

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

September 2017

Administration & Governance

All state aid has been received. We are still waiting for the Adult and Early Literacy state grants to be funded. Bullet Aid has also been received, and will be distributed to the members in October. Every member library received an award, and MVLS received \$4,000. The total Bullet Aid received was \$71,000.

We have been working with our primary insurance agency, Global Underwriters, to consolidate coverage and reduce costs. We were able to decrease our premiums by over \$1,800.

Two years ago you approved a document outlining the committee charges for each MVLS committee. That document is on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/MVLS-Committee-Charges.pdf>. It occurred to me that we need to add the Communications Committee to that list. Here is some proposed language: *The Communications Committee advises the board, director and staff on communications and advocacy initiatives and activities. The committee will meet a minimum of 2x per year.*

The Division of Library Development has been working with the public library system directors on updating the state minimum standards for libraries. There are currently 11 minimum standards. The state is updating many of the existing standards and adding 3 more. Most of the language in the proposed standards has been discussed and edited by the system directors and by a minimum standards committee on which Sue served. The proposed new standards are on the DLD website at: http://www.nysl.nysesd.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_regs/902-revision.htm#revision902. We will discuss and review these at the October board meeting.

Also at the October meeting, we will begin our annual discussion on the MVLS mission, impact statement, and plan of service. These documents are on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/mission-plan-of-service/>. Please review these before the meeting.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met on September 13. The proposed 2018 budget was approved and forwarded to the SALS and MVLS boards for approval. We will look at it at the October meeting. It will be posted on the website with the meeting materials. The SALS board has approved.

You will note that the proposed budget has a \$115,000 deficit. This is due to declining holdings and circulation, both of which impact on JA income. The JA Finance Committee is meeting on October 4 to begin work on finance changes to reduce the deficit. The thought is to develop a five-year plan to alter

the fee structure to get the JA back to a balanced budget. This will include both increased contributions from SALS and MVLS and changes to the fee formula to minimize the impact of declining holdings and circulation.

The Central Library Advisory Committee is meeting on October 18. The committee will be analyzing the reporting for the 2017 Central Library Development Aid grant, planning for the 2018 grant, and looking at the Central Book Aid spending plans.

Outreach Services

The corrections (state facility at Hale Creek) and county jail state aid has come in. At Hale Creek procedures have been set up to purchase materials. We will also continue the writing program with Susannah Risley. At the county jails, most of the funding goes toward materials, but Montgomery County is also interested in programs.

Adult Services

Lois hosted a successful suite of workshops provided by the National Library for Medicine. These workshops brought together the medical and public librarians in our region.

Libraries who participate in the NYSCA programs have been introduced to ALAs Project Outcome process for library service evaluations. Lois has been training the member libraries, who have found the method useful.

Lois' contacts & visits: 9/7 – Community Engagement workshop- JOH; 9/11 – Library Services meeting
9/20 – Adult Programming Swap – UHLS

Youth Services

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten collections have been cleaned up and restocked with materials from the preview collections and new explanatory materials.

The Summer Reading Program system-wide statistics are in. Participation was up by 15%; with 2,285 children and 455 teens participating. Program attendance was up 18% with a total attendance of 17,192. It was a great summer at MVLS libraries!

Thirteen libraries and branches participated in the SRP book raffle, with locations selecting the winners. Each winner receives a selection of paperback books from the preview collection, along with congratulations.

The next NYS Ready to Read program will be on November 19 at Rotterdam. Sue and Mary Fellows are also planning the November 2 workshop on serving children 6-12.

More items – “The Code” and “Go Robot Mice” have been added to the MVLS STEM collections. They are already scheduled for use at member libraries.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Communications Workshop, JOH, 9/7; Helping Parents and Educators Utilize Strategies, Webinar, 9/19; Youth Consultant Meeting, SALS, 9/20; Toy Library Conference, Rochester Public Library, 9/25

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

October 5 - National Library for Medicine sessions
October 19 – Hi-Lo Book Discussions
October 26 – Digital Literacy Programming
November 1 – Three system Infomingle (MVLS,SALS,UHLS)
November 2 – Youth Services Workshop
November 8 – 11 – NYLA Conference

Twelve libraries will be receiving the Foundation Dream & Do grants. Several libraries are purchasing new furnishings for children's spaces. Projects also include another wireless upgrade, new computers & iPads, new computer furniture, and new AV equipment for movie programming. In addition, several libraries will have staff attending the NYLA conference using the MVLS conference grants.

Wade Abbott provided a well-received workshop on library communications on September 7. The workshop covered the storytelling initiative, media relations and crisis communications. Library impact stories will have a place on the MVLS website by the end of October.

MVLS continues to work with Johnstown on their proposed transition to a school district public library and with Amsterdam on various planning efforts. In Sharon Springs, director Ginny Wilday is retiring at the end of the year. We have provided information to assist them in finding a new director, and hope to get more involved in that process and in general long-range planning.

Advocacy & Awareness

Gloversville remains the only member library actively involved in the 21st Century Library Initiative. Several other libraries have expressed interest, and will be brought on as they are ready. We are working with libraries to tailor the initiative to specific local circumstances.

On September 20, I met with the board of the Wilkinson Memorial Book Station in Broadalbin. We discussed the process of becoming a public library. The board seemed to embrace the concept as the best option available to the organization that is faced with an uncertain future. I will continue to reach out to them in an effort to get that school district to provide public support for public library service.

On a related note, the new MVLS Free Direct Access Plan (<http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/MVLS-2017-Free-Direct-Access-Plan.pdf>) that you approved last year now requires MVLS to take the initiative in making contacts in the unserved areas of southern Schoharie County. I have written to the Gilboa-Conesville and Jefferson school districts to get those conversations started. We'll see if we can create any interest in bring public library services to those areas.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

9/1/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors
9/5/2017	John Naple Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/6/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/7/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Workshop
9/8/2017	Pamela Crandall-Luby Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library NYALS
9/11/2017	MVLS Library Services Committee
9/13/2017	Pamela Crandall-Luby Bonnie Kerr Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library JA Council
9/15/2017	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Capital District Library Council MVLS Board of Trustees
9/18/2017	MVLS Library Services Committee Beverly Osborne MVLS Library Services Committee
9/19/2017	MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Library Services Committee
9/20/2017	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
9/21/2017	MVLS Audit & Finance Committee MVLS Board of Trustees
9/22/2017	Cheryl Cufari Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/25/2017	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees
9/27/2017	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/28/2017	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development JA Finance Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station