

ANNUAL REPORT



Lawns and Woods near Cayuga Lake from the Genoa Historical Association collection on New York Heritage



South Central Regional
Library Council
Make Smart Connections.

2022/23

Welcome

The SCRLC Board of Trustees and staff are pleased to present SCRLC's 2022-2023 Annual Report, which highlights some of our accomplishments from this past year.

As a member-driven organization, we achieve together with you, our members, what would be impossible to accomplish alone. This partnership grew in 2022-2023 from 74 to 85 members, with historical societies and museums our fastest growing sector.

Many of our members, both long-term and new, participated in grant opportunities available through the Council, including American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects and the NYS Archives Partnership Trust Consider the Source program. ARPA grants awarded to our three public library system members greatly expanded internet access within our communities, upgraded devices and equipment, and provided training. Eleven members received competitive SCRLC grants, primarily for digitization projects. As a result of the various grant opportunities, New York State Historic Newspapers now includes 160 titles and 1,115,359 pages representing our region. The objects contributed by SCRLC members to New York Heritage increased by 6,813, bringing to total 22,759. Additionally, three members were awarded diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting grants. We were also able to extend hotspot subscriptions for the telehealth/digital equity kits that had been awarded to 19 public libraries.

We were also able to offer free learning opportunities and to provide electronic resources with low cost-shares for the regional subscriptions. The Hospital Library Services Program funded special resources for the 12 hospital members, including the online *New*



England Journal of Medicine. We were also able to fund individual grants for library materials for each of them.

Advocacy remains an ongoing concern, whether it is to increase state library aid, safeguard the freedom to read, ensure that all people of all identities are included in our libraries and cultural organizations, or to champion digital equity. As such, SCRLC became one of the founding members of the Southern Tier Digital Equity Coalition, along with our public library system members and a few others. Our fledgling coalition participated with the NYS ConnectAll Office in releasing a survey and hosting focus groups. We look forward to increasing digital equity in our communities.

SCRLC also continued its close partnership with the other eight Empire State Library Network (ESLN) councils to offer freely available programs and services, e.g., the New York Heritage Digital Collections, NYS Historic Newspapers, Ask the Lawyer, Ask the Archivist, the Empire State Digital Experience (ESIE), and a plethora of conferences and learning opportunities. ESLN also continued to avail low-cost programs and services including Empire Library Delivery (ELD), AskUs 24/7 Virtual Reference, and Academic Overdrive.

We are pleased to see so many members actively engaged with the Council through serving on our advisory committees and task groups, participating in special interest groups, and in the Council's governance. There is always room for more at the table, and actively participating is a great way to network with your colleagues while helping to drive regional programs and services, which in turn can have impact at the state level and beyond.

With Gratitude and Warm Regards,

Kristin Dade, Cornell University, SCRLC Board President
Mary-Carol Lindbloom, Executive Director

Our Vision

South Central Regional Library Council envisions a future where all people who live, work, and study in our communities have equitable and reliable access to information and sustainable resources available anywhere, anytime, and are competent in all literacies. To achieve this vision, our member organizations include and welcome all people, and are valued and well-funded community partners, central to those they serve. In this envisioned future, environmental sustainability is central to our mission and practices.

Our Mission

South Central Regional Library Council empowers our members through advocacy, networking, resources, and professional development; and by supporting diversity, innovation, and collaboration to strengthen their ability to serve their communities and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

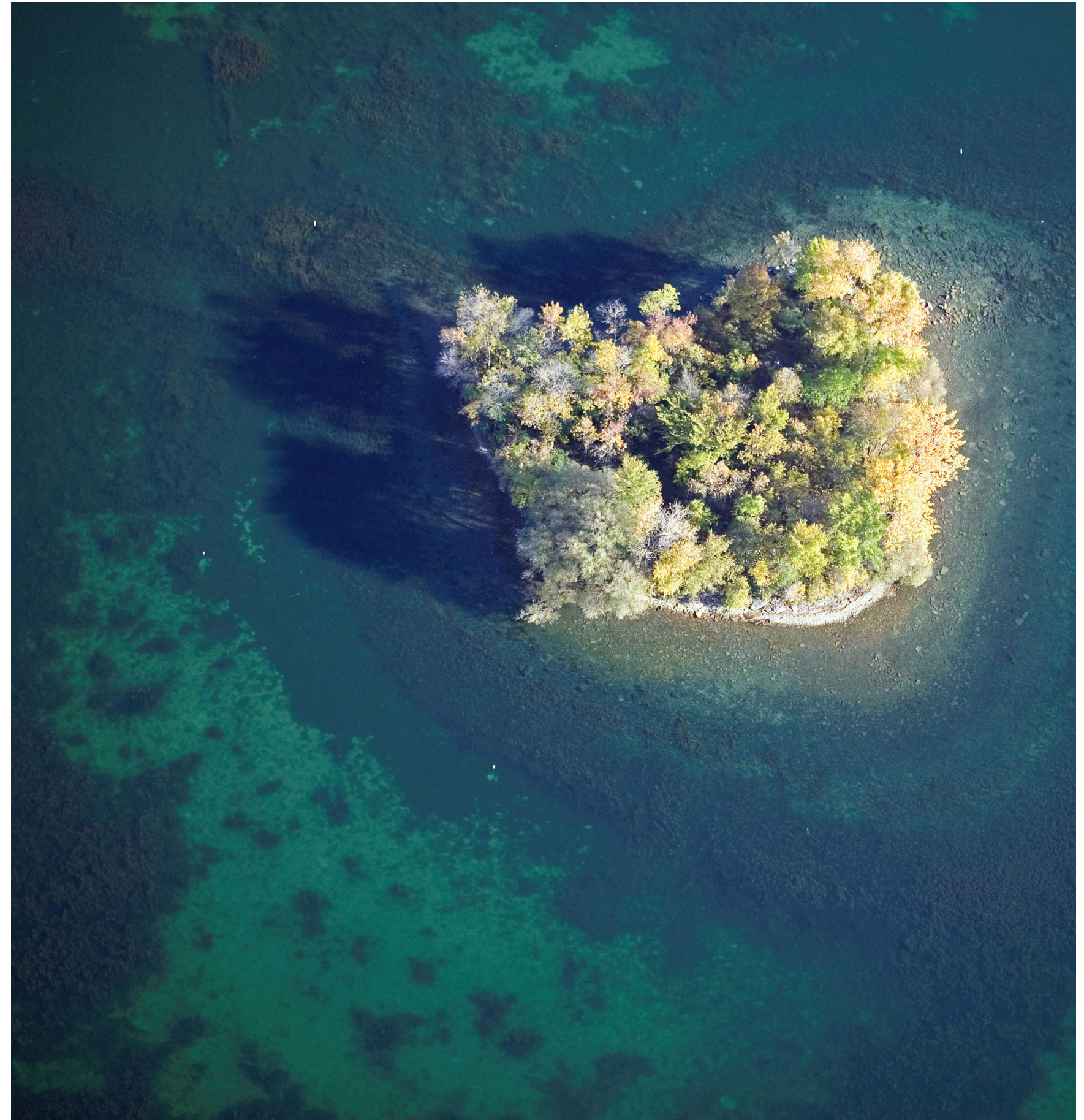
Advocating for Our Members



Advocacy that increases members' visibility and their role and importance in society.

Advocacy work is an ongoing process of building relationships. SCRLC staff participated in the February 28 **Library Advocacy Day**, both in-person and virtually. Advocating together with the New York Library Association (NYLA), the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS), the Empire State Library Network (ESLN) and library workers everywhere, we collectively staved off a cut and held funding to \$99.6M for library aid and \$34M for library construction. We continue to partner with these library organizations to advocate for increased funding levels. We also worked together on such issues as intellectual freedom. SCRLC co-hosted the NYALS retreat with Finger Lakes Library System in Ithaca, which focused on advocacy.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). \$414,015. ARPA grant activities concluded, demonstrating the effectiveness of working together across system types to increase digital equity. Projects resulted in more widespread internet access throughout the region (many extenders were installed on public libraries and equipment upgrades), expanded digital collections, and more diverse e-materials for the schools. The Digital Justice 4 Disability Justice pilot led to increased digital accessibility for a few libraries; SCRLC's YouTube channel houses the accessibility webinars.



Communicating & Collaborating



Collaboration that supports and advances the ability of SCRLC members to meet their users' needs, and that engages all members in SCRLC leadership, collaborations, programs, services, and beyond.

SCRLC's 26 bi-weekly electronic newsletters were sent to 414 subscribers; **Tech-Talk** was sent to 265 subscribers; and the monthly **SCHOAM** (Special Collections, Historical Organizations, Archives and Museums) Newsletter was sent to 86 subscribers. **HLSP News** for hospitals was sent to 22 subscribers. Visits to SCRLC's virtual spaces totaled 376,810, including 155,664 to our New York Heritage collections (up 107%) largely due to so many new collections and good marketing. Scrlc.org was visited 38,911 times. [Facebook](#) had 299 followers, reaching them 4703 times. SCRLC's 18 hosted **LibGuides** received 9,367 views. The most popular were HistoryUnbound (5,145 views), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (2,169 views), Disaster Planning and Recovery for Libraries (2,076 views), and Library Assessment Tools (1,963 views).

Field Visits. FY 2022-2023 saw a gradual return to in-person meetings; there were 27 field visits and consultations, both in-person and virtual.

SCRLC's 56th **Annual Meeting** featured State Librarian Lauren Moore on digital equity.

Individualized **benefit-contribution summaries** were distributed to each member.

The ESLN "Ask" services remained available to SCRLC members: **Ask the Lawyer** (answers paid for by SCRLC), **Ask the Archivist** (free), and the collaborative **AskUs 24/7 Virtual Reference** service.



Engaging a Learning Community



Learning that is responsive, relevant, engaging, and transformational.

Learning Opportunities. We offered 55 interactive programs, including customized training and virtual meetups that were attended by 1,438 learners. Programs remained free. Topics included accessibility, tech trends, cultural competency, trauma-informed librarianship, digital accessibility, and climate change. Most webinars are available on our YouTube channel.

On-Demand Learning. There were 102 webinars available on our YouTube channel, with 2,542 YouTube views; the 11 new videos were viewed 562 times. There were 74 YouTube subscribers and 242 subscribers to our Tech-Talk newsletter; the Tech-Talk database had 191 logins. 65 SCRLC members attended 24 Tech-Talk webinars on a variety of topics. Five members used our Library Juice Academy discount.

Career Coaching remained available to regional LIS students, recent graduates, and more seasoned professionals. The service offers resumé and cover letter reviews and mock interviews.

Improving Patient Outcomes: The Hospital Library Services Program (HLSP)

Twelve regional hospitals participated in the HLSP program, receiving electronic resources, interlibrary loan support, research assistance, consulting, and individual grants, which totaled \$11,000. Of the grants awarded, 87.5% was spent primarily on electronic resources – books, journals, and databases; 6.5% went toward library computers; and 6.0% funded circuit services. Sometimes these are the only funds available to a hospital to expand their physical and electronic book collections. One hospital shared that the grant allowed them to keep their computer hardware in their library space up-to-date for the physicians to use for researching patient cases.

Electronic Resources for Hospitals. SCRLC served as a central agent for hospital library members' electronic resources, which included the *New England Journal of Medicine*, accessed by the hospitals 9,298 times. Four hospitals participated in a 60-40 cost-share with SCRLC for a set of OVID e-journals.

Including Everyone



Diversity, inclusion, and justice, which recognizes that these are essential for equity for historically oppressed and marginalized groups of people, and that values anti-racist work and social movements that support equity for all.

- SCRLC staff compiled a [LibGuide](#) about inclusive metadata best practices. Further best practice guides and continuing education opportunities were shared in the SCHOAM newsletter.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA) LibGuide was updated.
- Through digitization grants, items that reflect historically oppressed and marginalized communities were added to [New York Heritage](#).
- Learning opportunities included BIPOC presenters and topics such as The Emerging Forces of Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Trends and Strategic Approaches; DEI Concepts and Cultural Competency: The Integration of DEI Practices into Library Work and Assessment - Implications and Applications for Library & Information Organizations; and Trauma-Informed Librarianship (Essential for Library Users and Essentials for Library Workers).
- DEIJA actions were included in our biweekly newsletter.
- Three DEI consulting grants were awarded to help the organizations address issues in their own settings: **Alfred University Libraries**, **Ithaca College Library**, and **Seymour Library District**.
- SCRLC worked with **Cornell University's** Building Racial Equity in Organizations class to refine the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assessment for Library Systems instrument.



Leading & Supporting Innovation



Innovation and future-forward thinking that provides effective programs and services and continually identifies opportunities and uncertainties, imagining and co-creating our future in partnership with our members.

Technology and Digitization Grant Awards. SCRLC distributed 13 digitization and technology grants totaling \$55,208.50. With these grants, digital objects were added to [New York Heritage](#) Digital Collections or [New York Historic Newspapers](#). Recipients were:

Cayuga Onondaga School Library System - \$2,856 to digitize 96 yearbooks from Weedsport Central School District; **Chenango County Historical Society** - \$2,500 to continue digitizing materials from their archives; **Elmira College Library** - \$3,960 for the digitization of their class catalogs; **Fenimore Art Museum** - \$5,557.50 to digitize 20th Century newspaper titles in the public domain; **Greater Oneonta Historical Society** - \$2,000 to digitize local women's history materials; **Houghton University Library** - \$3,950 to add the remaining 63 Houghton College yearbooks to their digital collections; **Huntington Memorial Library** - \$6,000 to digitize Oneonta city directories and local high school yearbooks; **Interlaken Public Library** - \$6,000 to digitize local newspapers; **Seymour Public Library District** - \$2,400 for their oral history project, the Voices of Cayuga County; **Southern Tier Library System** - \$4,560 to digitize newspapers from Friendship, NY; **Steele Memorial Library** - \$6,000 for an ST ViewScan 4 Microfilm Scanner to digitize microfilmed newspapers; **Waterloo Library & Historical Society** - \$3,705 to digitize Seneca County newspapers; and **Wells College Library** - \$5,720 for a necessary update to their scanner in order to digitize a scrapbook collection. Visit <https://scrlc.org/Grant-information> to read the final reports.

We also leveraged grant opportunities from the NYS Archives Partnership Trust's IMLS grant project to support their Consider the Source website and continue to build New York Heritage. SCRLC distributed six grants: \$875 - **Cayuga Museum of Art & History**, \$1,050 - **Chemung County Historical Society**, \$1,000 - **Chenango County Historical Society**, \$1,050 - **Delaware County Historical Association**, \$1,050 - **Steuben County Historical Society**, and \$1,050 - **Wells College Library**.

Electronic Resources. SCRLC provided governing members with **Consumer Health Complete** (EBSCO), **Literary Reference Center**, (EBSCO); and **FirstSearch/WorldCat Discovery** (OCLC). Members continued to collectively save thousands of dollars in subscription fees.

Virtual Reference. SCRLC's AskUs 24/7 statewide virtual reference participants offered their users point-of-need reference service, while saving money by collaborating: **Broome Community College**, **Cayuga Community College**, **Cornell University**, **Houghton University**, **Ithaca College**, **SUNY Cortland**, **SUNY Delhi**, and **Wells College**. Their users asked 6,186 questions; SCRLC librarians answered 5,532 both from regional users and beyond.

Connecting to Our Past Through Digitization



Equity that provides access to inclusive information (from historical materials to digital content), services, and spaces for all of our communities and healthy and diverse work environments that nourish the mind, body, and spirit for our members.

New York Heritage Digital Collections (NYH). The number of items on NYHeritage from SCRLC contributors increased from 15,946 to 22,759 (up 43%), and the total pageviews across the region's collections increased from 155,664 to 322,018 (up 107%).

Allegany County added 419 more digital objects plus a new contributor/SCRLC member, **Allegany County Historical Society**. Two contributors in Chenango County added 659 objects. Schuyler County added 373 more digital objects, and another contributing SCRLC member, **Backbone Ridge History Group**. Steuben County added 425 objects and a new contributor, **Hornell Public Library**. Tioga County has its first contributor, the **Spencer Museum**, which added 247 objects.

CONTENTdm. Membership in the NYH collaborative saved SCRLC participants at least \$110,000 in CONTENTdm fees, the digital collection management system used by NYH.

NYS Historic Newspapers. There are 160 newspaper titles from the SCRLC region in NYS Historic Newspapers, totaling 1,115,359 pages; all fourteen counties are now represented. Visit the directory of digitized newspaper projects, organized by county, under [Regional Reference](#).

Traveling Exhibits: The exhibits—Women's Suffrage, Erie Canal, US Census, Hurricane Agnes, Immigration—circulated a total of 37 times to members and their members.

Resource Sharing

20 academic libraries received \$177,713 in [Coordinated Collection Development Aid](#) for Academic Libraries. 18 SCRLC librarians attended a CCDA workshop.

BARC use returned to pre-pandemic, increasing to 1,936. This places volume at nearly the highest year ever, which had been in 2017-2018 when BARC received 1,938 requests. [Medical Information Services Program](#) funds continued to be available to support interlibrary loan.

The **Resource Sharing Users Group** event, "What Have You Been Dealt? " was held in conjunction with the Central NY Library Resources Council, featuring the Internet Archive, delivery, and de-stressing. 73 resource sharing staff from around the State attended.

Sustaining Our Organization

We prioritized sustainability through our fiscal practices, telecommuting as feasible, virtual programming, electronic communications, and the sharing of resources in our office space. And we continued to celebrate and promote the sustainability efforts and progress of our members.





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Greater Southern Tier School Library System
- KEVIN REYNOLDS**
Corning Museum of Glass
- DR. FANTASIA THORNE-ORTIZ**
Northeast College of Health Sciences Library
- KARIN WIKOFF**
Ithaca College



Our Members

A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital	Historical Society	Fenimore Art Museum
Alfred State College	Chemung County Library District	Finger Lakes Library System
Alfred University	Chenango County Historical Society & Museum	Four County Library System
Allegany County Historical Society	Chenango Memorial Hospital	Genoa Historical Association
Auburn Community Hospital	Civics4Action Collaborative	George F. Johnson Memorial Library
BAE Systems	Cornell University Library	Greater Oneonta Historical Society
Bassett Healthcare	Corning Community College	Greater Southern Tier BOCES
Big Flats Historical Society & Museum	Corning Inc.	Hartwick College
Binghamton University Libraries	Corning Museum of Glass	Historic Ithaca
Broome County Public Library	Cortland County Historical Society	History Center in Tompkins County
Broome-Tioga BOCES	Delaware Chenango Madison Otsego BOCES	Houghton University
Cayuga Community College	Delaware County Historical Association	Huntington Memorial Library
Cayuga Medical Center	Edith B. Ford Memorial Library	Hyde Hall
Cayuga Museum of History & Art	Edmeston Museum	Int'l. Motor Racing Research Center
Cayuga Onondaga BOCES	Elmira College	Interlaken Public Library
Chemung County		Ithaca College Library

Our Members

Jones Memorial Hospital	Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	Waterloo Library & Historical Society
Keuka College	Southern Tier Library System	Wells College
Lourdes Hospital	Steuben County Historical Society	Yates County History Center
McGraw Historical Society	SUNY Broome	
Mt. Saviour Monastery	SUNY Cortland	
Northeast College of Health Sciences	SUNY Delhi	
NY Center for Agricultural Medicine & Health	SUNY Oneonta	
NYS Academy of Fire Science	Swart-Wilcox House Museum	
NYS College of Ceramics @Alfred	Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Resource Center	
O'Connor Hospital	Tompkins Cortland Community College	
Otsego Northern Catskills BOCES	Tompkins County Public Library	
Schuyler Hospital	Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES	
Seneca Falls Historical Society	UHS Wilson Medical Center	
Seneca Falls Library	URMC St. James Hospital	
Seymour Public Library District		



Financial Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

