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# MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## Member Library Trustee Newsletter January, 2017

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### Libraries in the News

*Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries*

Last fall the **Times Union** published a photo-essay on *40 free things to do at your local public library*. Lots of good program ideas here, including a few from the Schenectady County Public Library. Find more info at: <http://www.timesunion.com/living/article/40-free-things-to-do-at-your-local-public-library-6758549.php#photo-7512635>

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### Calendar of Events

*Opportunities for continuing education and input*

Thu Jan 5, 2017	9:30 – 11:30	Best of the Best Workshop
	11:30 – 12:30	Director's Council Meeting
Wed Jan 11, 2017	9:30am – 10:30am	JA Council @ SALS
	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Free Webinar - Service Excellence in Challenging Times
Thu Jan 19, 2017	9:30am – 10:30am	MVLS Board Meeting
Thu Jan 26, 2017	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Free Webinar - Toward Tech Savvy Trustees
Sat Feb 4, 2017	All day	Take Your Child to the Library Day
Thu Feb 9, 2017	All day	Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop -
Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton St Ext, Schenectady, NY 12305, USA		
Wed Mar 1, 2017	All day	NYLA Advocacy Day
Thu Mar 2, 2017	9:00 – 12:30	Early Literacy Storytimes Workshop
Canajoharie Library, 2 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY 13317		
Wed Mar 15, 2017	9:30am – 10:30am	JA Council at MVLS - MVLS

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvl%40mvl.info&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvl%40mvl.info&ctz=America/New_York)

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### What's My Job - Trustee Training

*Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee*

One of the most important - and most daunting - responsibilities of being a trustee is advocating for the library. If we all love the library, why is it sometimes so hard to encourage our neighbors to vote for the

organization that we love and support? Advocacy doesn't have to be scary. It's all a matter of being prepared and having impact information and stories to tell. Here's some tips for getting started:

- Look for ways to build library use. Get people in the door. People who are familiar with the library are more likely to support the library.
- Know some meaningful numbers. Be ready to say things like: "Did you know that more than half of all area residents are library users?"
- Tell stories. Nothing creates buy-in like hearing about the impact the library has had on members of the community.
- Be honest about money. Educated voters are more likely to be "yes" voters. Make your budget and finances public information.
- Be active. Make sure you and the library are participating in community issues and concerns.

NYLA Advocacy Day is one way to get education and experience on the advocacy role. Consider joining the MVLS contingent on March 1 in Albany. All are welcome, and all you have to do is show up and observe.

MVLS offers trustee training several times a year, and we are happy to work with individual library boards on trustee training. There are a variety of 45 minute sessions on topics from a basic overview to finances, legal issues and planning. Contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) for more information or to schedule a session at your library.

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## Policy Update

*Help in keeping your policies current*

All library policies should be reviewed regularly. In the Spring of 2017 we will be revisiting Financial Policies. Here are some sources of information on Library Finance Policies:

- MVLS Finance Policies can be found at: <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/policies-and-guidelines/>
- The Education Department Division of Library Development has a webinar on library finances at: <https://vimeo.com/115021246>
- The NYS Office of the State Comptroller has a wealth of information at: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/>

MVLS is always available to assist libraries with policy development. Call or email Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) for more information.

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## MVLS Serves Member Libraries

*Highlighting services that can help your library*

This issue's highlighted service is Grants. MVLS offers a variety of opportunities for member libraries to receive money to help libraries accomplish a variety of service, planning and infrastructure goals. Below is a sampling of grant programs that are offered to member libraries every year:

- Public Library Construction Grants
- Adult Literacy Grants
- Continuing Education Grants
- Advocacy & Community Engagement Grants
- Foundation Public Service (Dream & Do) Grants

These highlights provide just a few examples of the services that MVLS provides to member libraries. For information on any MVLS service see the website at [www.mvls.info](http://www.mvls.info), email Eric at [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) or call 355-2010.

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## The Library of the Future

*Interesting articles for library trustees to ponder*

Public Libraries are increasingly called on to serve a social function as well as the more traditional role of information organizer and provider. See how some libraries are serving as "public living rooms" at: <http://www.citylab.com/navigator/2016/11/fighting-loneliness-with-public-living-rooms/506360/>

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This newsletter is a service for the library trustees that serve the 14 member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System. MVLS educates, empowers and supports public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.



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