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# MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## Member Library Trustee Newsletter Fall 2017

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### Libraries in the News

*Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries*

Public libraries interact with and serve their communities in many ways: by providing access to books and other information resources, by serving as community gathering spaces and notice boards, and by providing educational and entertaining classes and events. The Cornwall Public Library in the Hudson Valley is exploring new ways of serving as the center of the community.

<http://www.recordonline.com/news/20170908/cornwall-library-goes-outside-lines>

Are there ways that your library can build on your status as a vital and loved community resource?

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### Calendar of Events

*Opportunities for continuing education and input*

Thu Nov 9, 2017	All day	NYLA Conference - Saratoga Springs
Fri Nov 10, 2017	All day	NYLA Conference - Saratoga Springs
Wed Nov 15, 2017	9:00am – 12:30pm	Workshop - Early Literacy
Thu Nov 16, 2017	9:30am – 12:00pm	MVLS Board Meeting
Thu Dec 7, 2017	9:30 – 11am	JA Finance/Fees Discussion @CAN
Fri Dec 8, 2017	11am – 12pm	Quipu eCard webinar
Wed Dec 13, 2017	9:30 – 10:30am	JA Finance/Fees Discussion @ CPH
Thu Jan 4, 2018	9:30 – 11:30	Best of the Best Workshop
	11:30am – 12:30pm	Director's Council Meeting
Wed Jan 10, 2018	9:30 – 10:30am	JA Council Meeting @ SALS
Thu Jan 11, 2018	9:30 – 11:30am	Adult Program Swap- Food & Drink Programs
Thu Jan 18, 2018	9:30 – 11am	MVLS Board Meeting
	11am – 12pm	MVLS Communications Committee
Thu Feb 1, 2018	All day	SRP Workshop - MVLS/UHLS at SCP
Wed Feb 28, 2018	All day	NYLA Advocacy Day

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar

at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New_York)

Keep in mind that workshops may require pre-registration. See [www.mvls.info](http://www.mvls.info) for details.

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## What's My Job - Trustee Training

*Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee*

"The responsibilities of trustees are few in number but broad is scope," states Jerry Nichols in the *Handbook for Public Library Trustees*. One way to understand that scope is the New York State Minimum Standards for Public Libraries. These standards address many of the things trustees must do to insure the future of their libraries. New York State is currently updating these minimum standards. Many of the proposed changes to the standards emphasize the importance of the role of the library board in planning, evaluation, policy development and advocacy. A draft of the proposed changes to the minimum standards, along with a survey for providing input, is at:

[http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished\\_regs/902-revision.htm#revision902](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_regs/902-revision.htm#revision902)

Make sure your library board is well versed on the New York State Minimum Standards for Public Libraries. Work with your Director and with MVLS to make sure your library is exceeding these standards and excelling in providing library services to your community.

Please contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) with questions on standards.

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*

The policy topic of the season this fall is Library Use Policies. These policies address on-site use of library facilities and services. Just as Circulation Policies set the rules and conditions for how community residents can get a library card and borrow materials from the library, Library Use Policies address how the community can use the library building. The three most common individual policies that make up Library Use Policies are Library Behavior Policies, Meeting Room Use Policies and Display & Public Notice Policies. For this article, we are focusing on Library Behavior Policies or Library Rules.

One of the biggest challenges in developing the rules for library use is to keep the list positive and short. It is impossible to list every prohibited behavior, and who wants to say "NO!" all of the time? In our region, both the Albany and Saratoga Springs public libraries have successfully developed statements on library use that meet this challenge. See their policies at:

<https://library.cityofalbany.net/library-rules-of-conduct/>

<https://www.sspl.org/about/policies/behavior/>

Other assistance with policy development is available at New York Library Trustees Online and from the Library Trustees Association at:

<http://www.nylto.org/course/view.php?id=19> (use guest as username & password)

<http://www.librarytrustees.org/policies.php?job=advsearch&category=42>

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*

All of our libraries provide wonderful, valued services to our communities. And every satisfied library user is an important success story. But a few happy users doesn't make for a thriving, sustainable library. So how can you tell whether your library is as good as it can be?

The key to true evaluations of library success and sustainability are benchmark statistics. MVLS provides access to a variety of statistical reports, and we are happy to provide customized information when needed. The two most useful readily available reports are outlined below.

- The MVLS Annual Report, in the last few pages, provides several charts on use statistics for all MVLS libraries. See the report at: <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/reports-and-budgets/>
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Initiative places strong emphasis on comparative statistics for MVLS libraries, Capital District and NYS averages, and identified Model Libraries. Check out "Comparing MVLS Libraries to Model Libraries" on the web at: <http://www.mvls.info/21st-century-libraries/>

MVLS also collects comparative statistics on how MVLS residents use MVLS libraries. Just ask if you need any particular numbers to understand your library's use patterns and impact.

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*

"What has shifted is that libraries are increasingly tasked with accommodating a multitude of uses, of which book storage and circulation is just one." This quote, from a recent article on library design in *Architectural Digest*, is an apt illustration of the challenges that public libraries are facing as we continue to serve our traditional roles of research, book storage and circulation while at the same time embracing a new role as community center and "third space". See the full article at: <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/future-of-libraries-in-digital-age>

What is your library doing to adapt to changing community needs?

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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. All newsletter issues are archived at <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/newsletter/>. MVLS educates, empowers and supports public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.



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