

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

January - February 2017

Administration & Governance

The MVLS Annual Meeting is confirmed for Wednesday, May 10 at the Hales Mills Country Club in Johnstown. Registration will begin at 5:30 with the program at 6:00. The cost this year will be \$30. Three trustee seats are up for election. Jane and Bonnie are eligible to run for reelection from Fulton and Montgomery Counties, and one of the vacant Schoharie County seats is also expiring.

Each year we distribute the annual report at the Annual Meeting. Last year's report is on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2015-MVLS-Annual-Report.pdf>. Have a look at the information and format and consider whether we should pursue any changes for 2017. We'll have a brief discussion concerning the meeting and report at the March meeting.

The notice for the annual awards has been distributed to member library directors and boards, and is on the website at: <http://www.mvls.info/current-projects/>. A couple of libraries have expressed interest. Please encourage your libraries to apply.

We have received many applications for the Communications Specialist position. The application window closes on March 10. We will begin scheduling interviews in mid-March.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The Joint Automation Council will meet at MVLS on March 15. The Polaris software is scheduled for an upgrade in early March. JA staff has discovered that the Novelist reader's advisory database that is integrated with the library catalog will also have to be upgraded, adding to the JA budget. JA and system staff are exploring options in advance of the June contract date for that software.

Once the Polaris upgrade is complete, we will begin actively working on our custom project to develop software to geolocate the physical address of all library patrons. This will simplify the registration process for the libraries that verify patron's physical addresses, and will get us much more accurate information on where library users live, whether they reside in chartered service areas and whether they support libraries with tax funding. We also hope to follow up with the development of more standard policies for providing service to users who do not live in the MVLS or SALS service areas.

There have been several improvements to the CDLC ILL service over the last several months. Sue and Kathy have updated the ILL section of the MVLS website to reflect these changes, and we have scheduled an ILL training session for June 1. Member libraries continue to make use of this service.

Sue is again requesting publishers preview books from a variety of publishers. These free books are put in sets and sent to interested member libraries to help them decide which new children's and teen

books to purchase. After the preview books are “retired” from the preview sets, they can be included in the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten sets or given to member libraries to add to their collections.

Outreach Services

Lois is working with the Southern Adirondack and Upper Hudson Library Systems to develop a workshop titled “Make it Happen! Develop a Literacy Program at Your Library.” Many literacy organizations have lost funding and ceased providing tutoring, so libraries are interested in developing their own programs.

The Capital District Library Council has formed a new committee on Reference, Instruction and Outreach. This is an opportunity for libraries to learn from one another and share successes and best practices. Lois is participating for MVLS.

Adult Services

The NYSCA year never ends: we received funding for the 2017 programs and Lois is submitting the application for the 2018 year. Libraries have selected book titles and are choosing discussion leaders and dates. Evaluation for the 2016 programs is complete, with all information inputted into Project Outcome. Unfortunately, the Project Outcome process will change this year. Lois is helping to test the new software.

On Thursday, May 4 Lois is planning a member library workshop on How to Spot Fake News. The workshop will be provided by Carol Anne Germain, a SUNY Albany librarian with a subject specialty in Information Studies.

Lois’ meetings, contacts and field visits: 1/18 NYSCA overview; 1/18 SCHSCC meeting; 1/25 Deanna DiCarlo, UHLS; 1/26 Statewide Outreach; 2/1 SCHSCC- Mini-grant Criteria Committee; 2/10 CDLC – Advocacy; 2/16 CDLC- RIO – Reference, Instruction & Outreach

Youth Services

The MVLS/UHLS Summer Reading showcase was held on February 10 at the Schenectady County Public Library with a theme of “Building a Better Summer Reading Program.” 50 were in attendance; 16 from MVLS. Eight performers provided a sample of their programs in the showcase. Libraries continue to set up the Beanstack product, and four libraries are signed up to participate in the UHLS developed “Read it Forward” project.

The Rotterdam and Mount Pleasant branches continue to work on Picture Book City. We are nearing having every MVLS library a Picture Book City library.

This is the last year for the miSci Museum’s three year IMLS grant for offering programs at our member libraries. MiSci has confirmed that libraries can begin to schedule their programs; all programs must be completed by October 20.

The Best of the Best workshop was presented by Carol Clingan (Adult) and Sue (Teen/Children’s) on January 5.. Kathy put the lists up on our website, and we sent the lists to the libraries not in attendance. If you are looking for a good read, check out: <http://www.mvls.info/services/readers-advisory/best-of-the-best/>.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Best of the Best Workshop, MVLS, 1/5; Picture Book City, ROT, 1/5, 1/12; SRP Planning, UHLS, 1/17; Meeting, K Wallman, 1/20; ALA Media Awards, 1/23; Read It Forward, UHLS, 2/3; SRP Planning, UHLS, 2/3; SRP Set Up, SCP 2/9; SRP Workshop, SCP, 2/10; Early Literacy Storytime Planning Meeting, 2/14; Picture Book City, MTP, 2/27

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

March 1: Library Advocacy Day

March 2: Early Literacy Storytimes at CAN

April 6: Libraries = Education Central Library Workshop at SCPL

April 27: Develop a Literacy Program at Your Library (at SALS)

May 4: Libraries & Fake News

It is State Annual Report season, so I have been busy answering questions and checking reports. Reviewing the reports gives me good insights into issues and trends in the libraries. Most have been submitted.

As referenced in their Advocacy grant, which you approved in January, the Amsterdam Free Library is working to get a proposition for library funding on the ballot in the Broadalbin-Perth School District. If successful, this proposition will provide library funding from the residents of the B-P school district; the first time that this area would support for a library. The school district is not cooperating, and I have been in contact with their attorney to provide information.

I am continuing to promote trustee training and have had a few libraries express interest. A training session is scheduled with the Johnstown Public Library board on May 16

Advocacy & Awareness

We had eleven MVLS representatives at Advocacy Day on March 1. Appointments were scheduled with all 7 of the state lawmakers who represent the MVLS counties. We are very fortunate in that all of our representatives support libraries and understand the value of the libraries in their communities. The general view is that the legislature expects to reverse the Governor's proposed cuts, and we could see an additional small increase. I continue to work with NYLA and PULISDO on state advocacy initiatives. Please visit the NYLA Advocacy site at: <http://cqrcengage.com/alany/app/write-a-letter;jsessionid=1ufbhdnxa3q0611frct8ghqs2y?0&engagementId=277373> to send a message supporting library aid.

The Communications Committee met following the January Board meeting. Prior to the hiring of the Communications Specialist, we will concentrate on developing messages that effectively communicate the importance and impact of libraries.

Of course, the primary job of the Communications Specialist will be to assist member libraries with community engagement and planning, helping libraries position themselves as essential touchstones in their communities. I will bring additional information to our March meeting on how we are envisioning structuring this expanded service for member libraries.

To start setting the stage for this effort, we have scheduled a workshop titled “Libraries = Education: A New Way of Thinking” for 9:30 on April 6 in Schenectady. The presenter is Valerie Gross, the 2013 *Library Journal* “Librarian of the Year.” Valerie has become a well-known speaker on the library circuit, promoting a more effective way of communicating the importance of libraries and library services. Please consider attending

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

1/3/2017	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
1/4/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors
1/5/2017	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	MVLS Workshop
	Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
1/9/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors
1/10/2017	Division of Library Development, NYSED
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	PULISDO
1/11/2017	John Naple
	Ava Douglass
	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	JA Council
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
1/12/2017	MVLS Staff
1/13/2017	MVLS Board of Trustees
1/18/2017	John Naple
	Patrick Smith, CGR
1/23/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors
1/24/2017	Capital District Library Council
1/25/2017	Hanna Conbeer, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/26/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
1/27/2017	William P. Leitch
	Keith Seeber
	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/30/2017	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Member Library Directors
1/31/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
2/1/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	JA Committee
2/2/2017	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
2/3/2017	Mal Martin
	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
2/6/2017	Mal Martin
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Member Library Directors
2/7/2017	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
2/8/2017	Capital District Library Council
	Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
2/9/2017	William P. Leitch
	Ron Barrows, The Barrows Group
	Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
2/10/2017	Bonnie Kerr
	Hanna Conbeer, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Foundation Board
	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
	MVLS Workshop
	Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
2/13/2017	Patrick Smith, CGR
	Division of Library Development, NYSED
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
2/16/2017	Esther Swanker
	William P. Leitch
	Bonnie Kerr
	Hanna Conbeer, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library
	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
2/17/2017	Capital District Library Council
	Foundation Board
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	Leah LaFera, Schenectady County Public Library
2/21/2017	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
	Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
	Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
2/22/2017	John Naple
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

2/23/2017

Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library

2/27/2017

John Naple
Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
Ginny Wilday, Sharon Springs Free Library
Devon Hedges, The Community Library