

# Mohawk Valley Library System

## Director's Report

March, 2014

### Administration & Governance

Invitations have gone out for the MVLS Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 21 at 5:30 at the River Stone Manor in Scotia. MVLS is underwriting the cost of dinners for the director and one trustee from each library as has been done in recent years. The Awards committee will be meeting to select the winners of the Wusterbarth Trustees and Library Recognition awards. We did receive nominations for both awards.

The state budget has passed, providing libraries with an increase of \$1 million to \$86.6 million: a 1.2% increase. While this is an increase, and \$5 million more than the Governor proposed, it is at the same time a disappointment. The senate agreed with the library position that library aid should track with general education aid, and they put that in their one-house bill; but in the end they caved and once again libraries got the short end of the stick. So we will be sending thank-you letters to our representatives, but will also point out that library aid did not increase with overall education aid.

Looking on the bright side, when the state aid figures are released (probably in June) we should see an increase in our aid, which will be a welcome addition to the 2014 budget.

Sometime between closing on April 2 and opening on April 3, a tractor-trailer tried to use the MVLS parking lot to turn around. It did not go well for them, and was even worse for us: the lawn is rutted and damaged in several places and the asphalt damaged in a couple of spots. We called the police and insurance, etc., and are getting estimates on repairing the damage. At this point it looks like the cost will be about \$500. Our insurance deductible is \$1,000.

We are working with a plumber to get the additional grab bars installed in the rest rooms.

The MVLS state annual report is nearly complete. We worked with DLD on the finance section to get the report to align exactly with our internal financial reports, our review/audit statements and the IRS 990 form. This was one of the goals of the finance changes that we made in 2013. I am hopeful that we will have the report assurances ready for your approval at the April meeting.

Work continues on surveying the member library directors for input into the 2014 Board Initiatives. I expect to have final suggestions for you by the April meeting. We are also planning a survey concerning central library services.

Steve Parish, our cleaner, had heart surgery and will be out for several weeks.

## **Automation and Resource Sharing**

Big news on the automation front: our library automation vendor, Polaris Library Systems, has been sold to Innovative Interfaces. See <http://www.alatechsource.org/blog/2014/04/innovative-interfaces-acquires-polaris-library-systems.html> for more information. Innovative is a competing library automation vendor that has concentrated more on academic and school libraries, while Polaris has concentrated on public libraries. At this point the new company is planning to keep both products current.

Six publisher's preview sets were distributed, and eight sets returned. Review copies of children's and teen titles are being requested from publishers as their lists become available.

The downward trend in delivery volume continues.

## **Outreach Services**

Schenectady and Gloversville have submitted interim reports on their current mini-grant projects. Lois is working on some changes to the mini-grant application for 2014. The Outreach Advisory Council will be meeting to discuss this year's projects and to plan for the next round of mini-grants for member libraries. The grant year runs from July 1 – June 30.

Lois continues to work on providing materials and a possible workshop for member libraries on the new high school equivalency process, now called TASC. We hope to have a workshop this May or June, but the state has been slow in rolling out this change.

A trip to Barnes & Noble is planned to acquire materials for the Hale Creek correctional facility and the county jails using the corrections and institutions aid.

## **Adult Services**

The final report for the 2013 NYSCA project has been submitted, and the schedule for 2014 is complete. The poster promoting the 2014 Book Discussion series should be available soon.

Lois is working with the Mabee Farm Historic Site to develop an exhibition for the NEH project that may potentially travel to other sites. A potential program list is also in development. The project will include the digitization of some library special collections. This grant application will be submitted this summer, with programs beginning in 2015.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits: 3/14- 2-1-1 Committee; 3/19 - Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 3/26 Gateway- Fulton County; 3/27 Jenna Peterson, Mabee Farm  
3/28 Jean Sheviak retirement reception.

## **Youth Services**

Summer Reading Program posters arrived from the state and were distributed to all member libraries and branches. Posters that were requested and ordered through our NYS Family Literacy Grant arrived and were distributed. Sue is working on the Online SRP Reader program. Member libraries are slowly returning their contracts for programming money to be used by June 30 on STEM programs supporting

their Summer Reading Program. An additional Pinterest board was set up highlighting science and STEM program link activities for this summer's program, and publicity sent to member library staff. The site is at: [www.pinterest.com/librarykidbytes](http://www.pinterest.com/librarykidbytes)

Sue and Nancy Gifford presented the April 3 "Fizz Boom Science" workshop in Johnstown. This workshop featured the Lunar and Planetary Institute EXPLORE program as well as the 2014 modules (weather; electricity; sound) from the NYS 4-H partnership.

The 2014 Science @ the Library application was written in collaboration with GE's Ricki Shapiro and submitted for the amount of \$3250. The first Science @ the Library spring 2014 program will be held Tuesday, May 6 at the Northville Public Library, in cooperation with the Northville Central School for Turn off the Screen week. Scheduling is underway for the 2014 science sessions, so far FON; FTP; GLV; GNV; NIS; and SCP are interested in summer or fall sessions.

New promotional materials are being developed for the Lego programs. We are looking for additions to the program. Four bins of materials were sent out in March and 2 branches, QUA and SCO, held programs.

Sue is serving on the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) Odyssey Committee, which selects the national award winners for audio books for children. As a result, we have so far received 61 children's and teen audio cds. They will be added to the MVLS audio rotating collections after Sue listens to them to help select the award winners.

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: 4CLS SRP Workshop, 4CLS-Vestal, 3/10; 4H Training Workshop, 4CLS-Vestal, 3/10; Teen Moon Ooze/Explore Program, ROT, 3/13; Field Visit, ROT, 3/20; Train the Trainer for Community Needs Assessment, East Greenbush PL, 3/27; OCOB, SCCC, 3/27

## **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

April 24, 2014; Teen/Tween Customer Service

May ?, 2014: TASC and Libraries

May 21, 2014; MVLS Annual Meeting

I continue to work with the Fort Hunter Library in planning focus groups to help them build the visibility of the library, and the importance of library services, in the community. The desired end-game is more stable funding for this member library. I have also renewed contact with the Broadalbin Book Station as they continue to have an interest in moving toward becoming a "real" library.

Val continues to provide much support to member libraries in completing their state annual reports. Three libraries have been assisted with advocacy for budget votes, COB and NOR with policy and administrative issues, and several libraries with Picture Book City. Schenectady's RFID project continues to require regular input from Sharon and JA staff.

Sue and Lois participated in Schenectady's One County, One Book event at Schenectady County Community College.

We had three libraries selected to participate in The Edge Initiative. See <http://www.libraryedge.org/> for more information. Amsterdam, Fort Plain and Northville are a part of a group of 58 public libraries across New York that are participating in this study, which is a project of the Gates Foundation. Participating libraries are given access to tools that are designed to help them improve their technology-related services. The Middleburgh Library, while not a part of the study group, will be participating as an observer.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

We have eight libraries holding public budget votes this spring: Canajoharie, Cobleskill, Fonda, Fort Hunter, Fort Plain, Gloversville, Middleburgh and Northville. If all pass, 11 out of 14 member libraries will have the bulk of their annual budgets approved by a public vote. This is important since it means that these libraries have a degree of budget stability not enjoyed by libraries without voter-approved budgets. So if there is a library vote in your area make sure you vote!

The Foundation Committee continues to meet twice each month. We are now working on public relations materials to assist in promoting foundation services to member libraries. We also continue to recruit new potential board members. Kathryn McCary is assisting in developing Foundation by-laws as we get the documents in order that will allow for a quick turn-around between receiving the incorporation approval from the state, and obtaining our 501(c) (3) status. Funding requests have been sent to the Price Chopper Golub Foundation and the Golub Family Foundation.

### **Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits**

3/3/2014	Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC
3/4/2014	Beverly Osborne, Fort Hunter Free Library Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
3/5/2014	International Built in Systems Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System
3/6/2014	Keith Seeber Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Trustee Education Session
3/7/2014	Ken Hotopp Cheryl Cufari James Spencer Gerald Peters Michael Frank Craig Clark Donna Kuhner Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
3/10/2014	Beverly Osborne, Fort Hunter Free Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
3/11/2014	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

	Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/12/2014	Cheryl Cufari
	Beverly Osborne, Fort Hunter Free Library
3/13/2014	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/14/2014	Esther Swanker
	Jane Golub
	Capital District Library Council
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Foundation Committee
3/17/2014	Esther Swanker
	Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
3/18/2014	MVLS Foundation Committee
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
3/19/2014	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	Wanda Bruchis, Mid York Library System
	Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System
	Cecilia Tkaczyk, New York State Senate
	James L. Seward, New York State Senate
3/20/2014	Gordon Beebe
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	Cecilia Tkaczyk, New York State Senate
	NYLA
3/21/2014	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
3/24/2014	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff
	Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
3/25/2014	Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
3/26/2014	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Bob Camoin, Lake Pleasant Public Library
	Terry Kirchner, Westchester Library System
	Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
3/27/2014	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
	Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
3/28/2014	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	MVLS Foundation Committee
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
3/31/2014	Normajeane Bennett
	Joanne Resch
	Jeff Kirkendall, DLD
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library