Organizational Profile: Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

Organized in 1972, the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) is a state affiliate of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), an American Library Association Division, and a not-for-profit organization comprised of approximately 800 public, private, and parochial school librarians, library supervisors, school library educators in Pennsylvania who provide school library services in some capacity to the state’s 1.8 million school students. Individuals and/or organizations who actively promote education throughout the state of Pennsylvania may join as associate members.

The mission of the PSLA is to “enable every student to effectively pursue information and develop ideas as they construct and share knowledge through independent and class-based explorations in excellent school library programs. Professional development for school librarians will facilitate student learning and ensure access to information for all. Our ultimate goal is to develop competent, confident, and inquisitive learners.”

The organization’s vision is to:
- “Promote inquiry-based learning for students to ethically and effectively navigate evolving information to successfully complete tasks vital to college, career, and life.
- Promote collaboration between school librarians and all other advocates of learning in our schools and communities.
- Promote the application of best practices in school librarianship.
- Promote the highest standards of professional integrity and service.
- Promote information literacy, the love of reading, and the commitment to lifelong learning.”

As a voluntary member organization, PSLA does not have an Executive Director or any paid staff or a permanent mailing address. It is overseen by an elected Board of Directors consisting of nine members, including President, Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President and four other members. There are currently 23 operating committees, 32 regional coordinators, and 9 county affiliate school library associations, providing members with multiple opportunities for involvement. PSLA supports AASL’s Learning4Life Initiative and offers a mentoring program for a new generation of school librarians called iConnect to PSLA. The association’s journal Learning & Media is published on a scheduled basis throughout the school year and indexed in H.W. Wilson’s Library Literature database. The organization’s website www.psla.org is constantly updated with information concerning professional development opportunities, the annual conference, committee work, and other news for school librarians.