

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

April-May 2017

Administration & Governance

The MVLS Annual Meeting, held on May 10 at the Hales Mills Country Club, was a success. Thank you to all who attended and helped make it a positive event. It was great to be able to honor Cheryl Cufari with the Wusterbarth Award and the Fort Hunter Free Library with the Trustees Award. We'll have a brief discussion on ideas for future annual meetings at the June board meeting.

State Aid is moving through the approval and payment process. The expectation at this point is that we will begin seeing payments over the summer. Remember that aid will be kept at 2016 levels, so we will not be making the customary budget amendments. We are expecting some bullet aid, but probably at levels lower than 2016. Libraries have been encouraged to contact their representatives about bullet aid.

We will again be participating in a National Grid incentive project to update lighting fixtures from fluorescent to LED bulbs. We did about 1/2 of the fixtures in 2015, and have accepted a proposal to do most of the remaining fluorescent fixtures this summer. National Grid pays 60% of the \$4,744 cost, leaving \$1,841.24 to be paid by MVLS. The annual expected energy savings is \$1,773.50, which means it doesn't really cost anything. I am recommending that we make the payment from the Vehicles, Equipment, Automation & Building fund.

Wade Abbott begins work as the MVLS Community Engagement and Communications Specialist on June 12. Wade will begin by helping to develop ways to encourage MVLS and the member libraries to better communicate the impact of library services. He will be working with members on the 21st Century Libraries Initiative this fall. The board approved creating this new staff position in January. We worked with the union to approve a starting salary of \$48,111. I am recommending that you formally approve that union salary.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met on May 10 at SALS, and will meet on July 12 at MVLS. All MVLS/SALS email accounts have been migrated to the cloud using Office 365. JA will no longer need to maintain a server for email. The JA web server is also retired as websites were migrated to Go-Daddy. It is anticipated that other services will also eventually migrate to the cloud. Expanded use of Office 365 should also eliminate the need to maintain an MVLS server.

Three issues will continue to impact the JA Council and all users. The JA Security Policy, which the MVLS board approved in January, is progressing toward implementation with the development of an online portal to manage user accounts and the required acceptance of the policy conditions. The recent upgrade to the Polaris software exposed an issue with the Novelist reader's advisory database and catalog enhancement product. Over the next year, JA will explore options for continuing to offer this or

a competing service. Finally, we have run into a problem with implementing the patron address project. We may switch to a different vendor that has more experience working directly with the Polaris database.

The Capital District Library Council presented an Interlibrary Loan workshop for MVLS member libraries on June 1. All MVLS libraries except Schenectady have been using the CDLC ILL service for the past two years. Some recent improvements to the service were reviewed with the members. We are hoping that SCPL will begin using the service this summer.

Outreach Services

Revised guidelines and applications for the next round of the Adult Literacy mini-grants were sent to member libraries. The Outreach Advisory Council will meet on June 22 to review the applications. Final report instructions for the 2016 projects have also been distributed.

Lois has met with the new Hale Creek librarian – Jai Blackburn from Amsterdam – to provide an orientation and to work on a new agreement with the Hale Creek facility. The remaining Institutions Aid was used to acquire materials for the Schenectady County Jail.

Adult Services

The first 2017 NYSCA books discussion program was held at the Fort Plain Library in May with 15 participants. The full season schedule should be posted to the MVLS website soon at: <http://www.mvls.info/current-projects/>

Authors Among Us programs are being planned at 5 locations: Johnstown, Middleburgh and three Schenectady locations.

Lois continues to encourage members to use the American Library Association's Project Outcome rubric for program evaluations. All MVLS NYSCA programs are now using this format. This works in very well with our communications initiatives.

Lois' contacts & visits: 4/4, CA\$H meeting; 4/5, SALS Workshop; 4/19, Schoharie County HSCC; 4/20, 211 meeting; 5/4 Fake News Workshop; 5/10 MVLS Annual Dinner; 5/17 Meet Schenectady County Jail at B & N; 5/31 Hale Creek Correctional Facility

Youth Services

Summer Reading posters from the state were distributed in May. Sue and Jen Ferriss (SALS) have been working on updating Beanstack systemwide, and continuing to promote its use by individual libraries. Beanstack is being used for updating and creating reading suggestions and learning tracks, booklists, early literacy tips, summer reading and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten accounting that fit with our two system holdings for 2017. Individual training continues on an as requested basis

MVLS continues to support member library and branch summer reading/learning efforts through Bookapalooza, Advance Reader Copy distribution, special book raffle prizes, baseball card distribution

(thanks to an anonymous donor), Summer Reading Youth Book Raffle at each requesting site, as well as distributing summer reading coupons, such as from Applebees and miSci as they are received by MVLS. *Our Early Literacy Storytime Workshop: Core Elements for Making a Real Difference* was held with trainer Joyce Laiosa. Feedback from the fifteen participants was very positive. Two libraries have requested follow up assessment from Joyce on their storytime techniques. Each library/branch in attendance received \$150 worth of helpful materials (cds, musical instruments, flannel boards, books) to use in their storytimes to help make them more effective. Materials were ordered and distributed. This workshop will be repeated in fall 2017 and fall 2018 to train as many staff and volunteer storytime presenters as possible with core storytime techniques.

MVLS is still waiting on this year's miSci program final announcement so libraries can book the new program. COB has booked Science @ the Library for their spring break, and FON has again scheduled Science @ the Library in July.

Mary Fellows and Sue are working on planning our joint youth services workshop on the Toronto Public Library's Middle Childhood Framework. The goal is to help our member libraries build up from early literacy, which is the next logical step in training, and should help with summer reading too. The full day training is scheduled for November 2, and the two trainers from Toronto are willing to come for air fare and overnight accommodations.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Central Library Workshop: Libraries = Education, SCP, 4/6; Picture Book City, ROT, 4/10; Youth Services Planning, UHLS, 4/12; Picture Book City, ROT, 4/13; 3 System Workshop, Make It Happen, SALS, 4/27; YSS Past President's Dinner, Ithaca, 4/27; YSS Spring Conference, Ithaca, 4/28; Picture Book City, ROT, 5/1; Beanstack Meeting, SALS, 5/2; New Youth Librarian Meeting, KW/CS, 5/4; Schoharie County Children's Issues Meeting, MID, 5/8; Picture Book City, COB, 5/8; MVLS Annual Meeting, JOH, 5/10; Karen Balsen Retirement, NYSL, 5/15; NYS Youth Consultant Meeting, Midyork LS, 5/16-1/17

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

June 1: CDLC ILL procedures

June 1: Director's Council

June 14: Foundation Annual Meeting: Securing Sustainable Funding for Your Library

September 7: Community Engagement

October 2: Hi-Lo Book Discussions

The Gloversville Library moved to their temporary location in April. Sharon O'Brien worked with GLV to insure a smooth transition. I attended the groundbreaking ceremony on May 18.

Information is being distributed on the 2017 NYS Public Library Construction grants. We will have over \$600,000 to distribute this year. Libraries are encouraged to apply.

The Directors' Council held a meeting on June 1. Agendas and notes for all meetings are archived online at: <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/directors-council/>

We continue to encourage libraries to participate in Trustee Training. I provided a session in Johnstown on May 16, and additional sessions are in various stages of planning. The new trustees' newsletter continues to come out every other month. Issues are archived at: <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/newsletter/>

Advocacy & Awareness

Most libraries had successful budget votes this spring, the exception being the Amsterdam Library's attempt to secure funding through the Broadalbin Perth school district. I have again contacted the Broadalbin Book Station in an attempt to develop a comprehensive solution for this unserved area.

Libraries are again being encouraged to apply for Advocacy Grants to help with community engagement and budget votes. The next grant deadline will be June 30.

One Federal Advocacy issue that is receiving a lot of attention is net neutrality. This is the concept that all internet traffic should be treated the same. Over the past several years there have been various attempts by large corporations to have their traffic receive preferential treatment. The current FCC leadership seems to be supporting that concept, in opposition to libraries and other information access advocates.

Stay tuned for new communications initiatives, including press releases, system-wide responses to calendar events like September = Library Card Sign Up Month, the development of an MVLS Communications Plan, and the Library Impact Stories project. The Communications Committee will be meeting with Wade over the summer to discuss ideas and keep the board informed on new developments. This is going to be fun!

And as a way to learn more, please consider attending the Sustainable Funding program scheduled for Wednesday, June 14 at 6:00 PM at the Rotterdam Branch Library.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

4/3/2017	Esther Swanker
4/4/2017	William P. Leitch Bonnie Kerr Patrick Smith, CGR Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/5/2017	Bonnie Kerr William P. Leitch Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
4/6/2017	MVLS Staff MVLS Workshop Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/7/2017	Esther Swanker Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee

4/10/2017	MVLS Trustee Education Session
4/11/2017	Cheryl Cufari Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
4/13/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors
4/14/2017	MVLS Board of Trustees
4/17/2017	Bonnie Kerr Foundation Event Committee MVLS Member Library Directors
4/18/2017	Bonnie Kerr Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
4/20/2017	Keith Seeber Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees
4/24/2017	Beverly Osborne Bonnie Kerr Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/25/2017	Bonnie Kerr
4/26/2017	Bonnie Kerr
4/27/2017	HFM School Library System Council
5/1/2017	Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/2/2017	Bonnie Kerr Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/3/2017	Beverly Osborne Bonnie Kerr MVLS Member Library Directors
5/4/2017	Steve Bachman, Four County Library System Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/5/2017	Foundation Event Committee
5/8/2017	Mary Donohue, Fulton Montgomery Community College Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Catherine Caiazza, Schoharie Free Library
5/9/2017	Division of Library Development, NYSED PULISDO Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Rob Lang, Schenectady County Public Library Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
5/10/2017	JA Council MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors
5/11/2017	John Naple Bonnie Kerr Patrick Smith, CGR
5/12/2017	Patrick Smith, CGR

	MVLS Staff
5/15/2017	Bonnie Kerr
5/16/2017	Anthony Gaddy
	MVLS Trustee Education Session
	PULISDO
5/17/2017	William P. Leitch
	John Naple
	Foundation Event Committee
5/18/2017	Patrick Smith, CGR
5/19/2017	Eric Laughlin, Council Services Plus
5/22/2017	Bonnie Kerr
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
5/23/2017	Bonnie Kerr
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/24/2017	Foundation Board
	Foundation Event Committee
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/30/2017	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library