

# **Mohawk Valley Library System**

## **Director's Report**

**February, 2016**

### **Administration & Governance**

The 2016 MVLS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 5:30 at the River Stone Manor in Glenville. Kathy is preparing the invitations. We did a survey of library directors, and the clear consensus was to keep the time and location similar to past years, and to have some trustee training as a part of the program. We will be lowering the cost to \$25/person and will continue to allow the Director and one Trustee from each library to attend for free. We'll talk about the details at the March board meeting.

The notices soliciting nominations for the Wusterbarth Volunteer and Library Service awards have gone out, and we have begun to receive applications. Please encourage your libraries to apply.

Most member libraries have submitted their 2015 state annual reports, and we have begun work on the MVLS report. Many of the contacts that you will see later in this report involve helping libraries with their annual reports. The MVLS state annual report will be submitted for board approval at the April meeting.

As we have discussed previously, the Governor's budget proposal was to hold library state aid at 2015 levels. While we generally budget for aid to remain flat, we always hope for an increase. The current expectation is that we could see a modest increase of about 4%.

We have continued to hold negotiating sessions with the CSEA bargaining unit and are making good progress. I am reasonably confident that we will have a memorandum of understanding for you to review at the March meeting.

### **Automation and Resource Sharing**

The next JA Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16 here at MVLS. JA continues to work on integrating e-circulation into the Polaris system.

Delivery volume continues steady. The Duane branch closed on February 19, and the Bornt branch opened on February 29. A new schedule is up on the MVLS website.

Sue continues to request publisher's preview books. Libraries were able to select from these books at the January 7<sup>th</sup> workshop. Other preview titles become part of the 1,000 Books collection.

The CDLC ILL service is working well for our member libraries. In the second half of 2015 (July – December) MVLS libraries received 49 items to fill patron ILL requests. Thirty-five items from within MVLS filled requests at other CDLC libraries and to libraries beyond. Of course, this activity is in addition

to the 120,000+ requests that are filled from within MVLS/SALS each year. Also, the CDLC ILL statistics do not include Schenectady requests, as SCPL chooses not to use the MVLS brokered CDLC ILL service.

### **Outreach Services**

Lois has been researching options for the next round of Adult Literacy Grants. These are no longer competitive grants, but MVLS still needs to apply for this money every three years. We will probably continue to offer mini grants to member libraries. This year, Amsterdam, Middleburgh and Schenectady have expressed interest.

MVLS has used other leftover grant money to develop a grant project that will assist libraries in serving persons with disabilities. The Amsterdam Library will be receiving funding to acquire lighted magnifiers.

### **Adult Services**

The 2016 NYSCA Book Discussion programs are getting close to launch. The books and schedule are set, and the designer is currently working on the poster.

The Regional Film Series programs are also ready for scheduling. The selection list is out to the libraries, and they are starting to schedule programs

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: 2/11 – Resonate II Workshop; 2/24 – Union negotiations; 2/27 – Phyllis Bornt Library Open House; 2/29 – Meeting at Access-VR; 3/3 – Resonate III Workshop

### **Youth Services**

The annual Summer Reading Program workshop and showcase was held on February 4 at the William Sanford Library in Colonie. 71 library staff from UHLS and MVLS attended this all-day program, with 23 coming from MVLS libraries. This year Sue and Mary based the presentations around the development of fun, goal aligned programs. As always, the evaluations were very positive.

The Science @ the Library programs may be coming to an end. With the retirement of our contact at GE and the ageing of our volunteer cohort of GE scientists, it appears that GE is no longer interested in this program. However, MVLS is continuing to provide science and STEM resources for member libraries. Sue and Kathy have been working to develop STEM kits that libraries can use for programming. The MiSci partnership programs also meet part of the same need. And the Duplo/Lego resources remain very popular with kits used at five libraries in January & February.

The Family Literacy Grants, like Adult Literacy, are also up for a new three-year cycle. For 2016 – 2019 this state aid grant will focus more on early literacy. MVLS, along with SALS, will be using this grant to purchase Beanstack, a software application that provides reading tracking along with book and reading recommendations. This product will work great with the summer reading programs and the 1,000 Books project.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten bags have been very popular with our member libraries and library patrons. Participating libraries each received 5 baby bags to go along with the 10-book bags sent out in November. An additional 5 bags for each library are being compiled. Picture Book City is also continuing to have an impact in our libraries. Libraries that have recently implemented or are planning for Picture

Book City include the new Phyllis Bornt branch as well as the Quaker Street, Scotia and Rotterdam branch libraries.

Sue continues to be active in implementing New York State's Ready to Read initiative. MVLS is working with Karen Balsen at DLD and Marisa Conner to provide the April 19 state-wide workshop for the Cohort on Early Literacy Spaces, to be held at the Schenectady County Public Library.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Best of the Best Workshop & Director's Council, MVLS, 1/7; Picture Book City, SCO, 1/8; CSLP PreK Webinar, MVLS, 1/13; Planning Meeting, UHLS, 1/13; Ready to Read Conference call, 1/14; Early Literacy Webinar, MVLS, 1/14; Read It Forward Meeting, UHLS, 1/19; CSLP Webinar, Teen, MVLS, 1/28; Ready to Read Conference Call, 1/29; Ready to Read Conference Call, 2/2; Summer Reading Workshop Set Up, COLN, 2/3; Summer Reading Workshop, COLN, 2/4; ILL Meeting, CDLC, 2/10; Beanstack Webinar, 2/12

### **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

March 2: NYLA Advocacy Day

March 31: Library Technology update with Polly Farrington

April 21: Library Safety & Security CLDA workshop

May 11: MVLS Annual Meeting

June 7: Foundation Annual Meeting

The Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center grand opening ceremony was held on Saturday, February 27. Lois Gordon and I represented MVLS. It was a very appropriate ceremony and a very nice new library for that neighborhood.

Lois' Resonate workshops have been very well received by the participating libraries. The purpose of this workshop series is to help libraries communicate more effectively with their stakeholders and communities. Amsterdam, Fort Plain and St. Johnsville have attended.

We are once again collecting construction need information from member libraries. This helps to build a case for additional construction funding.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

The Carol Clingan Library Advocacy Grants have been paid to the Amsterdam, Fort Hunter and Schoharie Libraries. All of these libraries are holding either new budget votes or budget votes for significant increases this May. We have several other libraries holding budget votes this spring, several of whom have contacted MVLS for assistance.

Advocacy Day on March 2 went well. All of our legislative contacts were reasonably positive. There is a strong expectation that there will be an on-time budget and that libraries will receive some increase. The other main legislative initiatives are to create a law that requires a librarian in elementary schools, and an increase in state construction funding.

The Foundation is busy planning 2 golf tournaments to be held in June and August. Contributions, registrations and sponsorships are coming in. This will eventually fund additional advocacy and library services grants.

The Plan of Service development activities continue. I have one more library visit in early March (Fort Hunter). We received 57 responses to our preliminary survey, representing every library. Survey responses will help to set the agenda for the listening sessions that will be held in each county in late March and early April. So far the following sessions are scheduled:

Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 PM	Johnstown Public Library
Wednesday, March 30, 6:00 PM	Canajoharie Library
Thursday, March 31, 6:00 PM	The Community Library, Cobleskill

We will have a discussion of survey results at our March meeting.

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

2/1/2016	Don Reisinger, D2 Media Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS CSEA Unit Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
2/2/2016	MVLS Member Library Directors Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
2/3/2016	Steve Bachman, Four County Library System Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Wanda Bruchis, Mid York Library System Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
2/4/2016	Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
2/8/2016	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Jon Finlan, Price Chopper Supermarkets
2/9/2016	Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Division of Library Development, NYSED Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library PULISDO
2/10/2016	Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP Pamela Crandall-Luby Amber Shultes Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Don Reisinger, D2 Media

Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library  
 Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library  
 MVLS Board of Trustees  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 MVLS Staff  
 Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library  
 Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library  
 2/11/2016 Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library  
 Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 2/12/2016 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
 Capital District Library Council  
 Don Reisinger, D2 Media  
 Foundation Board  
 MVLS Board of Trustees  
 Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System  
 2/16/2016 Ava Douglass  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 2/17/2016 Amber Shultes  
 Don Reisinger, D2 Media  
 Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP  
 2/18/2016 Foundation Event Committee  
 MVLS Board of Trustees  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 2/19/2016 Cheryl Cufari  
 William P. Leitch  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 2/22/2016 Mal Martin  
 Ava Douglass  
 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library  
 2/23/2016 Pamela Crandall-Luby  
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff  
 Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library  
 Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library  
 2/24/2016 Capital District Library Council  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 MVLS CSEA Unit  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 2/25/2016 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

2/26/2016

Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
Division of Library Development, NYSED  
Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library  
Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library  
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library

2/29/2016

William P. Leitch  
Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
Foundation Board  
MVLS Board of Trustees  
MVLS Member Library Directors  
Lauren Moore, Pioneer Library System