

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

April - May, 2015

Administration & Governance

The 2015 MVLS Annual Meeting was once again a success. Thank you to all who participated. The annual report is on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014-Annual-Report.pdf> One issue we will be discussing over the next few months is the declining attendance and ideas for changes to the way we do the annual meeting.

DLD requested a few minor changes to the MVLS and to several member library state annual reports. Most corrections have been made and accepted. Reports for Fort Hunter and Schenectady still have unresolved questions, but we are nearing completion. Having state reports approved is a prerequisite for receiving state aid.

As was reported at the April meeting, we should receive an increase in aid this year. We will discuss some potential uses for that aid increase at the June meeting.

One budget increase that we have already discussed is various building repair and deferred maintenance needs. The Building and Equipment committee met to review these in April. I am gathering information and quotes on an epoxy coating for the garage floor, and for minor repairs and painting of the back exterior wall. Next we will look into some needed repairs in the exterior bricks.

You will notice that the lawn has been repaired where there was truck damage earlier this year. We are working with our landscaper to have large rocks brought in to try and prevent trucks from driving on the lawn.

The union contract runs through the end of 2015. The union has begun meeting to work toward beginning the negotiations process. We expect to start formal negotiations before the end of the year.

At the June meeting I will ask you to approve a state minimum standards waiver request for the Community Library in Cobleskill concerning the library's lack of an approved long range plan of service. You may recall we did a similar waiver for Johnstown a couple of years ago. The Community Library board is working to develop a plan.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council will next meet on July 8. JA Staff continue to work on implementing the new features that will result from the recent upgrade. A new upgrade will be needed to fully implement the new LEAP product.

Six libraries have applied for the Meraki wireless router mini-grants that the board approved in January. Several other libraries have expressed interest. The application deadline is July 1, 2015.

The Central Library Advisory Committee continues to meet to inform the development of the 2016 grant proposal from Schenectady. The expectation is that we will have that proposal to review at the August MVLS board meeting.

We are all set to start the new ILL arrangement with CDLC. Matt Forst's last day at MVLS was Friday, May 29. CDLC is providing this service to MVLS with no change beyond our regular CDLC membership fee. We will continue to assist with loans that have already been placed.

Outreach Services

Write For Your Life presented by Susannah Risley will be offered in two, 6-week sessions at the Hale Creek facility. If successful, the program will continue as long as funds are available. This is a very innovative use of state corrections funds.

MVLS worked with the New York Folklore Society, and the Amsterdam and Fonda libraries to develop a Folklore Society grant application project titled: ***Qué Rico: Latino Culture and the Making of America.*** This project will examine and highlight the role Latino culture has played in the formation of America, with emphasis on understanding Latino immigration to the Mohawk Valley, celebrating Latino culture and social customs, and sharing Latino perspectives with the non-Latino community.

The Outreach Advisory Committee met in April to review the 2014 Adult Literacy grant. The committee will meet again in June to review the 2015 applications. So far, Schenectady has expressed interest for a project involving programming at the new branch.

Lois has been working to develop a workshop for member libraries on serving people with disabilities. We hope to offer this workshop in September.

Adult Services

The NYSCA book discussion programs for 2015 are ready to go. The schedule is on the web at: www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015poster.pdf. Libraries have until June 12 to propose projects for the 2015 Authors Among Us program. A third NYSCA project has been developed for 2016. If funded, this project will provide arts related programming at 6 member libraries.

Schoharie County libraries worked with the CA\$H Coalition and NYS Tax Dept. to make computers available for people of low to moderate income (\$60,000 or less) to do their taxes. The expectation was that if they got 10 returns, it would be considered successful. They received 178 returns from the county and felt that the libraries' participation as a group really brought life back into the entire Schoharie County CA\$H coalition. It provided over \$1M in returns for people in the county.

Lois' Meeting & Field Visits 4/14 - Ellen McHale, Kaela Wallman, Nicole Hemsley; 4/15 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 4/16 – 2-1-1 Executive Board Meeting
4/17 – Outreach Advisory Council; 4/27 – Union members

Youth Services

Sue continues to work on the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program that will become a new service for member libraries. As Sue reported in April, the concept is to encourage reading for preschool age children by making it easy for parents and caregivers to borrow 10 books at a time and to track the books that are read to children. Libraries will receive bags of 10 books that will be circulated as a kit in bags with the 1,000 Books graphic. Most member libraries will be participating. The books will be a combination of publisher's preview books and classic picture books that will be purchased.

Libraries are all set for the 2015 Summer Reading Program. Sue and Kathy have set up the online registration pages at: <http://www.mvls.info/services/youth/summer-reading-online/> Libraries are receiving STEM program minigrants for activities in June to close out the 2014-15 grant year.

Eight libraries and branches have scheduled Science @ the Library programs for 2015, starting in July. The schedule is on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/services/youth/science-at-the-library/>

Sue's Workshops, Meetings & Field Visits: Policy Workshop, AMS, 4/9; Youth Media Award Discussion, Guilderland, 4/10; Youth Planning Meeting, UHLS, 4/20; Recycling Day, 4/25; Squishy Circuit Maker Space Workshop, MVLS, 4/30; Maker Space, Hacker Fashion Webinar, MVLS, 4/30; Field Visit, NOR, 5/7; Arbuthnot Lecture, Washington DC, 5/8-9; CDLC ILL Meeting, CDLC, 5/21; Pop-up Storytime Webinar, 5/21; SLJ Day of Dialog, NYC, 5/27; Ready to Read Summit, Guilderland, 3/10-3/11

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

June 4: Director's Council

June 10: Foundation Annual Meeting & Program with Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich

September 17 (tentative): Youth Mental Health Workshop

October 1: Storyskills workshop

October 21 - 24: NYLA Conference

November 5: Marketing workshop

Advocacy & Awareness

The new Mission and Impact statements are now on the MVLS website at:

<http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/mission-and-history/> The next step in our planning process will be information sessions for each willing member library board on MVLS services. These will be scheduled this fall. We will then hold regional listening sessions, probably one in each county, to gather input on services that the members may find useful in the future. This will all inform development of a new Plan of Service next spring.

The Foundation board and volunteers are busy working on the Foundation Golf Tournament, which is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015. I'll give a report at the June meeting.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

4/1/2015	William P. Leitch Esther Swanker Debbie Booth, HFM BOCES SLS MVLS Staff Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
4/2/2015	Esther Swanker Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Marc Butler, New York State Assembly James Tedisco, New York State Assembly Phil Steck, New York State Assembly Peter Lopez, New York State Assembly Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly Hugh T. Farley, New York State Senate James L. Seward, New York State Senate George A. Amedore, Jr., New York State Senate Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
4/3/2015	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
4/6/2015	MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors
4/7/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Foundation Board Diane Forsberg, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
4/8/2015	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library JA Council
4/9/2015	MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Workshop
4/10/2015	Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee MVLS Board of Trustees Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
4/13/2015	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
4/14/2015	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Division of Library Development, NYSED PULISDO
4/15/2015	Esther Swanker MVLS Staff MVLS Trustee Education Session
4/16/2015	Sarah Beekman MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Building & Equipment Committee Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/17/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library

	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	MVLS Outreach Advisory Committee
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/20/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
	Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
4/21/2015	William P. Leitch
	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
4/22/2015	William P. Leitch
	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	Capital District Library Council
	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
4/23/2015	Esther Swanker
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/29/2015	HFM School Library System Council
4/30/2015	Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery
	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
	Debbie Booth, HFM BOCES SLS
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
5/1/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Foundation Board
	Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/5/2015	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/6/2015	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
5/7/2015	Esther Swanker
	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/11/2015	William P. Leitch
	Normajeane Bennett
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
5/12/2015	Foundation Event Committee
	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
5/13/2015	MVLS Board of Trustees

5/14/2015 MVLS Member Library Directors
Bill Bishop, Price Chopper Distribution Center
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

5/15/2015 Foundation Board
Bill Bishop, Price Chopper Distribution Center

5/19/2015 Esther Swanker
Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library

5/20/2015 William P. Leitch
JA Committee
MVLS Member Library Directors

5/21/2015 Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

5/22/2015 William P. Leitch
Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
Jeff Kirkendall, DLD
Foundation Board
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

5/26/2015 William P. Leitch

5/27/2015 Foundation Board
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library

5/29/2015 Foundation Board
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library