

# Mohawk Valley Library System

## Director's Report

January - February, 2015

### Administration & Governance

The MVLS Annual Dinner Meeting has been set for Wednesday, May 13 with cocktail hour beginning at 5:30 at the River Stone Manor in Scotia. Kathy will be sending out the announcement and registration forms soon.

Notice has gone to all member library directors and Presidents encouraging applications for the MVLS Library Services Award and the Harold & Junice Wusterbarth Trustee Award. Reminder emails have also been sent. We have started to receive applications. The applications are available at: <http://www.mvls.info/mvls-2015-awards/>

MVLS was closed due to weather on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>. In spite of the challenging weather, the building and grounds have held up reasonably well. The only issue we have had is the ground heaving interfering with opening the exit from the garage. We modified the door bottom as a temporary fix.

I would like to schedule a Building and Equipment Committee meeting for after the April MVLS Board meeting, Thursday, April 16 at 11:00. We will discuss this spring's projects including the garage floor, this door and repair/repainting of the back wall.

Matt Forst's temporary position was scheduled to be over by April 1. We would like to extend his employment for a few more weeks. We will discuss at the March meeting.

### Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA has done a great job with the hardware and Polaris upgrades this February. Work is now in process concerning the new features, including the web-based interface LEAP, and the e-resources integration within Polaris. The JA Council will next meet on April 8.

Four libraries have applied for the Meraki wireless router mini-grants that the board approved in January. Several other libraries have expressed interest. The application deadline is July 1, 2015.

Our Central Library, the Schenectady County Public Library, has applied for the Central Library Development Aid grant as requested by the MVLS board at the January meeting. The Central Library Advisory Committee will be reviewing the application on March 13. I will send you copies of the application after that meeting. This grant will be an agenda item at the March MVLS board meeting.

Our Delivery contract with ALDS expires on April 1. Sue and I have been meeting with Peter Belenchia to discuss a new contract. We are proposing another three year contract with an annual 2.5% increase in fees. ALDS also does delivery for SALS and UHLS, and we all have similar contracts, pay

similar rates and are all satisfied with the service. Approval of the new contract will be on the agenda for the March board meeting.

Matt and Sue are developing an MVLS ILL plan for the future. This will be shared with the members at the April 9 Directors Council meeting. The basic plan is to make more efficient and effective use of the CDLC ILL services by having all of our libraries work directly with CDLC. Some of our libraries do this already.

### **Outreach Services**

The Hale Creek facility continues plan a memoir writing program using some of the Corrections money. The program will be a quarterly series of 6 programs serving up to 10 inmates each series. If approved, it is hoped that this program will help reduce recidivism.

Libraries in Schoharie County are making computers available for people of low to moderate income to do their taxes through the Schoharie County Ca\$h Coalition. Volunteers from NYS Tax and Finance will be at the libraries for one-on-one help during March. Days and times vary with library but all will have someone available.

Lois is working with the Amsterdam Library to help them boost interest in their current Adult Literacy Grant. She is encouraging them to apply again next year to build on the current year project.

### **Adult Services**

Ten libraries will be participating in the NYSCA book discussion program in 2015. Work on titles and facilitators in ongoing. Lois is working with Catholic Charities "Kinship Care" program and the Community Library to develop a unique Authors Among Us Program targeted at grandparents.

Lois is serving on a grant panel for ALAs *StoryCorps Grants @ Your Library*. The hope is that this will help develop ideas for programs here at MVLS.

The MVLS workshop for January was on New York Heritage. Two additional libraries have signed up for this program, with others expressing interest. Check out this state-wide project at <http://nyheritage.org/>.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits 1/8 Welcome To The Neighborhood Workshop; 1/13 Conference call- CA\$H Coalition; 1/15 2-1-1 meeting; 1/15 Statewide Outreach conference call; 1/21 Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 1/23 Nicole Hemsley, AMS; 2/18 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 2/25 - Sustainable Thinking – NYLA; 2/27 – The Role of NY Heritage in the Digital Public Library of America –CDLC

### **Youth Services**

The two system workshop and showcase was February 12 at the Schenectady County Public Library. Total attendance was 62, with 22 from MVLS. Presentations this year focused on creating a more outcome based summer reading program, one that is redefined and in alignment with overarching library goals and objectives. All handouts and materials received were sent to libraries not in

attendance, and all handouts were turned into pdfs at UHLS and posted on their site. Kathy created a link on our website for access to these resources, which have been promoted to our member libraries.

The Picture Book City project continues with Fort Plain, Amsterdam and Fonda the next libraries to come on board. Sue, Sharon and Kathy continue to fine-tune the process and to offer updated signage to libraries.

MVLS continues to support the state's NYS Ready to Read effort by participating in state conference calls, emails, and follow up with our member libraries. Year two training module and summit will be presented by the state next week in March.

Nine libraries and branches had duplo/lego building programs in January/February borrowing 21 bins of legos and 11 bins of duplos. A half bin of Duplos were donated February end; they are being cleaned and added.

A grant was submitted to Stewart's shops in January requesting \$1000 for the purchase of graphic novels to supplement our rotating graphic novel collection; \$750 was received the first week of March. The grant for the GE Science programs will be submitted soon.

MVLS promoted the Take Your Child to the Library Day campaign for member libraries. Postcards supplied by MVLS were given to requesting member library to describe activities for libraries to then send or take for Library Advocacy Day February 25.

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: Picture Book City, NOR, 1/6; Picture Book City, FTH, 1/13; Picture Book City, FTP, 1/13; MVLS Board Meeting, 1/15; GE Offsite Program/Science pick up, 1/23; ALA, MidWinter Conference, Odyssey Committee, Chicago, 1/29-2/3; Summer Reading Program Workshop set up, SCP, 2/11; Summer Reading Program Workshop, SCP, 2/12; NYLA Advocacy Day, Albany, 2/25

## **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

April 9: Library Governance Policies

May 13: MVLS Annual Meeting

June 4: Director's Council

June 10: Foundation Annual Meeting & Program

The final numbers for the 2014 NYS Construction Grants are as follows:

- Amsterdam Free Library \$72,697
- Fort Plain Free Library \$98,562
- Gloversville Public Library \$150,356
- Schenectady County Public Library \$63,598

Two projects were altered due to a budgeting issue and additional funding allocated from the state.

I will be presenting at library board meeting in Amsterdam on March 25 and Schoharie on April 15. I have also had additional contact with the Broadalbin Book Station.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

The Library Services Committee met, and developed the following draft mission statement:

The Mohawk Valley Library System educates, empowers and supports Public Libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.

If you approve, I would like to share this draft with the members, and move toward having the members approve the new statement at the MVLS Annual Meeting.

The next step for the committee is to work on an MVLS Impact Statement. An impact statement is a short paragraph description of how an organization makes a difference. It is designed to answer the question "Why are you worthy of support?" I expect that this effort to define impact will become a big part of our work for 2015.

The Foundation board and volunteers are busy working on the Foundation Golf Tournament, which we hope will be the organization's first big fundraiser. So far we have \$5,000 pledged from 10 donors, with many more on the way. The event is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015.

The Foundation now has its own checking account, and its finances from now on will be separate from MVLS. We are working on setting up the administrative systems to keep the Foundation active and effective.

NYLA Advocacy Day was Wednesday, February 25. We had four system staff and representatives from three member libraries participate. The mood this year was very positive. If all goes well, we should see an increase in state aid this year. But don't get complacent! We need to continue to be in contact with our representatives as the budget process moves forward.

### **Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits**

1/5/2015	Mal Martin Bonnie Kerr Sue Summerfield Devon Hedges, The Community Library
1/6/2015	Lauren Moore, Pioneer Library System Devon Hedges, The Community Library
1/7/2015	Chuck Tallent, Canajoharie Library MVLS Staff
1/8/2015	Keith Seeber Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Workshop
1/9/2015	Capital District Library Council

	Amy Zuch, Finger Lakes Library System
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	MVLS Board of Trustees
1/12/2015	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/13/2015	Division of Library Development, NYSED PULISDO
1/14/2015	Capital District Library Council JA Council
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/15/2015	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees
	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
1/16/2015	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Richard Naylor, William K. Sanford Town Library
1/19/2015	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
1/20/2015	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
1/21/2015	Esther Swanker Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development Foundation Event Committee JA Committee
	Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
1/22/2015	Bonnie Kerr
1/23/2015	Foundation Event Committee Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
1/26/2015	Bonnie Kerr William P. Leitch
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/27/2015	Foundation Event Committee Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
1/28/2015	Michelle Wildgrube, Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube, PC Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
1/29/2015	Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
2/3/2015	Esther Swanker Sarah Beekman MVLS Library Services Committee Devon Hedges, The Community Library

2/4/2015	Bonnie Kerr Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
2/5/2015	MVLS Library Services Committee MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Debbie Mancini, Schenectady County Devon Hedges, The Community Library
2/6/2015	Normajeane Bennett Foundation Event Committee Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank
2/9/2015	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
2/10/2015	Mal Martin Esther Swanker William P. Leitch Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
2/11/2015	Peter Belenchia, ALDS MVLS Member Library Directors NYLA Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
2/12/2015	Dusty Putnam Esther Swanker MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Library Services Committee MVLS Member Library Directors Neil and Jane Golub, The Golub Family Foundation
2/18/2015	Peter Belenchia, ALDS Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
2/19/2015	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Bill Buell, The Daily Gazette
2/20/2015	William P. Leitch Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
2/23/2015	William P. Leitch Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors
2/24/2015	Esther Swanker Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library

NYALS

PULISDO

Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

Pam Luby, Sharon Springs Free Library

Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

2/25/2015

NYLA

Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

2/26/2015

Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library

Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library

Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library

Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library

2/27/2015

Cheryl Cufari

Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library