

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

March, 2015

Administration & Governance

The state has passed a budget, and it is a budget that is good for MVLS and for libraries. The new budget has a \$5 million increase for library aid, which is a 5.8% increase. This means that we have finally achieved the goal of having library aid track with overall Education Aid. We won't know the actual numbers for a couple of months, but this should mean around a \$35,000 increase in MVLS discretionary aid. The staff will be developing ideas for new programs and services that may be possible with this increase.

Make sure you have the MVLS Annual Dinner Meeting on your calendar: Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 at the River Stone Manor on Rt. 5 in Scotia. Get your reservations in to Kathy, and encourage your library trustees to attend. We have several award applications and the committee will be meeting to select the successful applicants.

The Building and Equipment Committee will meet immediately after the April MVLS Board meeting, Thursday, April 16 at 11:00. I will have additional information on the proposed projects concerning the back wall, the garage floor and the brick deterioration.

Matt Forst's temporary position was scheduled to be over by April 1. We would like to extend his employment for two additional months. We will discuss at the April meeting.

There is another proposed amendment to the Foundation By-Laws that will be submitted for MVLS approval. The purpose is to change the number of Foundation trustees from the current number of 15 to a range that can change from year-to-year. I will bring the new language to the April meeting.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met on April 8. JA Staff continue to work on implementing the new features that will result from the recent upgrade. Staff is also investigating moving some data storage to the cloud, rather than continuing to upgrade local servers.

Five 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. Approval will be an agenda item at the April meeting. We are already working on the 2016 grant, which we hope to have ready for the July meeting.

Delivery volume is now holding steady. We have a new contract with ALDS, the delivery vendor. Approval of the new contract will be on the agenda for the April board meeting. The new contract has a 2.5% annual increase in fees.

We are planning to begin the new ILL procedures on June 1. Sue, Matt and Sharon are working on procedures. By using CDLC services more directly, we can save money and provide faster service to the member libraries. We are still looking for solutions to the issue of providing access to materials that are not available at any CDLC library.

Preview sets continue to be made available to the member libraries. In March, four sets are rotating among the interested libraries. The graphic novel and adult audio rotating collections are being updated.

Outreach Services

The Hale Creek has received approval and will be holding the writing program with Corrections Aid money. The program will be a quarterly series of 6 programs serving up to 10 inmates each series.

Lois is working with Ellen McHale and with the Amsterdam and Schenectady libraries on a possible ALA Latino grant. The NEH Foodways grant was not funded.

The Outreach Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on April 17. Nicole Hemsley will be replacing Donna Kuehner on the committee.

Adult Services

The NYSCA book discussion programs for 2015 are all scheduled and the books are ordered. The designer is currently working on the poster and flyers. Lois is working on the NYSCA grant for 2016. In addition to the ongoing book discussion and Authors Among Us programs, Lois is applying for a second NYSCA grant that may potentially bring arts programs to six MVLS member libraries.

The Middleburgh Library has received a CDLC RBDB grant to input metadata on library History Room and Best House collections.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits 3/3- Ellen McHale, NY Folklore Society
3/17 Suzanne Mazoff, Kinship Care, Catholic Charities and Devon Hedges, COB
3/18 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council
3/30 – Debbie Picerno, CSEA union representative

Youth Services

The 2015 Summer Reading posters will be distributed in April. Sue is working on final budget analysis for the state grant which ends on June 30. One new possibility for state Family Literacy grant money is a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten project. Sue is setting up collections of 10 books that will be checked out at once. These 10 book sets would rotate among the interested members.

Four libraries and branches had duplo/lego building programs in March borrowing 10 bins of legos and 3 bins of duplos.

The 2015 Science @ Your Library grant has been prepared and submitted for \$3,200. Scheduling for 2015 programs will begin soon.

Sue has made several presentations recently. She and Nancy Gifford presented the Lunar and Planetary Institute EXPLORE program during the workshop sessions of the NYLA/YSS Spring Conference on March 27; and she will assist with discussion leading on the Odyssey and Family Schneider Awards at a Mid Hudson workshop in April. In addition, she has been invited to present a program abstract featuring Science @ the Library for the Public Libraries and STEM Conference, to be held in Denver, Colorado in August, 2015.

Thanks to NYS and the Brownstone Foundation, 7 member libraries from MVLS (FTP; COB; AMS; GLV; SHS; SHO; FON; MID) will receive each 100 picture book donations from Brownstone. Each received a packet from which to make their book selections.

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: Jury Duty, 3/2
Ready to Read Summit, Guilderland, 3/10-3/11
Science Workshop Planning Meeting, MVLS, 3/17
MVLS Board Meeting, 3/19
NYLA/YSS Past President's Dinner, Islandia, NY, 3/26
NYLA/YSS Spring Conference, Islandia, NY, 3/27

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 with Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich

I made a presentation to the Amsterdam board on library funding and charter options on March 25, and will address the Schoharie board on trustees' and director's duties and roles on April 15.

Advocacy & Awareness

The Library Services Committee met on March 19 to discuss the MVLS mission and Impact statements. A draft of the new statements is available at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/MVLS-Impact-Draft.pdf> . The Mission Statement will be presented to the MVLS community for approval at the May 13 Annual Meeting.

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 \$8,500 pledged from 25 donors, with more on the way. The event is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015.

The information on the state budget shows that library advocacy works! Please participate by thanking your representatives. An easy way to do that is on the NYLA website at:

http://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=58&MenuKey=advocacy

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

3/2/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank Pam Luby, Sharon Springs Free Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
3/3/2015	Donna Kuhner Normajeane Bennett Peter Belenchia, ALDS Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Peter Lopez, New York State Assembly Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly Marc Butler, New York State Assembly Phil Steck, New York State Assembly James L. Seward, New York State Senate George A. Amedore, Jr., New York State Senate Hugh T. Farley, New York State Senate
3/4/2015	Beverly Osborne, Fort Hunter Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library HFM School Library System Council
3/5/2015	Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/6/2015	Foundation Board Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/9/2015	Esther Swanker Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
3/10/2015	Bonnie Kerr Division of Library Development, NYSED Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank PULISDO Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
3/11/2015	Gordon Beebe

Esther Swanker
 Capital District Library Council
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
 Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library
 3/12/2015 Sarah Beekman
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
 Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
 Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
 3/13/2015 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
 Foundation Board
 MVLS Board of Trustees
 MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee
 Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
 3/16/2015 Gordon Beebe
 Cheryl Cufari
 Foundation Event Committee
 3/17/2015 MVLS Trustee Education Session
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
 3/18/2015 JA Committee
 Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
 3/19/2015 MVLS Board of Trustees
 MVLS Library Services Committee
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
 3/20/2015 Foundation Event Committee
 MVLS Board of Trustees
 3/23/2015 Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery
 MVLS Member Library Directors
 Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
 3/24/2015 Normajeane Bennett
 William P. Leitch
 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
 Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library
 3/25/2015 Bonnie Kerr
 William P. Leitch
 Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
 Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
 Pam Luby, Sharon Springs Free Library
 3/26/2015 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
 Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie

3/27/2015	Esther Swanker MVLS Member Library Directors Steve Bolton, North Country Library System Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/30/2015	Esther Swanker William P. Leitch
3/31/2015	Esther Swanker Foundation Event Committee Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie