

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

August, 2015

Administration & Governance

The first state aid payments were received on August 31. We have returned all of the required paperwork to receive the rest of the 2015 aid, which should all be released within the next couple of months. We are receiving the expected increase.

With these confirmed state aid increases, I have prepared draft budget amendments for the 2015 MVLS budget. Copies of the new proposed budget will be included in the meeting packets for the September meeting, and amending the budget will be an agenda item at the meeting. For the first time in many years, the budget is showing a surplus. This puts MVLS in a good position as we begin development of a new plan of service.

Work has been ongoing on the MVLS and JA 2014 financial statement reviews. At this point we expect Glenn Winter from T.M. Byxbee to present the auditor's statements at the October MVLS board meeting.

The building maintenance projects are all nearing completion.

The draft MVLS Board Governance Policy that was reviewed last month is ready for approval. A copy is available at: www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Governance-Policies-Draft.pdf. I will provide additional proposed By-Laws revisions at the September meeting.

We appear to be getting close to getting recommendations for filling the two vacant trustee seats to represent Fulton County. We still have two seats to fill from Schoharie County. I will bring a brainstorming list of suggestions to the September meeting. Please continue to think of individuals who may be able to serve from these two areas.

Automation and Resource Sharing

At the September JA Council meeting, the council approved sending the 2016 budget proposal to the SALS and MVLS boards for approval. Copies of the budget will be available at our September board meeting. We will also have a 2015 budget amendment to incorporate the contract with Zepheira that was discussed last month. Zepheira is experimental software that converts library catalog records (MARC records) into a format that is searchable by and available to internet search engines like Google.

Delivery volume continues on a slight downward trend, in keeping with the general library use trend and increase in use of e-resources. We have had a change in the ALDS staff. Mike Wolfe, the son of former SHS director MaryEllen, is the new ALDS delivery driver.

The free publisher's preview children's books continue to be made available to the member libraries to aid in materials selection. Many of these materials eventually end up in "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" sets.

Outreach Services

Lois is working to update member library information in the Northeast Region 2-1-1 Directory, a human services resource for our region.

The Hale Creek facility may have a new librarian. The position has been vacant for a few months. They have also just completed the 2nd session of the memoir writing program with Susannah Risley. Planning is underway for another session in November.

We have a new Outreach site for large print materials: the Fulton Center in Gloversville.

Adult Services

NYSCA - Books à la Carte and Authors Among Us programs are ongoing. We are waiting to hear whether the Arts grant will be funded. Lois has also been encouraging libraries to seek adult programming money through the NYSCA Decentralization program.

Lois continues to work with Audrey Kupferberg to develop a program that will allow libraries to host films made by regional filmmakers. The films range from historical topics to popular culture to literary arts and possibly other genres.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits 8/7 JOH NYSCA book discussion; 8/11 NOR NYSCA book discussion; 8/25 Judith Prest, NYSCA

Youth Services

The 2015 Summer Reading Program has ended. Libraries must send their final statistical reports to MVLS by 9/15. Libraries have been sending in their information for the MVLS SRP Book Raffle. Each winner receives approximately 7 paperback books and congratulation notes, books courtesy of the MVLS preview collection.

Amsterdam and Cobleskill will be the next Picture Book City libraries. The Quaker Street, Scotia, Glenville and Duane branches are also in process.

Sue presented a five minute presentation and poster session on the MVLS Science @ the Library project at the Public Libraries and Stem conference in Denver in August. The poster is up on the MVLS youth services page. Information from the conference will be distributed to our members and through our continuing education workshops. Programs are scheduled for fall at QUA; ROT; DUA; MTP; and SCO.

Mary Fellows from UHLS and Sue are working on the second training for the Ready to Read @ NY Libraries titled *It's All About the Children – No, Wait! The Parents: Strengthening Young Families Through Modeling and Readers Advisory*. This workshop, which will be held on October 1 at SCP, will be on how to implement the ALSC training of Every Child Ready to Read 2. In the afternoon, Lisa Kropp from the

Suffolk County Library System will focus on modeling and readers advisory customer service. These workshops are funded through our NYS Family Literacy Grant.

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: Jt. Workshop Conference Call Planning Meeting, 8/13; Stem Planning Conference Call, 8/13; Public Libraries and STEM Conference, Denver, 8/19-8/22; Moodle Course/Importance of Play, 8/24; Picture Book City, DUA, 8/27

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

September 3: Directors' Council
September 17: Youth Mental Health Workshop
October 1: Storyskills workshop
October 21 - 24: NYLA Conference
November 5: Marketing workshop
December 3: Youth Services workshop

The following Public Library Construction proposals were received from member libraries:

- SCP - \$151,508 For Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center- all electrical work for interior lighting, wiring, fire sprinkler, RFID security system and camera security system.
- MID - \$13,500 Replace oil burner with high efficiency propane/gas burners.
- GLV - \$639,758 Replace a boiler with energy efficient HVAC system

The committee will meet on Friday 9/11 to develop a recommendation for the 2015 MVLS request to New York State.

Advocacy & Awareness

The proposed 2015 budget amendments include funding for the Plan of Service development and web site upgrades that we discussed at the August meeting. Specifically, the planning process will include 4 moderated focus group sessions for member library staff & trustees and a survey to reach both active library users and non-users. Results will be used to assist in forming an action plan for the development of new MVLS services and to implement a communications plan to build the status of libraries in our communities.

The website upgrades will allow the site to work better on mobile devices, provide better access for those with disabilities, incorporate additional photos and promotional information, and to provide better usability for our members and the general public.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

8/3/2015 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library

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| 8/4/2015 | Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System |
| 8/5/2015 | John Naple |
| 8/6/2015 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| | Esther Swanker |
| | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 8/7/2015 | Foundation Board |
| 8/10/2015 | Foundation Board |
| | Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library |
| | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| | Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library |
| | Robert Schofield, Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP |
| 8/11/2015 | Sarah Beekman |
| | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 8/13/2015 | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 8/14/2015 | Foundation Board |
| | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 8/17/2015 | Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly |
| 8/18/2015 | Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library |
| | Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| | Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC |
| | Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System |
| 8/19/2015 | Bernard Allanson |
| | Capital District Library Council |
| | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 8/20/2015 | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | Serena Butch, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 8/25/2015 | Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library |
| 8/28/2015 | Kim Anderson, Division of Library Development |
| | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 8/31/2015 | Susan Rorick |
| | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| | Devon Hedges, The Community Library |