

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
October 2017**

Administration & Governance

Please welcome Katherine Hawkins from Summit and Christina Knee from Cobleskill who have agreed to become MVLS trustees representing Schoharie County. Appointing them to fill two unexpired terms to the MVLS Board will be the first agenda item at our November meeting. The terms expire in June of 2020 and 2022. We will be holding an orientation session for Katherine and Christina immediately following the November meeting. Feel free to stay if you think you would benefit from a refresher.

The proposed 2018 MVLS budget will be included with the meeting materials on the MVLS website. We will hold the annual budget hearing immediately prior to the November board meeting, and the budget will be an action item at the meeting. Here are a few budget highlights:

- \$1.7 million budget very similar to 2017
- Bullet Aid is removed from both sides of the budget
- Communications Specialist in for the entire year in 2018
- Continuation of ongoing trends – more materials in e-format and increased Foundation activity
- A small budgeted deficit counteracted by MVLS' strong financial position

More information will be shared at the budget hearing on November 16

The final state grant payments have been received, so all expected aid is in for 2017.

I have started a conversation with solar energy company RGS Energy to explore options for putting in a solar field on our unused property. Stay tuned for developing details.

At the November meeting, we will continue 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 Joint Automation Council will meet here at MVLS on November 8. The Council will be approving 2017 budget amendments, a 2018 fee formula, a security policy addition and will further discuss the JA financial situation and plans for change in future years.

To begin discussions with Innovative Interfaces (III, the company that provides the Polaris software), Sara Dallas has set up a meeting with senior III sales and support staff to try to work toward an improved relationship with this vendor. The meeting is scheduled for November 9.

Devon Hedges initial term on the JA Council will expire on 12/31/17. I recommend you appoint him to a second term on the Council.

The Central Library Advisory Committee met on October 18 and will meet again on November 14. 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. We are working toward a grant

application the SCPL will submit by the end of the year. For 2018, providing we get an acceptable grant application, we are planning on releasing 50% of the CLDA in January, 40% when SCPL completes their state annual report, and 10% when the grant final report is submitted.

Delivery continues to be a valued service for member libraries. Nearly 4,000 bins came through MVLS in October. Our delivery vendor, ALDS, had a driver leave unexpectedly, and they did a great job getting all delivery done while being down one driver.

Outreach Services

The Write for Your Life program series will continue at the Hale Creek facility in 2018, and the Montgomery County Jail will also begin offering this program. Lois participated in Re-Entry Day at Hale Creek – a program designed to help inmates transition back into the community.

Lois is working with Schoharie County to find a way to continue some of the My Free Taxes services that were offered through libraries in the last couple of years. The program has been cut, but they are searching for ways to continue offering assistance with income tax filing.

Adult Services

Lois has been participating and working on a variety of workshops including the CDLC Infomingle at SCPL, Hi-Lo Book Discussions, Digital Literacy training and Library Security training.

The NYSCA programs have been funded for another year. Book discussions and the Authors Among Us programs will continue in 2018. Lois has been training library staff in using the Project Outcome evaluation mechanism that was introduced through the MVLS NYSCA programs.

Lois' contacts & visits: 10/11- STJ and FTP for Project Outcome training; 10/11 – AAU program with Linda Marshall at SCP; 10/12 – Barnes and Noble with Schenectady County Jail; 10/13 – Reentry Fair at Hale Creek; 10/14 – Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 10/19 – Hi/Lo Book Club workshop; 10/20 – NOR for Project Outcome training; 10/24 – meeting to plan Infomingle @ SCP 10/24 – FON for Project Outcome training; 10/26 - Digital Literacy Training @ UHLS; 10/27 – JOH for Project Outcome training; 10/27 – Library Security Workshop @ SAR; 11/1 – MID Project Outcome Training; 11/1 – COB Project Outcome Training; 11/1 – Infomingle @ SCP

Youth Services

The year two Early Literacy Storytime workshop is scheduled for November 15 at Rotterdam. Joyce Laiosa, our presenter, has updated the workshop curriculum adding preschool Apps, use, evaluation and advice for parents.

Three libraries and branches borrowed 3 bins of legos; 1 bin of duplos; sandwich board; Keva planks; Goldiblox and new Code and Go Mouse.

Sue and Mary Fellows from Upper Hudson presented the November 2 youth services continuing education workshop focused on serving children's needs ages 6-12. Peggy Thomas from the Toronto Public Library presented the Toronto Middle Childhood Framework; and we presented developmental

aspects/assets; outreach; collections; homework help; spaces; marketing; community asset analysis for this age group, and family engagement. Immediate feedback was very positive.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Defying Definitions: Top Graphic Novels for Fall Webinar, 10/4; Middle Childhood Matters Workshop Planning call, 10/12; Managing Children's Services: Program Evaluation Webinar, 10/17; Science @ the Library, NIS, 10/24; Middle Childhood Matters Workshop Planning Meeting, MVLS, 10/26; Diversity and Your Library Webinar, 10/26; Field Visit, FTP, 10/27 Beanstack Conference Call with SALS, MVLS, 10/31

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

November 1 – Three system Infomingle (MVLS,SALS,UHLS)
November 2 – Youth Services Workshop
November 8 – 11 – NYLA Conference – Saratoga Springs
January 4 – Best of the Best & Director's Council
January 11 – Adult Program Swop
February 1 – Summer Reading Program Workshop
February 28 – NYLA Advocacy Day

The NYLA Conference is November 8 – 11 in Saratoga Springs. We have several member library staff attending and receiving registration reimbursements through the MVLS NYLA Conference grants.

We continue to work closely with the Johnstown Public Library as they seek to transition to a school district public library. We are also working with Amsterdam on funding and financial issues. I believe we will have applicants for the next series of Foundation Advocacy grants, which the MVLS board will approve in January.

Advocacy & Awareness

NYLA Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. We typically carpool in the MVLS van with the day starting around 8:30 and ending about 2:30 back here at MVLS. This is more important than ever as we work to protect funding for libraries and for MVLS. Please save this date, and participate in this important advocacy effort.

We now have three member libraries committed to the 21st Century Library Initiative. Gloversville is working through the community engagement phase, Fort Hunter will be beginning soon and Amsterdam will begin in January.

I have had further conversations with the Gilboa-Conesville Central School about exploring the development of a public library in their community. Don't hold your breath, but this is a good start on looking at the unserved areas of southern Schoharie County.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

10/2/2017	John Naple MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
10/3/2017	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee
10/4/2017	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library JA Finance MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Devon Hedges, The Community Library
10/5/2017	William P. Leitch Ruth Reeve, Gilboa-Conesville Central School HFM School Library System Council Brian Corey, Jefferson Central School
10/10/2017	Capital District Library Council Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
10/16/2017	John Naple Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
10/17/2017	Tom Twente JA Finance Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library
10/18/2017	MVLS Central Library Advisory Committee Devon Hedges, The Community Library
10/19/2017	Capital District Library Council MVLS Board of Trustees
10/20/2017	PULISDO
10/23/2017	Capital District Library Council
10/24/2017	Tom Twente Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
10/25/2017	John Naple Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Trustee Education Session Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
10/26/2017	Katherine Hawkins Christina Knee Cheryl Cufari Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
10/27/2017	Foundation Board
10/31/2017	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System