

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

March 2017

Administration & Governance

Since the board has not met since the January-February Director's Report, some items for the April meeting will be from that report. Please review the materials listed on the website for the cancelled March meeting in addition to reviewing this report.

Preparations for the May 10 Annual Meeting are well underway. Please get your reservations in, and encourage your local library directors and trustees to attend. We will discuss the meeting, report, nominations and awards at the April board meeting.

The state annual report will be complete by the time of the April meeting and certification will be an agenda item at that meeting. A copy of the report will be posted on the website.

The state budget has been approved. Library aid will remain at 2016 levels. This is a victory or sorts, since the original budget proposal cut library aid. A further complication is the threat of mid-year budget reductions depending on the status of the federal budget. We're not done with advocacy yet!

Construction aid was increased to \$24 million statewide. This is good news for many of our libraries. It should increase the MVLS allocation to over \$700,000.

We received over 60 applications for the Communications Specialist position. Interviews have been scheduled for this month.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The March JA meeting was cancelled due to the weather. The next meeting is May 10 at SALS. The Polaris upgrade was successful. A PAC Steering Committee meeting was held to get input on issues that affect how the catalog works in the new version. We are still waiting to get a final proposal from CGR on the patron residence project to develop the software and systems that will produce accurate data on where library patrons live. The cost to MVLS is likely to be in the \$20 - \$30,000 range. Our hope is that this will lead to more consistent policies on services to users who live outside of MVLS/SALS.

Tony, the delivery driver who had worked at MVLS for eight years, has left for a new job. ALDS juggled staff to get us an experienced driver – Frank – who previously worked at UHLS.

Outreach Services

We continue to hold materials here at MVLS while the Hale Creek facility is without a librarian. This could also affect the writing project that is held through the state corrections program.

MVLS is cooperating with SALS on a workshop titled “Making it Happen: Developing a literacy program at your library” to be held on April 27. Representatives from three libraries with successful, library-developed literacy programs will present.

Adult Services

The 2017 NYSCA books discussion programs are currently being scheduled. The full schedule will be posted on the MVLS website when it is available.

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.

Youth Services

MVLS submitted a Block Play grant for \$15,000 to Better World Books Literacy Grant Program. If funded, member libraries would receive blocks and instruction on adding block play to early literacy programming at their libraries. The Stewarts Holiday Match grant was received; \$1,000 will add to the Graphic Novel rotating collections.

Libraries are booking STEM kits for summer programming, and Science @ the Library is still available. We continue to wait for miSci to announce the 2017 programs for libraries.

The Early Literacy workshop titled *Early Literacy Storytime Workshop: Core Elements for Making a Real Difference* was held in Canajoharie. Similar workshops are planned for the next two years. Each participating library received \$150 worth of materials to augment storytimes. Sue is working with Mary Fellows from UHLS to plan a workshop for November on building on the early literacy training to bring those concepts to literacy activities for older children.

Eight MVLS libraries are participating in the UHLS developed “Read it Forward” project, this year featuring the title **I Am Princess X**. Forty-four copies of the book have been purchased for use in those communities.

Sue’s meetings, contacts & field visits: Early Literacy Storytimes Workshop, CAN, 3/2; CDLC/Dudley Observatory and miSci Tour & Open House, 3/7; Beanstack Webinar, 3/10; Beanstack Meeting, ROT, 3/13; Youth Workshop Planning Meeting, UHLS phone, 3/15; Youth Workshop Planning Meeting, UHLS, 3/28; Picture Book City, ROT, 3/30

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

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

May 10: MVLS Annual Meeting

June 1: CDLC ILL procedures

June 1: Director’s Council

June 14: Foundation Annual Meeting: Securing Sustainable Funding for Your Library

I will be working with the Fort Hunter Free Library in April on strategic planning. Trustee training is scheduled for May 16 at the Johnstown Public Library. Middleburgh and Sharon Springs have also expressed interest in training, but nothing has been scheduled to date.

I have been assisting several libraries with questions concerning library budget propositions.

Advocacy & Awareness

The April workshop “Libraries = Education: A New Way of Thinking” provided a great introduction for our upcoming community engagement and communications initiative. Valerie Gross’ theme is the importance of communicating using language that promotes library impact.

As we get closer to hiring the Communications Specialist and unveiling this initiative, we have two documents to review at our April meeting. The first has the working title “21st Century Libraries Initiative.” This presents an overview of the services that MVLS proposes offering to member libraries, with emphasis on the practical aspects of what MVLS will provide and what libraries will need to do in order to participate. The second document provides comparative statistics that illustrate the need for this initiative, along with information on libraries that can serve as models for MVLS libraries who choose to participate in the initiative. We will spend some time at the April meeting reviewing these concepts and plans.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

3/1/2017	Bonnie Kerr John Naple Marc Butler, New York State Assembly Peter Lopez, New York State Assembly Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly Phil Steck, New York State Assembly Mary Beth Walsh, New York State Assembly George A. Amedore, Jr., New York State Senate James L. Seward, New York State Senate James Tedisco, New York State Senate
3/2/2017	Jai Blackburn Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Workshop Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
3/3/2017	Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
3/6/2017	John Naple Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/7/2017	Mal Martin

Amber Shultes
 Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
 3/8/2017 Capital District Library Council
 3/9/2017 HFM School Library System Council
 MVLS Member Library Directors
 3/10/2017 MVLS Board of Trustees
 3/13/2017 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
 3/15/2017 John Naple
 MVLS Board of Trustees
 Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank
 Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
 3/16/2017 William P. Leitch
 Mary Donohue, Fulton Montgomery Community College
 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
 3/17/2017 William P. Leitch
 Capital District Library Council
 3/20/2017 Bonnie Kerr
 Patrick Smith, CGR
 Wanda Bruchis, Mid York Library System
 Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System
 Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
 3/21/2017 John Naple
 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
 Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
 JA PAC Steering Committee
 3/22/2017 John Naple
 MVLS Board of Trustees
 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
 3/23/2017 John Naple
 Karen Balsen, Division of Library Development
 3/24/2017 Foundation Event Committee
 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
 3/27/2017 William P. Leitch
 Taylor Arduini, Mohawk Golf Club
 MVLS Member Library Directors
 3/28/2017 John Naple
 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
 MVLS Member Library Directors
 3/29/2017 MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
 MVLS Member Library Directors
 MVLS Staff
 Devon Hedges, The Community Library
 3/30/2017 Devon Hedges, The Community Library
 3/31/2017 Christine Pesses
 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System