

# **Mohawk Valley Library System**

## **Director's Report**

**June & July, 2016**

### **Administration & Governance**

State aid has started to come in! We have received the Basic, Supplemental and Local Library aid payments. As included in the state budget, most aid categories are going up by 4.3%

We have received notice that MVLS will receive a Bullet Aid grant of \$15,000 through Senator Farley's office. Most of our libraries will also be receiving bullet aid. Our efforts to have bullet aid expanded to Montgomery County through Senator Amedore's office worked!

All MVLS and member library state annual reports have been approved. This is good news since state acceptance of all annual reports is a prerequisite for distribution of state aid.

We have received copies of the CSEA Agreement. Copies are available for anyone who is interested.

We are planning to replace the three exterior service doors and the doors and glass at the front entry. All doors will have crash bars, and will be more energy efficient.

We have been working on the 5 year Plan of Service that is due for submission at the state in October. A draft will be reviewed at the August meeting. The format and content of the state Plan of Service is very constrained by the state, so the only real changes will be the new sections that the state requires. We will review a draft at the August meeting.

As a part of the new Plan of Service, we need to develop a new Free Direct Access Plan. The format of these plans is also proscribed by the state, but there is a bit of opportunity for us to give this plan an MVLS stamp. I have discussed with you before my wish to change the plan in two ways: to make it more focused on Free Direct Access rather than on deviations from that access, and to have the basis of the required standards be rooted in our own data. A draft plan will be on the website soon. We will discuss it at the August meeting. In order to go into effect, this plan needs to be approved by a majority of the member library boards. After the August meeting, we will present it to the libraries for their comment and approval. Since this document is designed to be read by our member library trustees, we have tried to include more educational content so trustees have a clearer picture of the system and the member library responsibilities.

At the June meeting we discussed the feasibility of having MVLS field trip board meetings at the new Bornt Branch and at the Fort Plain Free Library. The meeting rooms at Bornt are in almost continuous use, but we have got on their schedule for the November meeting. We can hold the September MVLS board meeting at the Fort Plain Free Library.

An amended MVLS budget for 2016 has been prepared. It includes the state aid and bullet aid increases on the income side, and several additional expenses. The proposed budget will be reviewed and submitted for approval at the August meeting.

### **Automation and Resource Sharing**

The JA Council met on June 13. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14 at SALS. E-resources integration has been achieved. This means that library users can borrow e-books etc. either through the Overdrive site or through the Polaris catalog. JA staff is now concentrating on making the LEAP product available for libraries.

We have decided to continue to participate in the Zepheira project that we started through last year's bullet aid grant. This is an experimental product designed to make library materials visible to and included in internet searches. At this point there is little practical advantage to participation, but MVLS and SALS have decided to continue on in the hope that the practicality will come in year 2.

We are also working with JA to reform the way we track patron residence information in Polaris. Our current system has several issues that lead to ambiguous and inaccurate data. This data is important to free direct access and to library's decisions and plans concerning local public funding. We will be working with the Center on Governmental Research to develop a new system for maintaining accurate data on patron residence. This will be our 2016 bullet aid project.

MVLS libraries continue to make occasional use of the CDLC ILL service. In June, 10 items were received and 5 were loaned. There was also an upgrade to the service. Libraries can now fill the CDLC ILL e-form directly from a CDLC catalog search.

### **Outreach Services**

The Outreach Advisory Council met to discuss the 2015-16 Adult Literacy Grant applications. SCP received approximately \$2850 for *English As A Second Language Adult Literacy Grant* which will provide English as a Second Language classes at the Bornt Branch through a teacher provided by Washington Irving Educational Center. Materials will also be provided. AMS received approximately \$1550 for *Job Center*. This will provide 2 computers and a printer to establish a separate job center area in the library. They will also provide staff at certain hours to help people with navigating the computer.

After a final order for materials for the Schenectady County Jail, all 2015 institutions aid has been spent. Hale Creek is exploring using a rental program for acquiring materials for their facility.

The three-year final report for the state Adult Literacy grant has been submitted. Accounting for all 3 years, 586 users and library staff were served at 4 libraries; 5 partners participated; 53 programs or workshops were offered and were attended by 151 people; 246 materials were circulated; 6 computers were purchased; and 575 materials were distributed. Certification of the report will be an action item at the August meeting.

### **Adult Services**

Four member libraries will be providing NYSCA Authors Among Us programs in 2016. The schedule is on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/AAUposter2016.pdf>. The Book

Discussion programs are ongoing. Six member libraries are participating in the 2016 Community Arts Programs. The schedule of those programs is at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016CreativeConnectionPoster.pdf>.

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: 6/1- Outreach Advisory Committee; 6/3 –NYSCA Book Discussion – FON; 6/8 – Barnes and Noble- Institutions; 6/11 – NYSCA Book Discussion – COB; 6/15- Schoharie County Human Services Committee; 6/23 – Customer Service Workshop – COB; 6/29 – FTP construction 7/6 – Nicole Hemsley; 7/12 – SCP NYSCA book discussion; 7/19 – CDLC New York Heritage workshop 7/21 – NYS Outreach Conference Call; 7/22 – JOH – NYSCA book discussion

### **Youth Services**

The 2016 Summer Reading Program is ongoing. The 2016 statewide kickoff ceremony was held at the Bornt branch on June 20. Sue and I attended. MVLS continues to support member library summer reading programs in a variety of ways. Coupons are distributed from MiSci, Applebees, Taco Bell, etc. Libraries receive free publisher's preview books through the Bookapalooza program. The Read it Forward program with UHLS also continues. So far entries have been received from 2 libraries.

The big new summer reading addition this year is the Beanstack program that MVLS and SALS are both providing. Sue has been working on each site to add reading suggestions, learning tracks, booklists, early literacy tips, as well as troubleshoot program setup. Our aim after summer reading is to get each library set up with the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten on Beanstack, to continue with the readers' advisory tips.

With the end of the 2013-2016 round of state Family Literacy Grants, a final report has been submitted. Approval will be an action item in August.

MVLS coordinated the NYS Division of Library Development spring 2016 training for the Ready to Read initiative. Extra funding received through Sue's work on this project will be used to provide participation incentives for libraries to attend the August 25 joint MVLS/UHLS early literacy workshop to be held at the William K. Sanford Town Library (Colonie).

Fonda, Fort Plain and Canajoharie have held Science @ The Library programs this summer. Four libraries and branches had duplo/lego building programs in June/July borrowing 11 bins of legos and 3 bins of duplos (BOR;CAN;AMS) JOH, BOR, and CAN borrowed 8 assorted STEM kits for June/July programming.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Beanstack Training, JOH, 6/1; Evaluating Youth Webinar, 6/9; NYS Summer Reading Launch, BOR, 6/20; Youth Services Planning Meeting, MVLS, 6/20; GE Science Meeting, SCP, 6/21; Picture Book City, QUA, 6/22; Customer Service Workshop, COB, 6/23; Field Visit, FTP, 6/28 Minimum Standards PULISDO Sub Committee, Utica, 7/5-6; Science @ the Library, FTP, 7/7; Science @ the Library, FON, 7/18; Science @ the Library, CAN, 7/20

### **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

August 25: Early Learning Spaces workshop

September 8: Director's Council at Canajoharie  
September 22: Teen/Tween Services  
September 28: Social Media and Marketing at SALS  
October 13: Circulation and Processing Standards  
November 2-5: NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs

MVLS is once again offering a grant to encourage member libraries to participate in the NYLA conference. Each library is eligible for \$250 in conference registration expenses.

The construction grant season is in full swing. This year we will have just over \$500,000 to distribute. Lois is working with several member libraries on applications. The Library Services Committee will meet in early September to review the applications.

Beyond the development of the new state Plan of Service and Free Direct Access documents, the real purpose of the MVLS planning process was to develop new services and new ways of serving the members and of promoting system services. Here is an outline of our initial plans based on what we learned from the survey and listening sessions.

1. Communicate more directly with member library boards and provide training directly to them. We have already begun sending some information to board presidents – information on the Advocacy grants and NYLA memberships, for example. And the NYLA memberships should also help with this. We will also renew our efforts to provide library trustee training and will develop a quarterly email newsletter for trustees.
2. Communicate more directly with SCPL staff. The Interlibrary Loan changes are a good example of this issue. The SCPL director was well informed about the ILL changes that took place last year. The SCPL staff was not informed at all, and still resents the changes. It will take time to find ways to help the branches feel more integrated into the system. We are starting by doing more direct communication with SCPL staff.
3. Develop a new MVLS initiative to help member libraries engage and serve their communities, communicate their impact and secure equitable funding. This initiative will be a discussion topic at the August MVLS board meeting.

The Foundation is once again providing funding to give member libraries public service grants that they can use for a variety of projects. This year we are increasing the amount to \$400 per library and \$800 for SCPL for a total of \$6,000. These grants will be an action item at the August meeting.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

The Foundation June golf tournament was a success. We had an unexpected challenge in attracting participants, but still raised more than last year. Total profit was just over \$8,500, which will fund the Library Public Services and Advocacy grant programs. The next golf tournament is August 6 in Canajoharie. To date it has attracted more than 90 donors.

While we have finished our planning project with D2 media, we are exploring ways to continue to work with them on general marketing for libraries. The goal is to educate the general public on how libraries enrich communities, educate children and adults and lead to a more well-informed citizenry. How can we counter the oft expressed false truism that libraries are no longer needed? This will also be a discussion item at upcoming board meetings.

## Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

6/1/2016	William P. Leitch MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Outreach Advisory Committee Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/2/2016	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/3/2016	John Naple Pamela Crandall-Luby Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee MVLS Trustee Education Session Lauren Moore, Pioneer Library System Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/7/2016	Bonnie Kerr John Naple Sarah Beekman Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Foundation Board Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff MVLS Workshop Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/8/2016	William P. Leitch Foundation Board Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/9/2016	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/10/2016	Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors SCPL Branch Staff SCPL Public Services Committee
6/13/2016	Division of Library Development, NYSED
6/14/2016	William P. Leitch Division of Library Development, NYSED Kathryn McCary, McCary & Huff Jermei Johannesen, NYLA PULISDO
6/15/2016	William P. Leitch Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/16/2016	MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Building & Equipment Committee
6/20/2016	Foundation Event Committee Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/21/2016	John Naple

	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee
6/22/2016	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library William P. Leitch Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
6/23/2016	MVLS Workshop Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
6/24/2016	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors
6/27/2016	William P. Leitch Esther Swanker Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
6/29/2016	Keith Seeber Bonnie Kerr Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Hugh T. Farley, New York State Senate Edward Eisenman, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital
6/30/2016	Don Reisinger, D2 Media Foundation Event Committee Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Lois Powell, New York Library Association Devon Hedges, The Community Library
7/1/2016	Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors
7/5/2016	Terry Keller Sarah Beekman Bonnie Kerr William P. Leitch Lora Newell Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Catherine Caiazza, Schoharie Free Library Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
7/6/2016	Don Reisinger, D2 Media Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
7/7/2016	Joanne Mickle Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery MVLS Board of Trustees

7/7/2016 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
7/11/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
7/12/2016 Division of Library Development, NYSED  
MVLS Staff  
PULISDO  
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
7/13/2016 Foundation Board  
Foundation Event Committee  
JA Council  
Jermei Johannesen, NYLA  
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library  
7/19/2016 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
7/20/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
Foundation Event Committee  
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
7/21/2016 Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library  
MVLS Staff  
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
7/25/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
Cheryl Cufari  
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
7/26/2016 Bonnie Kerr  
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
7/28/2016 Fran Apollo  
William P. Leitch  
Patrick Smith, CGR  
PULISDO  
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library  
7/29/2016 Foundation Board  
Foundation Event Committee  
Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System