurer confirmed that \$5 from annual dues is intended for grants, although that line item had been reallocated since grant funds has maintained a \$4850 balance for several years.
 - Motion by Oesterle to increase AALL conference grant from \$500 to \$1500.
(Oesterle, Suttell, Unanimously Approved)



New Business

- VIP program –
 - Lund researched estimated cost to ALLUNY; \$1500 for travel and lodging (AALL covers registration).
 - Discussion addressed sustainability, frequency, and future participants. Suggestions include inviting the head of a large library system or other partner that could benefit from education about law librarianship every 3 years or as needed.
 - Motion by Lund to invite Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian, to participate in the AALL VIP program, and allocate up to \$1500 for her travel, lodging, and meals.

(Lund, Patti, Unanimously Approved)

- Zoom account –
 - Treasurer will issue payment later today.
 - President@alluny.org and Vicepresident@alluny.org will have permissions to host Zoom meetings.
- Discussion about whether designated member – President and/or Treasurer – could have access to a debit or credit card for the organization.

Announcements

- Membership dues are due by the end of January. President will send reminders throughout the month.
- IRS Form 990 submitted by Treasurer by Feb 15.
- Melissa will change ALLUNY Members Only Password on March 1.
- ALLUNY will send reminders for members who have not renewed in early March.
- Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Adjourned 10:39 AM (*Neri*)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Worhacz, Secretary

2025-2026 ALLUNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES OF UPSTATE NEW YORK

Website:
www.alluny.org

Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

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Co-Past President

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Committees

Archives

Chair: Vacant

Communications

Listserv: Sidney Sinclair
Newsletter: Melissa Sievers
Public Relations: Sue Ludington
Social Media: Laura Suttell
Website: Melissa Sievers

Continuing Education

Chair: Ella Pieterse
Vendors & Corporate Sponsors:
Jessica Petitto

Government Relations/ Advocacy

Chair: Elaina Brown

Members & Elections

Membership: Angela Patti
(Acting)
Elections: Nina Scholtz
Grants & Awards: Karen Oes-
terle
Nominations: Karen Oesterle &
Chris Lund

Parliamentarian

Chair: Nichole McCarthy

