

# **Mohawk Valley Library System**

## **Director's Report**

**April & May, 2016**

### **Administration & Governance**

The 2016 MVLS Annual Meeting was a success. Thanks to all who participated. We may tweak the format a bit more next year, and could continue to look for other locations; but for 2016 everything went well. It was great to honor the Amsterdam and Northville libraries through the awards. We'll discuss your impressions at the June meeting.

We are almost done with 2015 state annual reports. Several libraries had corrections come back from the state, and most are now fully accepted. The Schenectady report is also near completion. State acceptance of all annual reports is a prerequisite for distribution of state aid.

We are still waiting for the CSEA to produce the official copies of the approved 2016 – 2018 Union/Management agreement. Following up on the new agreement, I asked our attorney, Kathryn McCary to review our Personnel Manual to make sure that it doesn't contradict the new agreement, and to make sure that it is in keeping with any changes in labor law. Kathryn has recommended a few small changes, which we will discuss at the June board meeting.

The Building and Grounds Committee will hold its annual walkabout meeting immediately following the June 16 MVLS board meeting. In general, the building is in good shape, but we will have a few issues to discuss. If aid comes in as expected, we should have the budget to do the exterior doors project.

The information gathering part of the planning process is now complete. I should have a report from D2 Media within a week or so. In all we collected 56 surveys and had over 50 attend one of the 5 listening sessions. We can discuss some of the results at the June meeting. The end result will be the development of a new Plan of Service for the state. I'll be working on that over the summer, and will get input from the Library Services committee in August or September.

It has been a tradition for summer or fall MVLS board meetings to be held at member libraries. I suggest we try to visit two libraries this year. We should see the new Phyllis Bornt branch in Schenectady, and the first phase of the Fort Plain project is also near completion. Also, I will again be requesting a date change for August; the August 18 date, as has been the case for the past several years, conflicts with the NY Association of Library Systems annual meeting. We'll discuss alternative dates at the June board meeting.

### **Automation and Resource Sharing**

The next JA Council meeting will be on Wednesday, July 13 here at MVLS. E-resources integration into Polaris remains the big JA project this summer. There will be a cost to MVLS since we will have to purchase cataloging for these items in order to foster integration into the catalog. We are also determining the future of the Zepheira linked data project that we participated in last year. We'll be

deciding whether the cost can continue to be justified given the little practical advantage that we gain by participating in this project.

We have been working closely with SCPL and Schenectady County to get the policies and procedures in place to facilitate the acceptance of credit cards at the self-check machines at the Schenectady Library. Because this involves credit card data being transmitted over the JA network, there are policies and contracts involved revolving around a concept known as PCI Compliance. We are working with Kathryn McCarty to make sure MVLS interests are protected in these documents.

The Central Library Advisory Committee has met to develop ideas for the 2017 CLDA spending and to develop a written plan for the use of Central Book Aid. I am very pleased with the progress we have made over the last couple of years in specifying specific uses for central library funds. We are now using CLDA and CBA to enhance our e-resources offerings and to provide continuing education offerings for member libraries. We have reached a place where everyone is looking for ways to leverage this funding to create benefits for all libraries and library users. I'll provide more details at the June meeting.

The members met in May to discuss e-resource spending for 2017. We made a strong pitch for increased spending since we are including new offerings (Zinio magazines) and circulation continues to increase. Also, members responded to the survey with a clear desire to increase e-resources spending. Members vote on this spending, as all contribute to these purchases. I will be announcing the vote results in early June.

Delivery volume is starting to increase. We have a new driver, Larry Johnson.

### **Outreach Services**

Orders have been placed and materials are arriving for the Fulton and Montgomery County Jails. Lois is also working to implement a new series of the "Write for Your Life" program at the Hale Creek facility. The new series will be held in the fall.

The 2016-17 Adult Literacy grants will be awarded in June, The Outreach Advisory Committee met on June 1 to discuss the proposals from Amsterdam and Schenectady. Both projects will be funded at a reduced level, the final amounts to depend on the amount received from the state,

Lois participated in the statewide meeting of Outreach Coordinators in May.

### **Adult Services**

The 2016 NYSCA Book Discussion programs are underway. Please check the schedule at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2016carte.poster.pdf> and participate if you can. Nine member libraries will be hosting 17 programs in 2016. Libraries are in the process of choosing presenters for the Authors Among Us programs for 2016. MVLS also has a special NYSCA project to offer Community Arts programs this year. Lois is working with libraries to schedule programs.

The Middleburgh, Northville and Schenectady will be participating in the Lights, Camera, Action: Conversations About Regional Filmmaking program series with Audrey Kupferberg and filmmaker John McCarty. The schedule is on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Filmmaking-5-2016-1.pdf>.

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: 4/4 -4/8 – PLA; 4/12 – CDLC Health Resources for Refugee Populations; 5/9 – Senior Services Panel, Bethlehem PL; 5/11- MVLS Annual Dinner; 5/17-18- Statewide Outreach Coordinators Meeting.

## **Youth Services**

The 2016 Summer Reading Program posters have been distributed. MVLS is also providing give-away and book raffle books and coupons for distribution to readers. Sue and Jen Ferris at SALS are working to set up the Beanstack program for participating member libraries. This software/database package helps promote reading for kids by providing book suggestions and fostering the creation of reading lists and online reading records that can work for the summer reading and 1000 Books programs. An overview session was provided in May, and libraries are getting individual training from Sue.

Ten MVLS libraries are participating in the Read if Forward program, which is a collaboration with Upper Hudson. Libraries have received the 2016 book *The Raft* by S.A. Bodeen. Participating teen readers can complete a survey to register for a drawing.

With the end of the 2013-2016 round of state Family Literacy Grants, the emphasis will shift away from Picture Book City to training for story-time and other early literacy efforts. The final push for Picture Book City resulted in every MVLS site signing on to implement this picture book reorganization. The libraries that have fully implemented this program have seen wonderful increases in the use of picture books.

MVLS coordinated the NYS Division of Library Development spring 2016 training for the Ready to Read initiative. This training, which will soon be available on the DLD website, will form the basis for the August 25 MVLS/UHLS workshop on early literacy spaces. The funding for this training and travel costs for the participants are going through the MVLS budget and will increase both the income and expense sides of the budget.

Two libraries have scheduled Science @ The Library programs this summer and the Quaker Street branch held a program this spring. Libraries have begun using the MVLS STEM kits: five programs were held in April & May. And six libraries held Lego/Duplo programs.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: PLA Conference, 4/4 – 4/10; Every Child Ready to Read Conference Call, Marisa Conner, 4/13; YSS Past President's Dinner, Albany, 4/14; YSS Spring Conference, Albany, 4/15; ECRTTR Cohort Workshop on Early Learning Spaces, SCP, 4/19; Eric Carle Museum/Dr. Seuss Garden with Marisa Conner, Speaker, 4/20; Beanstack Collaborative Meeting, SALS, 4/25; PULISDO Minimum Standards Conference Call, 4/25; Beanstack Staff Webinar, 4/27; Picture Book City, SCO, 4/27; Beanstack Conference Call, 4/29; Beanstack Collaborative Meeting, SALS, 5/2; Science @ the Library, QUA/DES, 5/4; Beanstack ML Training, MVLS, 5/5; Directors' Council, MVLS, 5/5; Picture Book City, AMS, 5/6; Stem Equipment Meeting with Kaela Wallman, MVLS, 5/10; MVLS Annual Dinner, 5/11

## **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

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

June 23: Customer Service workshop at COB

August 25: Early Learning Spaces workshop  
September 22: Teen/Tween Services

We have been working with NYLA to implement the institutional memberships for all member libraries. By mid June, every library will be a member, which means that all library directors and trustees will receive all NYLA advocacy information and will get the member discount on all NYLA programs and services. The hope is that this will lead to more engaged and informed libraries.

Lois is working to bring ALA's Project Outcome to MVLS libraries. This initiative is designed to help libraries better communicate their effectiveness by concentrating on the impact that library programs and services have on user's lives. This plan is to use this evaluation matrix for this year's NYSCA programs, and then determine how to implement it more fully into other aspects of library evaluation.

I will be meeting with the Amsterdam Library's finance committee in June to advise them on financial policies and procedures.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

Earlier in 2015, MVLS, with a grant from the Foundation, awarded Advocacy grants to the Amsterdam, Fort Hunter and Schoharie libraries. All three of these libraries had important, game-changing budget votes in May, and all three votes were approved, along with other budget votes in Cobleskill, Fonda, Gloversville, Middleburgh and Northville. A new round of Advocacy Grants will be available at the end of June.

The Foundation is working hard to put on two golf tournaments this summer: June 20 in Schenectady and August 6 in Canajoharie. These are the main fundraisers that will allow for public service and advocacy grants for member libraries in 2016. Please be as supportive as you can.

On June 13 I will be presenting at the Alliance for Response Disaster Planning conference in Saratoga. I seem to be on somebody's list to give this type of presentation every 2 years or so.

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

4/4/2016	Bonnie Kerr Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
4/5/2016	Rebecca Sokol Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development MVLS Member Library Directors
4/6/2016	JA PAC Steering Committee
4/7/2016	JA PAC Steering Committee
4/8/2016	Beverly Osborne Capital District Library Council Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee

Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff  
 MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee  
 4/11/2016 Esther Swanker  
 Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library  
 4/12/2016 Don Reisinger, D2 Media  
 SCPL Public Services Committee  
 4/13/2016 Capital District Library Council  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library  
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 4/15/2016 Foundation Board  
 MVLS Board of Trustees  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library  
 4/18/2016 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development  
 4/19/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
 Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library  
 4/20/2016 Don Reisinger, D2 Media  
 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development  
 HFM School Library System Council  
 Lois Powell, New York Library Association  
 4/21/2016 John Naple  
 Jane Borrelli  
 Bonnie Kerr  
 Sarah Beekman  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 MVLS Board of Trustees  
 Lois Powell, New York Library Association  
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
 4/25/2016 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 4/26/2016 John Naple  
 Bonnie Kerr  
 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
 Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 Foundation Event Committee  
 Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library  
 Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library

	Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors
4/27/2016	
4/28/2016	Don Reisinger, D2 Media Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Trustee Education Session Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
4/29/2016	Foundation Board Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/2/2016	Bonnie Kerr Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/3/2016	Bonnie Kerr Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/4/2016	Mal Martin Bonnie Kerr Capital District Library Council
5/5/2016	MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Workshop
5/9/2016	John Naple Don Reisinger, D2 Media MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
5/10/2016	Esther Swanker Division of Library Development, NYSED Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library PULISDO
5/11/2016	John H. Blackmon JA Council MVLS Workshop Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/12/2016	Mary Salluzzo

Keith Seeber  
 Patricia Franco  
 William P. Leitch  
 John H. Blackmon  
 John Naple  
 Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
 Foundation Board  
 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
 5/16/2016 Ava Douglass  
 Catherine Caiazza, Schoharie Free Library  
 5/17/2016 MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 5/18/2016 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 5/19/2016 MVLS Workshop  
 5/20/2016 John Naple  
 Foundation Board  
 Foundation Event Committee  
 5/23/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 5/24/2016 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 SCPL Staff  
 5/25/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
 5/27/2016 Ava Douglass  
 Bonnie Kerr  
 William P. Leitch  
 John Naple  
 Pamela Crandall-Luby  
 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
 Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library  
 Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library  
 Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library  
 5/31/2016 John Naple  
 Foundation Board  
 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents  
 MVLS Member Library Directors  
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library