

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

June-July 2017

Administration & Governance

State aid has started to arrive! We have received all of the basic and supplemental aid, as well as 90% of the Local Library Services Aid that is distributed to the member libraries. Checks went out to the libraries on July 28. Most aid categories had slight changes from last year, even though library aid was said to remain the same. Apparently the formulas are giving MVLS a tiny bit more this year. We'll do budget amendments in September after we know all of the category amounts.

Libraries will also receive Bullet Aid this year. MVLS will receive \$4,000. The total Bullet Aid allocation should be \$71,000. All member libraries will receive bullet aid, with most receiving between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

The MVLS state annual report, and most member library reports have been approved. The Schenectady report was finally submitted in July.

MVLS, and all of our member libraries, will need to begin offering the NYS Paid Family Leave Program benefits starting on January 1, 2018. This program is similar to the current NYS mandatory disability program in that it is really an insurance program that all disability carriers will have to offer to employers. At this point there is conflicting information on whether employees have to participate, and whether a payroll deduction is the only option for premium payment.

The latest National Grid lighting incentive project has been completed. The total cost to MVLS was \$1,841.24.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met on July 12 at MVLS. Security Policy implementation has begun, requiring an audit of all MVLS/SALS JA user accounts so that all users can sign off on the policy. Several budget amendments were recommended for approval by the SALS & MVLS boards. Increase Office & Library Materials by \$250 to \$750. Increase Generator Maintenance by \$150 to \$1,080. Offset by decreasing Equip by \$400 to \$26,600. The final budget amendment will increase the overall JA budget. This is necessary due to the Polaris upgrade and changes to the popular Novelist product. Increase Novelist by \$5,332 to \$51,142. JA staff continues to look for alternative solutions to providing libraries with this information.

The Delivery service is regularly ranked at the top of the list for MVLS services that the member libraries value – and it's not always because of their main job of picking up and dropping off materials. The driver noticed water on the floor of the Fonda library at 6:00 one morning, and we were able to alert the library that there was a problem. This isn't the first time that a driver has done a great service to a

library just by showing up in the early hours. More info on the recent disasters at the Amsterdam and Fonda libraries is below.

Outreach Services

The Outreach Advisory Council met on June 22 to review the previous year's Adult Literacy projects and to discuss the grant applications for 2017-18. Amsterdam and Schenectady (Bornt) had projects in 2016-17. Only Schenectady applied for the coming year, for a project to continue the ESL classes held at the Bornt branch in cooperation with the Washington Irving Center.

The Adult Literacy grant report to the state was completed in July.

Adult Services

NYSCA book discussion programs are ongoing, and the Authors Among Us schedule has been published at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/poster2017.pdf>

Lois has continued to work with SALS and UHLS on literacy programming. A workshop is planned for October 19 on Hi/Lo book discussions. The three systems are also developing a combined discussion/sharing group on adult programming. The first meeting of this group is September 20 at UHLS.

Lois has scheduled 2 trainings with Lydia Collins from National Library of Medicine on October 5 at SCP. The first will be a morning training for library staff on Medline Plus and related databases. The program is called *Beyond An Apple A Day*. The afternoon session, *Engage For Health*, will be offered to library staff that want to present this program to the public.

Lois' contacts & visits: June 1- Director's Council; June 14 – Foundation Meeting; June 21 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; June 22- Outreach Advisory Council Meeting; June 27- Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council- Grants Committee; July 11- Accessibility workshop CDLC; July 12 – Lydia Collins, NLM; July 19 – NY Heritage meeting, CDLC; July 28 – Adult Programming meeting- UHLS, SALS, Leah La Fera, SCP

Youth Services

The Summer Reading program is in full swing at MVLS libraries. MVLS assists libraries with Beanstack, Read it Forward, book giveaways, and more. Science @ The Library Programs are scheduled in several libraries.

The Family Literacy grant final report has been submitted. This state project, which used to include the summer reading program, now emphasizes early literacy. It is used to fund the Beanstack software and early literacy workshops. Next year's project will support training member library staff and volunteers who provide early literacy services with best storytime practices and early literacy training, with the goal of improving public library services that will help young children start kindergarten with the skills needed for school success.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: CDLC ILL Member Workshop, 6/1; Picture Book City, ROT, 6/2; ALA Conference, 6/23 – 6/27; Picture Book City, ROT, 6/29; Science, SCO, 6/30; UHLS Workshop Planning Meeting, 7/12; Science, NOR, 7/19; ,Science, FON, 7/24

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

September 7: Communications & Community Engagement

September 7 – Director's Council

October 5 - National Library for Medicine sessions

October 19 – Hi-Lo Book Discussions

November 2 – Youth Services Workshop

November 8 – 11 - NYLA

In the early morning of June 20 fire broke out on a construction lift used for roof work at the Amsterdam Free Library. The library was closed for a couple of days and the upstairs is still closed. The front entry was damaged, and there is smoke damage in the upstairs. Wade was very active in helping with crisis communications, and spent quite a bit of time at Amsterdam assisting with various events. One positive outcome was that the statewide Summer Reading Program kickoff with the Education Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia was held in Amsterdam on July 24.

On July 18, there was a large fire adjacent to the Fonda library. Other than an enforced closure and minor exterior heat damage, the library survived pretty well. But then on the 21st, the library experienced water damage from a still unknown source. They have been closed ever since as they dry out the building and replace flooring. Again, Wade has assisted with crisis communications. Fonda is still holding the summer reading programs, with most events held in a nearby church.

We held a Trustee Training session in Gloversville on July 19. This was our first session on Community Engagement and Advocacy, using the new PULISDO, LTA and NYLA developed "Helping All Trustees Succeed" curriculum.

We had one applicant for the summer 2017 round of the Foundation Advocacy grants. The Johnstown Public Library requested \$2,500. The Foundation approved, and I recommend that MVLS approve at the August meeting.

The Foundation has also approved another round of the Library Public Services "Dream & Do" grants. This grant provides every library with the opportunity of receiving \$400 (\$800 for Schenectady) to implement a project that improves some public service at their library. We also require the libraries to provide MVLS with a copy of a required minimum standards document. In previous years we asked for Bylaws and the Long Range Plan of Service. This year we plan to ask for the Annual Report to the Community. Approval of this grant, for a total of \$6,000, will be an agenda item at the August meeting.

For the past several years the state, via the annual report, has been requesting additional information from libraries concerning trustee numbers and terms. This has led to the discovery that many libraries around the state, including six MVLS libraries, are not following their charters concerning number of trustees, term length of trustees, or both. In addition, several libraries will need to amend their bylaws. We will be working with these libraries and DLD to get everyone in compliance.

Advocacy & Awareness

Wade Abbot has jumped right in to his new job as MVLS Community Relations and Communications Specialist. In addition to the work involved in helping libraries deal with various crisis, Wade has been planning community engagement sessions for the Gloversville Library, and laying the groundwork for similar efforts at other libraries. At the September workshop, Wade will present information on using storytelling in community engagement, crisis communications and overall media relations. Wade is also working on a comprehensive MVLS Communications Plan, which will be reviewed by the Communications Committee. In addition, we are planning a concerted communications effort centered around Library Card Sign-up Month in September.

The Foundation Annual Meeting included a great presentation on Sustainable Funding and Community Engagement which was attended by many library trustees and directors. This provided a great soft introduction to our MVLS 21st Century Library Initiative.

Two successful Foundation golf tournaments were held in June and July. Taken together, these fundraising events raised nearly \$10,000, funding used to finance the Advocacy and Dream & Do grant programs. And there is also a communications benefit. These events put libraries on the radar of the more than 100 businesses and donors and nearly 70 golfers who participated.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

6/1/2017	Esther Swanker MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Workshop
6/2/2017	Bonnie Kerr William P. Leitch MVLS Member Library Directors
6/5/2017	William P. Leitch
6/6/2017	William P. Leitch Particia Clancy Division of Library Development, NYSED Lois Powell, New York Library Association PULISDO Melissa Stocking, Quipu
6/7/2017	William P. Leitch Cheryl Cufari Jeremy Kerr, Mohawk Golf Club
6/8/2017	Bonnie Kerr
6/9/2017	Foundation Board
6/12/2017	Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/13/2017	Division of Library Development, NYSED Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
6/14/2017	Foundation Board

	MVLS Member Library Directors
	MVLS Workshop
6/15/2017	Eric Laughlin, Council Services Plus
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Building & Equipment Committee
6/16/2017	Capital District Library Council
	Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System
6/19/2017	William P. Leitch
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Hanna Conbeer, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
6/20/2017	John Naple
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
6/21/2017	John Naple
	William P. Leitch
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
6/22/2017	Pamela Crandall-Luby
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	MVLS Outreach Advisory Committee
6/26/2017	Bonnie Kerr
	Foundation Board
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
6/27/2017	MVLS Public Relations Event
	MVLS Trustee Education Session
6/28/2017	Bonnie Kerr
	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
	Kim Anderson, Division of Library Development
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
6/29/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
7/10/2017	Melodie Neary
	Bonnie Kerr
7/11/2017	Division of Library Development, NYSED
	PULISDO
7/12/2017	JA Council
7/13/2017	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
	PULISDO
7/14/2017	Foundation Board
	James Tedisco, New York State Senate
	George A. Amedore, Jr., New York State Senate
	James L. Seward, New York State Senate

7/17/2017 Capital District Library Council
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

7/18/2017 Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library

7/19/2017 Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
MVLS Member Library Directors
MVLS Trustee Education Session

7/21/2017 Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library

7/24/2017 MVLS Public Relations Event AMS
Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library

7/26/2017 William P. Leitch
Bonnie Kerr

7/27/2017 Cheryl Cufari
MVLS Member Library Directors

7/27/2017 Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library

7/28/2017 MVLS Member Library Directors

7/31/2017 Foundation Golf Tournament, Canajoharie