



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

Issue Highlights:

- ALLUNY 2026 Elections
- Photos from the 2026 Spring Institute
- ALLUNY marches in CNY Pride Parade

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June/July, 2026

Message From the President Kristin Neri

Hello Friends!

We have had a great quarter!

The Government Relations and Advocacy Committee has started an Advocacy 101 webinar series that has been very successful so far! We have recorded these sessions and we will be making them available to members soon. Be sure to catch the next event in this series.



The Planning Committee is accepting new members to plan the Annual Meeting. This is one of my personal favorite committees. There is something special about a small group coming together with nothing and coming out a few months later with an amazing institute or conference. Joining this committee is also an opportunity to meet and connect with other ALLUNY Members.

Members of ALLUNY partnered with the 5th Judicial District, Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Onondaga County Bar Association and the CNY Women's Bar Association to march and table at CNY Pride [See [Page 6](#)]. This was our second year marching in this event and we had a wonderful day, with wonderful weather, and 23,000 people to provide resources to, including ALLUNY stickers and information on Law Librarianship.

Elections are upon us! You will soon see a ballot in your email, so please be sure to vote! [See [Pages 2-3](#) for candidate profiles] Keep reading this issue for updates on committees, photos from the Spring Institute, and more!

2026 ALLUNY ELECTIONS

This election cycle, we have two open positions on the Board of Directors. **Nichole McCarthy** is running for the position of Vice-President/President Elect (2026-2029), and **Melinda Appleby** is running for the position of Director (2026-2028). See below for brief bios of both candidates, and keep an eye out for your ballot, which will be sent via email to all active voting-eligible ALLUNY members in late July.

Vice-President / President Elect (2026-2029)



Nichole M. McCarthy, Director of Student Research and Content Development

Legal Information Institute [LII] at Cornell Law School

For the past 5 years, Nichole has worked for the Legal Information Institute [LII] where she recruits and leads the student and recent graduate research assistants who review and create original content for the LII. She also coordinates and manages the production of new content and is responsible for the development of new collections.

Nichole has previously supported the Law Library of Congress as a Metadata Intern while earning her MLIS, and worked as a librarian at a law firm prior to joining the LII. She also volunteers as a digital archivist for [KRIA: The Icelandic Constitution Archives](#) and is a former adjunct faculty member at Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. In addition to her M.S. in Library and Information Science, Nichole has a B.A. in Women's Studies, and an M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration.

As a volunteer, Nichole is currently Chair of the ALLUNY Parliamentary Committee, and she has served on the Board of Directors of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Home for the Elderly d.b.a. Westminster Manor in her hometown of Auburn, NY from 2022-2025, as Secretary (July 2022 - June 2023) and President (July 2023 - June 2025), was Co-Chair of the Policy and Procedure Committee for Roc City Roller Derby, Inc. in 2024-2025, served as Board President and Director of Business Administration for Syracuse Roller Revolution Inc., d.b.a. Salt City Roller Derby in Syracuse, NY from 2021 - 2023 where she assisted with post-COVID-19 reopening policy and procedures, and collaborated extensively with attorneys, the Board, and the league to revise their bylaws for a successful 501(c)(7) to 501(c)(3) conversion, and was a member of Cornell University's International Open Access Week Planning Committee for 2021 and 2022.

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2026 ALLUNY Elections (Continued from [Page 2](#))



Director (2026-2028)



Melinda Appleby is currently a Reference Librarian at Barclay Damon and brings a wide range of experience in law, public, and correctional librarianship. She earned her M.S. in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University in 2005 and began her library career as a reference librarian at the Newark (NY) Public Library, where she developed a strong connection to community-focused service. Melinda then spent 18 years working as a prison librarian. Earlier in her career, she worked as an indexer while raising a family and it was during this time that her interest in information work ultimately led her to librarianship. She sees serving on the ALLUNY Board as an opportunity to give back to the professional community, support fellow law librarians, and help strengthen connections and opportunities across the association.



Update from Grants & Awards Committee

ALLUNY members support their colleagues to enhance learning and career advancement, as a portion of each membership fee goes toward ALLUNY grants and awards.

We are happy to announce that **Marty Ambroz**, Electronic Services Librarian at Syracuse University College of Law Library, has been awarded the 2026 [AALL Annual Conference Grant](#). We look forward to reading his article about the conference in Cleveland in the next ALLUNY newsletter.

The Grants and Awards Committee currently consists of Chair **Karen Oesterle** and Member **Michele Coolbeth**. After serving as Chair October 2019 - October 2026, Karen will step down as Chair at the 2026 Annual Meeting and Michele has kindly agreed to serve as Committee Chair moving forward. Many thanks, Michele!

Member News

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

- Cassie Guthrie
- Emma Hassel
- Julia Marie Pluta
- Kailey White

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

- Jessica Petitto (15 years)
- Beth Adelman (20 years)
- Amanda Steinbacher (20 years)
- Jean-Paul Vivian (25 years)

Marty Ambroz has recently taken on the role as Chair of the Listserv committee. Welcome Marty, and thanks to outgoing chair **Sidney Sinclair** for your many years of managing this task for us!

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.

Updates from the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee

The Government Relations and Advocacy committee has been hard at work with our webinar series. Expect announcements regarding the August and September webinars in the next coming weeks as we get ready to wrap up this series. If you want to increase your own advocacy efforts and find out more about what we are doing, stop by our next meeting. It will be August 18th at 1:30 PM. Register at the link below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8y-LlZQvRDmEctDanjPo3w>

We hope to see you there!



2026 ALLUNY Spring Institute

On April 24th, members of ALLUNY met at the Central New York Philanthropy Center in Syracuse for the 2026 ALLUNY Spring Institute. Thanks to **Yage Huang** for all the great pictures below!



Top Left: ALLUNY Vice-President **Ella Pieterse** delivers opening remarks; **Top Right:** ALLUNY President **Kristin Neri** delivers closing remarks; **Middle:** Panel Discussion on Stress Management and Setting Realistic Expectations, moderated by **Christine Demetros** (seated at left); **Bottom:** Attendees listening to one of our many great speakers; **Left Inset:** Service dog break with Pet Partners of CNY.

CNY Pride Parade

On June 13th, law librarians and ALLUNY members marched and tabled at the CNY Pride Parade in Syracuse.



Above: Law Library Assistant Marie Amell (left) and ALLUNY Vice-President **Ella Pieterse** march with the ALLUNY banner; Below: ALLUNY with other marchers at the parade.





ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026 (Approved May 4, 2026)

ALLUNY Board Meeting

Held on TEAMS

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 10:00AM

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM (*Neri*)

Present: **Kristin Neri, Nichole McCarthy, Lisa Worhacz, Olli Baker, Melissa Sievers, Karen Oesterle, Erin Kovalsky, Chris Lund, Jessica Petitto, Angela Patti, Rebecca Chapman, Suzanne Johnson, Yage Huang, Kelly Sickler, Melinda Appleby, John Moreland**

Approve prior meeting (1/5/2026) minutes

(Oesterle, Lund, Unanimously Approved)

Motion to approve agenda

(Lund, Patti, Unanimously Approved)

Committee Reports

- Communications
 - Public Relations Committee
 - No updates to report.
 - Listserv Committee
 - No updates to report.
 - Newsletter Committee
 - Must find an alternative to Microsoft Publisher since the software is nearing end of life. Suggestion to look at Canva.
 - Compiled and included milestone anniversaries in March issue.
 - Question about how to handle retirement announcements. Currently retirement announcements are self-submitted or passed along through co-workers. What about solo librarians or members from organizations or employers that are less active in ALLUNY? Should ALLUNY contact for permission to highlight or nominate for lifetime membership if we hear about it? Some people may not want their retirement announced.
 - Website Committee
 - New feature added - bulk renewal.
 - Social Media Committee
 - Deleting X became very involved so that is on hold for now.
 - Deleted private LinkedIn and created public LinkedIn.

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ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026 (Approved May 4, 2026)
(Continued from [Page 7](#))

- Members and Elections Committee
 - Elections
 - Open positions for 2026 elections include one Board Member-at-Large and Vice President/President-Elect.
 - Discussion about whether to seek more representation from different library types – right now many board members are from Court libraries.
 - The election cycle will begin in the Spring.
 - Nominations Committee (Past Co-Presidents)
 - In need of an Elections Committee Chair - adding call for nominations in the next newsletter, but officers/board should think about approaching members who may have interest
 - Grants & Awards
 - Needs chair
- Parliamentary Committee
 - By-laws committee will start work soon - no updates.
 - Suggestions to update bylaws to have life membership renewal every year or every five years to better keep track of contact information and deceased members.
 - Added a long-standing ALLUNY member with institutional knowledge to the committee: Laura Suttell with support from Cyndi Trembley (consultant).
- Government Relations & Advocacy Committee
 - No updates to report, but members should have received a flyer for their upcoming Advocacy Workshop Series.



Old Business

- Grants and Awards had decided against moving ahead with new scholarships or funding opportunities because ALLUNY approved to increase the AALL conference grant from \$500 to \$1500 during the 1/5/2026 meeting.
- VIP program
 - Reached out to the New York State Librarian, but given her position as a state government employee, she cannot accept. She welcomed the chance to meet and connect with ALLUNY, especially next time ALLUNY has an event in the Albany area.
 - No other potential candidates, but ALLUNY will keep nominations open through the end of March.
- Zoom account
 - All set. VP added.
 - Discussion about whether designated member – President and/or Treasurer – could have access to a debit or credit card for the organization.
- IRS Form 990 submitted by Treasurer before Feb 15
- Discussion re: Members only password. Plan to remove members who have lapsed from Members Listserv and send out new password on April 1. Membership chair should send one more email reminder.

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New Business

- ## Announcements

- Adjourned 10:52 AM (*Neri*)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Worhacz, Secretary

ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes May 4, 2026 (Approved July 6, 2026)

ALLUNY Board Meeting

Monday, May 4, 2026

10:00 AM | Zoom

Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM (Neri)

Present: Angela Patti, Yage Huang, Kristin Neri, Elaina Brown, Melissa Sievers, Karen Oesterle, Olli Baker, Ella Pieterse, Michele Coolbeth, Erin Kovalsky, Chris Lund, Nichole McCarthy, Lisa Worhacz

Approval of meeting minutes from 3/16/2026

(Oesterle, Patti, Unanimously Approved)

Committee Reports

- Communications
 - Public Relations: updated a few job postings; no other updates.
 - Listserv: no updates.
 - Newsletter: no updates.
 - Website
 - Added presentation archives and community events page to promote ALLUNY and non-ALLUNY events.
 - Added member login link; Life Members page now public.
 - Fixed member directory.
 - Members-only password not yet updated; will distribute via Members-only listserv ALLUNYMEM-L.
 - No alternative identified for CP Contact Form with PayPal payments.
 - Marty Ambroz from SU expressed interest in joining Website Committee.
 - Social Media: no updates.
- Members and Elections
 - Connected volunteers with appropriate committee chairs.
 - Clarification needed regarding who will manage election coordination.
 - At least one candidate has indicated interest in serving as VP.
 - Christine's term is ending; a board position will be open.
- Grants and Awards
 - New committee chair to begin in October.
 - No pending applications.
 - Two applicants for AALL grant – we should notify applicants before May 20 (early bird deadline).
- Nominations
 - Key dates (per Operating Manual):
 - Slate of candidates complete - April 1
 - Candidate biographies due - June 1
 - Ballots distributed - July 1
 - Voting completed - August 1
- Parliamentary
 - Lise joined the committee.
 - Prior to the meeting, Parliamentary distributed guidance on meeting procedures, including agendas, calls to order, new business, and other parliamentary procedure.



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ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2026 (Approved July 6, 2026)
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- Government Relations and Advocacy
 - First Advocacy 360 Series webinar with Jen Lunsford on May 8.
 - June session may be postponed to July or August.
 - Discuss recording under New Business.

Old Business

- Bylaws
 - Must reach out to AALL for required approval of proposed changes.
 - Initial review and comments underway.
 - Committee planning to reconvene within 1–2 months.
- VIP Program
 - Revisit next year
- AALL Conference
 - Reception: no updates
 - CONELL Marketplace: President will be there.
 - Display Board: VP volunteered to assist; June 12 deadline to reserve a space.
 - Schedule additional coverage for table.
- Hein Archive invoice
 - Approved \$350 payment.
- ALLUNY Accounts (president@alluny.org)
 - Accounts with Wegmans and Amazon.
 - Password management limited to President and VP; uses our nonprofit address.

New Business

- Evaluating whether we should record Professional Development Series.

Announcements

- CNY Pride
- September meeting moved to August 31, 2026.

Adjourned 10:34 (*Neri*)

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Worhacz, ALLUNY Secretary

**ASSOCIATION OF
LAW LIBRARIES OF
UPSTATE NEW YORK**

Website:
www.alluny.org

Social Media:
[Facebook](#)



2025-2026 ALLUNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

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Committees

Archives

Chair: Vacant

Communications

Listserv: Marty Ambroz
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: Vacant
Grants & Awards: Karen Oes-
terle
Nominations: Karen Oesterle &
Chris Lund

Parliamentarian

Chair: Nichole McCarthy