

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

August 2017

Administration & Governance

State aid continues to come in. At this point, all is paid except the final 10% of the Library Services Support Aid and Local Library Services Aid.

Bullet Aid for the member libraries and the system should be received soon. All libraries received awards this year.

Now that we have all of the funding numbers from the state, I have prepared proposed 2017 budget amendments that will be acted on at the September board meeting. State aid and bullet aid are the primary reasons for the amendments, but we also had increased expenditures for lawn mowing and increased income from Foundation grants. Overall, I expect that we will have a slight surplus in 2017.

T.M. Byxbee has been working on our 2016 financial review and may have statements to present at the September meeting.

NYLA has provided guidance on the NYS Family Medical Leave program. Association Libraries and MVLS will have to provide this program as of January 1, 2018. Public and School District Public Libraries may opt in, but they are not required to provide this coverage.

We had a variety of minor building issues over the summer. Yellow jackets were nesting in the garage ceiling, so we had a pest control company come and de-bee the building. The security/fire alarm system was inspected, and the door bells were repaired and reconfigured, correcting a longstanding issue of confusion over which door needed opening.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council is scheduled to meet on September 13 at SALS. The preliminary 2018 JA budget will be discussed at the meeting. The planning for this budget has brought forward several issues that have a long-term budget impact. The first is the ongoing increases in the prices from our automation vendor, Innovative Interfaces (II). Sara Dallas is working on setting up a meeting with their senior leadership to discuss. The second is the related Novelist database costs that we discussed a few months ago. Finally, a prolonged downward trend for library circulation means that JA income is decreasing; the fee formula is heavily based on library circulation. The JA Finance Committee (I am the chair), will be meeting to discuss potential changes to the fee structure to insure that the JA project has the income that it needs.

The JA staff also continues to work on implementing the new JA security policy. JA is tightening up user accounts and actively discouraging the use of generic accounts. The vast majority of users should have personal accounts, and should use those accounts exclusively to access Polaris.

We are again seeing a real downward trend in delivery volume, probably correlating with decreased circulation. Our delivery vendor, ALDS, was very helpful with flexibility with deliveries to Fonda while they were closed.

Five hundred fifty-six titles were received and added to preview collections over the summer. 370 titles were added to the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten collections.

Outreach Services

The Hi/Lo book discussion workshop is scheduled for October 19 at SALS.

Adult Services

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: 8/16 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council
8/21 – Pam Luby, SHS for construction advice

Youth Services

Fourteen member libraries and branches used Beanstack this summer to track and promote reading for the summer reading program. Eight libraries participated in the Read It Forward program and seven utilized the book raffle to spur interest. Summer reading statistics are due in October.

Science @ the Library programs were held at 3 libraries this summer. Two additional programs are planned for fall. The MiSci programs will end this fall. Libraries continue to make good use of the STEM kits, Legos and Duplos.

Our Early Literacy consultant Joyce Laiosa and Sue met to discuss updates to the Early Literacy Storytime curriculum. Sue is currently working with member libraries to schedule the year two Early Literacy Storytime workshop for November. As part of the grant workshop training, MVLS will be sending four to the "Learn to Play, Play to Learn" conference to be held at the Rochester Public Library in collaboration with the USA Toy Library Association on Saturday, Sept. 23.

Sue and Mary Fellows (UHLS) are planning the November 2 youth services continuing education workshop focused on serving children's needs ages 6-12. We are also planning a teen program for the spring.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Juvenile Resources, ROT, 8/8; SLJ Teen Live Webinar, 8/9
Making Time for Middle Readers Webinar, 8/15; 2017-2018 FLLS Planning Meeting, MVLS, 8/18
Engaging Reluctant Readers Webinar, 8/30

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

Wade has been working with Gloversville on the community engagement aspect of the 21st Century Libraries project. Fort Hunter has also expressed interest, and I have been actively promoting the project to several other libraries. Wade has also developed press releases for libraries concerning September as Library Card Sign-up Month.

Story gathering has been the other main emphasis for Wade this summer. He is setting up an offshoot of the MVLS web page to highlight stories on the impact of public libraries on users lives.

Information has been disseminated to libraries on the NYS Family Paid Leave program, needed updates to bylaws and charters and the trend toward removing barriers to access to library services, including library fines and fees.

Advocacy & Awareness

The New York Library Association and the various library system organizations (PULISDO & NYALS) continue to do a great job with statewide advocacy issues. The 2018 Advocacy Launch program was on September 9 in Guilderland. Under discussion are strategies for increasing library aid and fostering legislation that benefits libraries.

I will be again meeting with the board of the Broadalbin Book Station in September, to once again try and encourage them to pursue becoming a real library and work on improving their services. Wish me luck!

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

8/1/2017	Brenda Darling Division of Library Development, NYSED Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee
8/2/2017	Bonnie Kerr Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/3/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

8/4/2017	Devon Hedges, The Community Library MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors
8/7/2017	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
8/8/2017	Bonnie Kerr Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
8/9/2017	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
8/10/2017	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Jerney Johannesen, NYLA Lauren Moore, Pioneer Library System SCPL Staff Devon Hedges, The Community Library
8/11/2017	Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
8/14/2017	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
8/15/2017	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library PULISDO
8/16/2017	PULISDO Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
8/17/2017	PULISDO Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
8/18/2017	Pamela Crandall-Luby
8/21/2017	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/22/2017	John Naple Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Directors
8/23/2017	8/22/2017 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Pamela Crandall-Luby Lora Newell
8/24/2017	Hanna Conbeer, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
8/28/2017	William P. Leitch Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors
8/31/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors