

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

August, 2016

Administration & Governance

State aid continues to come in. We have received most of the aid. For the aid categories that come in a 90% -10% split (LLSA and LSSA) we have received the initial 90% payment. We have not received payments on the two grant programs (Adult Literacy and Early Literacy). Bullet Aid also remains unpaid.

While it is nice to have the aid in a timely fashion, the state has become slower than ever in providing the documentation that provides details on the aid received. So, for example, we have received the 90% LLSA payment that goes to member libraries, but we have not received the documentation for what each library should receive. Similarly, we received the Automation Aid that is a part of Basic Aid, but we have not received the documentation on how much of the basic aid is for automation. We have estimated these amounts in order to get the payments to the member libraries and JA.

We are down to the end of the Plan of Service and Free Direct Access Plan development process. Both documents will be reviewed at the September Director's Council meeting, Library Services Committee Meeting and the MVLS Board meeting. They will be submitted to the state at the end of September. They are available for review on the MVLS website.

George (Steve) Parrish, our cleaner, who has worked for MVLS off and on since the 1960s, broke his hip at home in August. He is out on disability, and it is very unlikely he will be able to return to work. Steve is a non-union employee. We are exploring having a cleaning service come in twice monthly.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council will meet on September 14 at SALS. JA staff, working with Sharon O'Brien here and Jill Ryder at SALS, continue to implement the E-resources integration and Polaris LEAP products. We are also continuing to work on the project to better track the residence information on library borrowers.

The JA 2017 budget will also be on the agenda for the September JA meeting. It will come to the MVLS Board for approval in October.

The CDLC ILL process continues to run smoothly. In July-August MVLS libraries borrowed 17 items and loaned 10. On a related note, delivery volume is up.

Outreach Services

The Adult Literacy Grants for 2016-17 have been finalized. Schenectady will receive \$3,128 and Amsterdam will receive \$1,550. We should receive the funding from the state this fall.

Lois continues to coordinate the *Write For Your Life* program at the Hale Creek facility. There will be another session this fall. There will also be another re-entry fair in October.

Adult Services

Both the *Authors Among Us* and *Community Arts* NYSCA projects had their first sessions this summer. Both received great evaluations. Lois is helping libraries with evaluation through ALA's Project Outcome.

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: Many construction contacts, visit to SHO 8/12

Youth Services

Sur collaborated with Mary Fellows on the latest training for the Ready to Read @ NY Libraries; titled **Potent Partnerships and Outreach, and Early Learning Spaces**, held Thursday, August 25 at the William K Sanford Town Library in Colonie at UHLS. MVLS had three libraries register (CAN; COB; MID). Year One of the NY Family Literacy grant began July 1, in August, MVLS will receive \$8,421. This year's focus is on the NYS Ready to Read @ NY Libraries initiative and training.

The Beanstack software is being implemented system-wide in collaboration with SALS. Sue had a conference call with Beanstack to discuss best steps to add the rest of our libraries. After summer reading, the goal is to get each library set up with the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten on Beanstack, to continue with the readers' advisory tips, and add the general journaling of books read.

The 2016 Summer Reading Program evaluations have been sent to libraries. They are due to DLD in October. Four libraries have returned the information on their book raffle winners, and teens from three libraries have returned Read it Forward surveys.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Kid Camp, Darien PL, 8/3; SLJ Teen Webinar, 8/10; Youth Workshop Planning Meeting, UHLS, 8/11; Beanstack Conference Call, 8/17; Field Visit, BOR, 8/22; Field Visit, BOR, 8/23; Potent Partnership Workshop, COLN, 8/25; Early Learning Spaces, COLN, 8/25

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

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

The Library Services Committee will be meeting on September 14 to review the construction grants. This year we have roughly \$500,000 to distribute and received applications from Cobleskill, Fort Plain, Gloversville and Schoharie.

MVLS is again offering a conference reimbursement grant to encourage member library staff to attend the annual NYLA Conference which will be in Saratoga Springs. Each library is eligible for up to \$250.

Libraries have been invited to apply for the \$400 Library Public Service grants made possible through the Foundation. The application deadline is September 30.

We continue to develop the project to help member libraries with community engagement, public relations and advocacy. Here is an outline of the project as currently envisioned.

- promote community engagement and planning
- improve services based on that planning
- communicate the library's value to the community
- plan for and work toward sustainable local funding.

Advocacy & Awareness

NYLA is working on an initiative to encourage library systems to schedule state legislator meetings in the fall in addition to the annual Lobby Day that is usually scheduled in February. We'll have a discussion at the September board meeting on people's availability to participate in these proposed sessions. We will also be encouraging member library participation.

I am exploring ways to build up positive public perception of libraries, following up on the planning process results. Here are a few possibilities:

- Develop general, mass media announcements: PSAs, underwriting, etc.
- Develop initiatives to celebrate & promote "calendar" celebrations - National Library Week, Library Card Signup Month, etc.
- Develop an initiative to collect and disseminate library impact stories from member libraries
- Participate in wider initiatives like the NYLA library ROI and ALA Libraries Transform and Outside the Lines projects

We may want to explore continuing to work with D2 Media on a communications plan.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

8/1/2016	William P. Leitch Bonnie Kerr Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
8/2/2016	Bonnie Kerr Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
8/3/2016	Bonnie Kerr William P. Leitch Foundation Event Committee
8/4/2016	Bonnie Kerr Hanna Ahrens, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
8/5/2016	Bonnie Kerr Fran Apollo MVLS Board of Trustees Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

8/7/2016	Canajoharie Golf Tournament
8/9/2016	Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
8/10/2016	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/11/2016	MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors
8/12/2016	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
8/16/2016	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/17/2016	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
8/18/2016	NYALS PULISDO
8/19/2016	NYALS Sara Dallas
8/20 – 8/27	Vacation
8/29/2016	John Naple Amber Shultes Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors
8/30/2016	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank
8/31/2016	John Naple Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System