

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

March, 2016

Administration & Governance

The 2016 State budget has passed, and once again there is modest good news for libraries. Library aid was increased by 4.3% and construction aid was increased by \$5 million or 35%. Both of these increases will have direct impact on MVLS and our members.

The 2016 MVLS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 5:30 at the River Stone Manor in Glenville. The event is shaping up as we discussed at the March meeting. We will have brief educational presentations, a compressed program, the awards presentations and the popular trivia contest. We have received several awards nominations.

The MVLS state annual report is complete and will be submitted pending board approval. It is available on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MVLS-NYS-System-Report.pdf>. In preparing the annual report, we discovered that through an unfortunate oversight, when Marion was elected (for the 4th time!) to the MVLS Board last May, an oath of office was never filed. In order to make Marion's appointment official, we need to again officially appoint her to the MVLS Board and file the oath of office. We can do that at the April meeting.

The union negotiations are complete, and a memorandum of understanding has been signed by all parties. We will discuss the changes at the April meeting in executive session.

We are in the process of updating the MVLS website. Sue and Kathy have been working on the youth services pages; and the "Inside MVLS" menu, containing the board information, has been reorganized. The next sections to receive attention will be the "Services" and "Trustees" menus.

The Foundation board wishes to amend the Foundation bylaws, and this requires MVLS board approval. The proposed changes are outlined below:

The MVLS Executive Director and the immediate past president of the Corporation shall be an *ex officio* members of the Board, entitled to all privileges and duties of Trustees, except that they may not vote at Board meetings including voting on any matter that may come before the board.

The MVLS Board also needs to appoint Foundation trustees. Edward Asselin (Cobleskill) and Esther Swanker (Schenectady) are up for re-appointment, and are recommended for an additional term. We will have one Foundation trustee to elect at the MVLS Annual Meeting: Fran Apollo from Howes Cave.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The next JA Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 11 at SALS. We need a new MVLS board representative on the JA Council, to fill the seat that had been held by Cheryl Cufari.

Each year, all member library boards are asked to approve the agreement for JA services. I would like to have our board also approve those agreements each year. The agreement text is available on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/JAC-Library-Agreement.pdf>

The CDLC ILL process is being updated to make it easier for libraries to place requests. In the first quarter of 2016, five MVLS libraries has 13 requests filled though CDLC; and they in turn filled 6 requests from CDLC. Schenectady, like most large libraries, does its own ILL and does not use the CDLC process, although they could use that process if they wished.

Delivery volume continues steady, with a modest increase seen in March. A new driver, Larry Johnson, has begun work.

Sue continues to request preview copies of children's and teen books for the preview collections, which member libraries use as selection tools. These books then form the basis of the 1,000 books collections as well as for book giveaways.

We have scheduled a Central Library Advisory Committee meeting for early May to discuss future uses for the Central Library Aid: CLDA and CBA. Just as we have developed a formal process for determining the use for the CLDA, our goal is to develop a similar process for CBA (Central Book Aid).

Outreach Services

The 2016-2020 state Adult Literacy grant has been approved. MVLS will receive up to \$5,000 each year. This funding will be used to fund member mini-grants. Libraries will be invited to submit for projects serving adults in their communities. Funding decisions will be made through the Outreach Advisory Council. So far, Amsterdam and Schenectady are interested in 2016-17 projects.

Books for the Schenectady County Jail have been purchased through Barnes & Noble.

Adult Services

The 2016 NYSCA Book Discussion programs are ready to go. The schedule, bookmarks and poster are complete. The poster is on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016carte.poster.pdf>. Nine member libraries will be hosting 17 programs in 2016. The NYSCA application for the 2017 year is complete. Planning for the 2016 Authors Among Us programs is ongoing.

Lois is updating the MVLS large print collections.

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: 3/2 – Legislative Lobby Day; 3/3 – Resonate III Workshop; 3/16 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 3/17 – 2-1-1 Executive Board; 3/17 – NYS Outreach consultants conference call; 3/23 – Staff Meeting; 3/24 – Marketing Your Library by Doug Bixler @ UHLS; 3/31 – Social Media and Marketing - CDLC

Youth Services

The 2016 Summer Reading Program posters will be distributed to the libraries in April. The remaining grant funding, which must be spent by June 30, will then go to libraries for early summer programming. The grant close on June 30 will also mark the end of funding for Picture Book City. We currently have 5 libraries/branches nearing completion of the process, with three more ready to start. MVLS is collaborating with UHLS for the second year on the “Read It Forward” program for teens; a summer program where teens (approximately grades 6-12) read a featured title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing. This year’s title is **The Raft**, by S.A. Bodeen. MVLS has ten libraries and branches participating.

The next three years of the NYS Family Literacy Grants, which will get MVLS up to \$9,000 per year, is closely tied in to the NYS Ready to Read initiative. MVLS is working with SALS to provide access to Beanstack, which will serve a number of purposes: reading suggestions, early literacy tips, summer reading and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten accounting. Beanstack will be paid for through the Family Literacy grant, which emphasizes having children enter Kindergarten ready to read.

MVLS is working with the NYS Division of Library Development on the next segment of the Ready to Read initiative. The next training for system youth services consultants will take place at the Schenectady Library on April 19. Sue is working with Marisa Conner on content and MVLS is coordinating the workshop for Library Development.

The future of the Science @ the Library programs remains uncertain. We will be able to hold programs this summer, and libraries continue to have access to the free MiSci STEM programs. In addition, Sue and Kathy now have the following STEM program kits ready for use: Goldie Blox, Q-Ba-Maze 2.0, Cubelets, Keva Planks, Makedo, Sphero Sprk, K’nex, Erector set and Little Bits STEM kits. Lego and Duplo kits also remain popular program offerings.

On April 15 Sue will be part of a workshop panel at the NYLA Youth Services Section Conference. Sue’s workshop, titled “Learning to Evaluate Children’s Materials”, follows on her service on the ALA Odyssey committee.

Sue’s meetings, contacts & field visits: NYLA Library Advocacy Day, Albany, 3/2; Youth Consultant Conference Call, 3/3; Picture Book City, ROT, 3/8; Whole Book Approach Webinar, 3/9; MVLS Board Meeting, MVLS, 3/17; Beanstack Conference Call, 3/22; MVLS Staff Meeting, MVLS, 3/23

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

May 5: Director’s Council & Beanstack discussion

May 11: MVLS Annual Meeting

June 2: Customer Service Workshop

June 7: Foundation Annual Meeting – Digital Literacy/Privacy speaker

The Central Library workshop on Safety and Security is being rescheduled and we don’t yet have a date.

When the New York Library Association updated its institutional membership process a couple of years ago, several library systems began underwriting institutional memberships for all of their member libraries. This helps keep libraries plugged in to advocacy and to association services available to them, and may foster more participation in these activities. I would like to recommend that MVLS begin underwriting institutional NYLA memberships for our member libraries. The cost will be \$2,875 annually. We can discuss this at the April meeting.

The planning listening sessions were held for Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie counties. These sessions will serve as the follow-up to the survey that we discussed last month. Most libraries were represented. I don't yet have the formal outcomes, but Don Reisinger, our consultant, indicated that there was good discussion. We are planning two sessions for Schenectady, both to be held in conjunction with regularly scheduled meetings: one for the SCP board and one for staff.

Advocacy & Awareness

Now that the state budget has passed, and our elected officials have increased library aid, it would be very appropriate to send thank you notes – paper or email – to our elected officials to make sure that they remember to be similarly supportive of libraries in future budgets. Contact information for all of our state representatives is available on the MVLS website at:

<http://www.mvls.info/advocacy/legislators/>

Seven of our Association libraries receive significant annual funding through what is referred to as “259 votes”. These votes are what allow libraries to seek budget appropriations through school districts or municipalities to support public library services. In 2012, a resident sued the DeWitt Community Library, alleging that such budget votes were not legal. Although all judgements have been in favor of the library, this issue is now before the NYS Supreme Court. The DeWitt Community Library, as the defendant in these legal proceedings, has to date spent more than \$35,000 in legal fees. The NYLA Legal Defense fund has been collecting contributions to aid with this legal defense, which has huge state-wide ramifications. The Public Library System Directors Organization has contributed \$2,300, and several library systems have also supported the fund. If we had a library spending money on a state-wide legal issue we would certainly want support from other systems. Therefore, I would like to recommend that MVLS pledge \$200 to NYLA Legal Defense Fund to support the legal efforts of the DeWitt Community Library.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

3/1/2016	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS Member Library Directors PULISDO Meetings
3/2/2016	NYLA Advocacy Day
3/3/2016	John Naple Esther Swanker Susan D'Entremont, Capital District Library Council Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS Member Library Directors

3/4/2016	John Naple William Dever Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
3/7/2016	William Dever Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/8/2016	Bonnie Kerr Foundation Board Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
3/9/2016	Bonnie Kerr Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development Kathy Rooney, Schenectady County Manager Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
3/10/2016	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/11/2016	Esther Swanker Capital District Library Council Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee
3/14/2016	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/15/2016	Don Reisinger, D2 Media MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Trustee Education Session – Fort Hunter Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
3/16/2016	JA Council Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Marc Butler, New York State Assembly Phil Steck, New York State Assembly
3/17/2016	Esther Swanker MVLS Board of Trustees Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
3/18/2016	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff
3/21/2016	Ava Douglass Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Capital District Library Council Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC
3/22/2016	Carol Clingan

3/23/2016	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council MVLS Staff
3/24/2016	Deb Preston, Schenectady County Public Library John Naple Don Reisinger, D2 Media
3/25/2016	Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development Susan D'Entremont, Capital District Library Council Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
3/28/2016	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Sarah Beekman Bonnie Kerr Sarah Beekman Susan D'Entremont, Capital District Library Council Don Reisinger, D2 Media
3/29/2016	Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS Member Library Directors Planning Listening Session - Johnstown Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
3/30/2016	Planning Listening Session - Canajoharie
3/31/2016	CDLC/MVLS Marketing workshop at SCP Planning Listening Session - Cobleskill Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library