

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

September, 2015

Administration & Governance

Mary Salluzzo from Johnstown will join us as a new MVLS trustee at the October meeting. I will be providing an orientation for her before that meeting. Welcome Mary!

There has been some progress in filling the other three vacant seats. We currently have one empty seat in Fulton County and two in Schoharie County.

Glenn Winter from T.M. Byxbee will be at our October meeting to present the 2015 MVLS reviewed financial statements and IRS 990 form, as well as the 2014 JA financial statements. Copies of all documents will be available on the web site. Approval of the financial statements will be an agenda item.

MVLS continues to receive the 2015 state aid payments. Most aid is now received. We are still waiting for the final 10% payments for local library services aid and local services support aid. We are also waiting for the adult and family literacy grant awards. The bullet aid has been received and the appropriate amounts distributed to the member libraries. Montgomery County is still being shut out of bullet aid.

We are now ready to approve the new MVLS Governance Policy, the By-Laws amendments and a new outline of committee charges. All documents are available on the web site, including a By-Laws document showing the edits and a new clean version. Action on these documents will be an agenda item at the October meeting.

The repairs to the front sidewalk had to be redone three times. It appears that the final effort will be durable enough to last the winter.

The CSEA union requested a meeting on September 28. The union presented their proposals in the form of a new edited draft contract. We are now working to develop management proposals, and then negotiations for the 2016 – 2018 agreement will begin.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council will meet on November 4 here at MVLS. We have begun training for the Zephiera linked data initiative. Sharon O'Brien, me, Bob Sullivan (Schenectady), and Erica Wing (Johnstown) are participating in training along with JA staff members and SALS representatives.

The new ILL service with CDLC is working well. There were 22 requests placed in August: 7 that were filled from within CDLC and 15 that CDLC searched for through OCLC.

Outreach Services

The Institutions and Corrections aid awards have been received, and Lois is working with the facilities to identify the resources that they need. The Hale Creek facility has been very pleased with the *Write For Your Life* program, and will schedule additional sessions. They have a new librarian: Jason Thomas.

The September MVLS workshop, *Youth Mental Health First Aid*, was very successful. The evaluations were all positive, with librarians appreciating advice on dealing with troubled patrons.

Lois has developed a member library grant project to help libraries that want to acquire devices to assist disabled patrons who wish to use the library. Examples include magnification and screen reading software.

Adult Services

The NYSCA funded book discussion and writing programs continue at member libraries. Lois is also helping member libraries who have expressed interest in applying for NYSCA Decentralization grants.

Audrey Kupferberg is developing a list of films for the proposed program series featuring regional filmmakers. Libraries will then be able to choose the films they are interested in showing. Lois is exploring a possible grant with the NY Council on the Humanities.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits 9/1 – CA\$H Coalition; 9/2 - Saratoga Arts Grant information; 9/3 – Director's Council, 9/11 – Library Services / Planning & Development Committee; 9/17 – Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshop.

Youth Services

The 2015 Summer Reading Program statistics were collected and submitted to the state. System wide, 3,105 children and teens participated; 770 classes, programs and events were held at member libraries with a combined attendance of 16,802.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten project is just about ready for implementation. Picture books were stickered and sorted by our Picture Book City genres, and one from each section - totaling 10 - are placed in each Blue Tote Bag. Bags are labeled and cataloged, and the rotating schedule will begin in mid-October. Member libraries are already promoting the project through their Facebook pages, promoting the App which will help families keep track of reading. An order was placed with Upstart for promotional materials (posters, bookmarks, and stickers). Each library will begin with 5 totes, more will follow when we have more books to add. The separate baby bags will be sent out later this year.

Sue and Mary Fellows (UHLS) planned and presented a Ready to Read @ NY Libraries workshop titled *It's All About the Children – No, Wait! The Parents: Strengthening Young Families Through Modeling and Readers Advisory*, held on the morning of October 2 in Schenectady. In the afternoon, Lisa Kropp from the Suffolk County Library System focused on modeling and readers advisory customer service, with funding from our NYS Family Literacy Grant. 48 were in attendance, 11 from MVLS libraries and branches. Registration fees and a travel reimbursement was offered through the NYS Family Literacy

grant to MVLS attendees for this customer service workshop. Handouts and other materials will be available to members through the MVLS and UHLS websites.

Northville and the Duane Branch had duplo/lego building programs in September, borrowing 8 bins of legos and 2 bins of duplos. Other libraries have begun scheduling for fall lego/duplo programs.

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: Youth Services Planning Meeting, UHLS; 9/2; Directors' Council, GLV; 9/3; NonFiction Weeding meeting, GLV; 9/3; Science @ the Library, DUA; 9/10; Importance of Play Online Class, Virginia; 9/3 – 10/8; Importance of Play Conference Call, 9/16; Playful Learning at the Library Webinar, 9/16; Regent's Meeting, Albany; 9/17; Science @ the Library, MTP, 9/23; UHLS/MVLS Workshop planning meeting, MVLS, 9/30; UHLS/MVLS Workshop, SCP, 10/1; Science @ the Library, ROT, 10/3

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

October 1: Storyskills workshop

October 21 - 24: NYLA Conference

November 5: Marketing workshop

December 3: Youth Services workshop

Twelve member libraries applied for Library Public Services mini-grants. Projects range from additional help in purchasing the Meraki wireless routers, to adult programs, children's audiobooks, and genealogy resources.

We have entered into an agreement with Ellen Bach of Whiteman Osterman & Hanna to have them provide guidance on the issue of the Foundation managing donated money for member libraries. At this point we are confident that the Foundation can develop a planned giving program and manage new contributions. It is doubtful whether there is an arrangement that would allow the Foundation to manage money that has already been received by a public library.

Advocacy & Awareness

As the official opening activity in our 2016 Plan of Service development, I have contacted all member library directors and board presidents to garner an invitation to present at member library board meetings. So far, I have three meetings scheduled. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information on MVLS services, to inspire boards to think about additional services and opportunities and to outline the remainder of the planning process. That process will involve a mediated focus group in each county and a general survey on library services. We will be contracting with D2 Media to coordinate those activities. This Schenectady public relations firm has done similar work for SCCC, Metroplex and other organizations in the region.

CDLC is spearheading two efforts to bring all three public library systems (MVLS, SALS and UHLS) together for advocacy and awareness activities. The first project will involve coordinating advocacy with our elected officials at a time other than the annual NYLA Advocacy Day. This will probably involve more

leisurely visits to legislators in the late spring or fall. The second effort involves developing a one-day mini conference on topics that would be of interest to all librarians and library staff in the capital region.

On October 22 and 23 I will be at the NYLA Conference in Lake Placid.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

9/1/2015	Esther Swanker
9/2/2015	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
9/3/2015	MVLS Member Library Directors
9/8/2015	Division of Library Development, NYSED Foundation Board PULISDO Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Robert Schofield, Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP
9/9/2015	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council JA Council Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC
9/10/2015	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
9/11/2015	Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Library Services Committee
9/15/2015	Mal Martin Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Robert Schofield, Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP
9/16/2015	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
9/17/2015	Bonnie Kerr MVLS Audit & Finance Committee MVLS Board of Trustees
9/18/2015	Mary Salluzzo Amber Shultes Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Robert Schofield, Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP
9/22/2015	Esther Swanker Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library James L. Seward, New York State Senate Hugh T. Farley, New York State Senate

Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC
Devon Hedges, The Community Library
9/23/2015 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/24/2015 MVLS Member Library Directors
9/25/2015 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
Devon Hedges, The Community Library
9/28/2015 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
9/29/2015 MVLS Member Library Directors
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library