

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

September, 2016

Administration & Governance

Bullet aid has been received and distributed to the member libraries. In 2016 members received \$102,500 and MVLS received \$15,000. Since \$75,000 of this bullet aid was received through Senator Farley, we should not plan on receiving as much in upcoming years. But you never know. Before 2016 Senator Amedore never provided bullet aid to libraries. This year, partly as a result of our deliberate effort, MVLS member libraries received a total of \$28,500 through Senator Amedore.

MVLS has also received the initial payments for the 2016-17 Adult Literacy and Family Literacy state grants. The Adult Literacy money will go to the Schenectady and Amsterdam libraries for their approved projects. The Early Literacy money is used for a variety of system offerings, including the Beanstack software.

To date, 8 MVLS library boards have approved the new MVLS Free Direct Access Plan. Every library that has voted has approved the plan. I have had a few questions from the state on our new Plan of Service. So far they have approved the plan without edits.

I would like to suggest that the MVLS board formally approve the Planning Process Summary that we reviewed at the September meeting. That approval will bring the planning process to a formal close. The summary is on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Planning-Process-Summary-1.pdf>

We have hired R&A Commercial Cleaners from here in Rotterdam to take over the janitorial duties done previously by Steve Parrish. They will begin in October, and start with a thorough complete cleaning, followed by a 2x/month schedule. The cost will be \$250 per month.

We have accepted a proposal from Precision Glass in Scotia for replacing the main entry doors and windows. This work should be completed this fall, for a total cost of \$8,245, which is in the 2016 budget.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The proposed 2017 JA budget has been approved by the JA Council and by the SALS board, and now it is our turn. The proposed budget will be included in the meeting materials for our October 20 meeting. The overall expenses are even with last year, but two new items are added to the JA budget: the Zepheira linked data costs, and cataloging fees. Both of these are actually paid by MVLS and SALS, so there is also a new income line covering those costs. JA Fees are scheduled to increase in 2017 to 11 cents per transaction and 10 cents per item.

The JA Council is scheduled to meet on November 9 here at MVLS. There will also be a meeting in early December to discuss potential fee changes for 2018. Given our proposed deficit budget, I think it is likely that we see another increase in the item fee.

JA (at this point Michele, Diane and I) continues to develop the patron residence geolocation project with the Center for Governmental Research (CGR). The purpose of this project is to get more accurate information on library users with the hope that we can develop a unified way of dealing with patrons that live outside of MVLS/SALS. This is a challenging and potentially expensive project, but it will solve some longstanding problems and should help us better deal with solutions to unserved areas.

Outreach Services

The librarian at the Hale Creek facility will be moving to a new job at the end of October. The letter of agreement with Hale Creek will remain very similar to last year's. Lois is staying in contact with them so library service can continue even though the position is vacant.

Lois arranged for un-needed Spanish language titles from the Amsterdam library can go to the Montgomery County Jail and is setting up an institutional card so they can use interlibrary loan.

Adult Services

The *Authors Among Us* and *Community Arts* NYSCA projects continue to go well with good attendance and evaluations. Additional *Creative Connections* sessions have been added at Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville and at the Schenectady library.

Lois' meetings, contacts and field visits: 9/7- Rachel Johnson, Director of Recreational Therapy at Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home; 9/7 – Creative Connection program GLV; 9/8 – Director's Council 9/9 – Deanna DiCarlo, UHLS; 9/13 – Authors Among Us program SCP; 9/15 – 2-1-1 call; 9/19 – Creative Connection program AMS; 9/21 - Karen Phillips, Deputy of Programs, Hale Creek; 9/21 – Creative Connection program GLV; 9/23 – CDLC workshop, Emerging Technologies; 9/28 – Creative Connection program MID; 9/29 – Leah LaFera and Doug Bixler, Creative Connection SCP; 9/30 - Library Programs²Symposium

Youth Services

The final SRP survey figures were collected and submitted to the state. System wide participation decreased. One library did not take part (STJ). Overall, 12% fewer teen programs were held, with an 11% decrease in attendance (14603) from 2015 summer reading program.

The final 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten bags will go out to libraries in October. Sue is encouraging libraries to use the Beanstack software to help parents track reading. Libraries continue to use the Lego and STEM equipment with 6 different libraries using legos, duplos, squishy circuits, snap circuits and Keva planks in September.

Sue continues to work with Mary Fellows of UHLS on the NY Ready to Read initiative. Member libraries are being encouraged to send library staff who engage with early learning to attend the NYSPEP Workshop – Helping Parents Prepare Young Children for School Success which will be held in Latham on Dec. 5. MVLS will pay registration and \$25 for each library's travel.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Minimum Standards Conference Call, 9/1; Minimum Standards Conference Call, 9/12; NYS Family Literacy Grant Planning Meeting, UHLS, 9/15; Beanstack Meeting, SALS, 9/28; Social Media and Marketing Your Library Workshop, SALS, 9/28; Programs2 Symposium, Albany, 9/30

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

October 13: Circulation and Processing Standards, ROT

November 2-5: NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs

December 1: Directors & Boards: the critical partnership

January 5: The Best of the Best: recommended books with Carol Clingan & Sue Rokos

February 9: Summer Reading Program

We have a few libraries taking advantage of the NYLA conference grants to send directors, staff or trustees to the NYLA Conference. MVLS will reimburse conference attendance costs at up to \$250 per library.

Thirteen libraries have applied for the Foundation funded Library Public Service grants. Projects range from updating children's and teen spaces to new computer furniture and shelving to new materials to Cobleskill's *Battle of the Books* program.

Advocacy & Awareness

In last month's report I shared two initiatives from the Planning Process Summary that are designed to fill the identified need to improve the public perception of libraries. This month I would like to review these in more detail.

The first is outlined in a document in the meeting materials titled *MVLS Acquisition Marketing Plan*. Please review that plan prior to the meeting. This is an effort to put out a message that "Libraries Matter". It involves spending money on a marketing initiative that communicates that message to a broad audience. The funding for this is already in the MVLS budget, and the project is ready to implement immediately.

The second initiative is the four-part project to promote community engagement, improve library service, communicate impact and promote sustainable funding. This project, which we have been discussing for several months, is outlined in the document titled *MVLS Community Engagement Plan* that is included in the meeting materials. This project will be a major new initiative for MVLS that will take much time, effort and funding for the next 3+ years. MVLS has built \$200,000 in fund balance over the last 4 years and this project is the primary way we will use that fund balance to provide services to the members.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

9/1/2016	MVLS Member Library Directors
9/2/2016	John Naple Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
9/6/2016	Esther Swanker MVLS Member Library Directors Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
9/7/2016	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/8/2016	John Naple MVLS Member Library Directors
9/9/2016	John Naple Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
9/12/2016	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
9/13/2016	Division of Library Development, NYSED MVLS Board of Trustees Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library PULISDO Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/14/2016	JA Council MVLS Library Services Committee
9/15/2016	Ava Douglass Wanda Bruchis, Mid York Library System MVLS Board of Trustees Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/16/2016	Capital District Library Council Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
9/19/2016	Patrick Smith, CGR MVLS Member Library Directors
9/20/2016	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
9/21/2016	Bonnie Kerr Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
9/26/2016	Beverly Osborne MVLS Member Library Directors

9/27/2016 Eleanor Spencer
John Kirkpatrick
MVLS Member Library Directors
Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library

9/28/2016 John Naple
MVLS Member Library Directors

9/29/2016 Patrick Smith, CGR
Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
PULISDO

9/30/2016 MVLS Member Library Directors
Brian Hildreth, Southern Tier Library System