

## 2011-K888

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Thursday, April 12, 2012, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those community based organizations which unselfishly devote their energy, resources and thoughtful care on behalf of improving the quality and character of life in that community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Thursday, April 12, 2012, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Library Week, April 8-14, 2012; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 7,656 libraries of all types in New York State and over 14,437 staff members other than librarians according to the most recent data available; and

WHEREAS, New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) is an organization whose roots began in 1977 at the first ever "library clerical conference" in New York State; this state organization was established by library assistants to promote and enhance the professional image and status of New York State's library assistant; to further their professional growth; to provide a network for communication to the members and the profession on library and library assistant issues; and to network and cooperate with library organizations on local, state, national and international levels; and

WHEREAS, From these humble beginnings, NYSLAA has grown as an independent organization, with close to 450 members; it is run by library assistants, for library assistants; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, the NYSLAA has added many other benefits to its members, including a quarterly newsletter, scholarships, regional workshops, a listserv, awards, and the Certificate of Achievement program; and

WHEREAS, The Certificate of Achievement is NYSLAA's most distinctive program; in 1992, the NYSLAA conducted a membership survey which

included questions about certification for library assistants; 78% of those responding indicated they favored a voluntary program; as the professional association of library assistants in New York State, NYSLAA is the appropriate body to administer such program; and WHEREAS, In 1993, a majority of library assistants attending the NYSLAA Annual Conference indicated that the NYSLAA should work on a voluntary program; a draft of the program was presented to focus groups of library assistants and library administrators for their input; a two year pilot program was approved by the NYSLAA Executive Council and implemented in January 1995; the first eight applicants received their certificates at the 1995 NYSLAA Annual Conference held in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, This program is designed to recognize the involvement and contributions of career-oriented library assistants and to acknowledge their support of libraries and the library profession; for the purposes of this program, a library assistant is defined as a library worker who does not hold a position as a librarian; and

WHEREAS, Library assistants support the mission of libraries by providing important patron and support services; they promote personal development through professional involvement; they share concerns about issues facing the library profession and work with others in addressing them; through this program, library assistants demonstrate a continuing

commitment to their work; library assistant service is recognized by library professionals and administrators as a valid career choice; and

WHEREAS, NYSLAA 2012 Executive Council members are: President, Sally McMaster, University of Rochester; Vice-President, Ruth V. Oberg, SUNY Buffalo; Treasurer, Kathryn Riedener, Pioneer Library System; Corresponding Secretary, Donna Kuhner, Gloversville Public Library; Membership Secretary, Donna Hanna, Milne Library; and Recording Secretary, Coleen Hopkins, Milne Library; and

WHEREAS, Standing Committee members include: Public Relations, Ruth Mason, Guernsey Memorial Library; Certificate of Achievement Review Board Coordinator, Michelle Matthews, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Donations, Susan Flick, Geneva Public Library; and

WHEREAS, In light of their commitment, dedication and successful efforts, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to all Library Assistants throughout the State of New York;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Thursday, April 12, 2012, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and to Sally McMaster, President of the New York State Library Assistants' Association.