

Hi Everyone,

Library advocacy for 2019 is gearing up! WNYLRC is planning to support members who wish to be part of a **regional letter writing campaign**, beginning now, and running through December 2018. The goal is to get a strong message out to the State Assembly and Senate just before our annual local visits with these legislators (January-February 2019) and, before the statewide annual Library Advocacy Day taking place in Albany on February 27, 2019!

All you need to do:

- Select a visible space in your library where you can:
- Set up a box full of writing materials (pens, pencils, paper, envelopes, cards, postcards, etc.), along with;
- a “mail box” for the hand written letters to be deposited, and;
- a poster explaining to your visitors what the letter writing campaign is all about (Increase State Library Aid in 2019!)

***If you are not sure which Assembly and Senate members represent your library, you can find that information here:**

<https://wnylrc.org/membership/all-members>

WNYLRC is encouraging every library to create your own customized “mail box” and send us a picture! The box could be decorated in the colors of the college if an academic library; or it could be designed around something your municipality is known for if a public library; the box could be designed around a team mascot if a school library...you get the idea!
We will post these on the WNYLRC website and social media as they are received, and we will award prizes for the three most creative mail boxes – voting will be done online at the end of December by everyone who checks out the campaign on social media: #nysletterwriting.

We are asking for at least one library from each of the 18 legislative districts in Western New York to sign up to receive one of the posters promoting the letter writing campaign. You can also see what Assembly and Senate Districts your library belongs to by clicking on the “View New York State District Representatives” button on the WNYLRC Library Advocacy page at: <https://www.wnylrc.org/library-advocacy>

In addition, **WNYLRC will cover the cost of sending the letters that come from your library.** We just ask that you record the number of letters written (weekly is preferred) and send those numbers to us so we can send you the correct postage to get them mailed out!

How This Got Started: The letter writing campaign came out of our conversations this past year with the New York State legislators – many of them telling us direct and personal communications from their constituents is what really motivates them to act on behalf of a cause. So, we are asking **all libraries** – public, school, academic, hospital, and special – *please, please,* encourage your patrons to write a simple letter to their representatives in the coming months, describing why they support their library.

It would be great if we could keep the momentum going from our modest gains in last year’s State budget. Please make sure you all sign up for **NYLA’s advocacy alerts** so you can respond with online messaging sent to our state legislators at critical times during the budget process. **Let’s make 2019 the Year of the Library in the New York State Budget!!**