

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
March 2018**

Administration & Governance

Don't forget to sign up for the 2018 MVLS Annual Meeting to be held at the Riverstone Manor in Scotia. We will have the trivia contest as is the tradition, and will speak on the MVLS Library Stories and 21st Century Library projects.

The MVLS State Annual Report has been submitted. This state annual report is basically an obfuscated version of the Annual Report that we produce each year for the Annual Meeting. The state annual report requires board approval, which will be an agenda item at the April board meeting. The report is listed on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MVLS-State-Annual-Report-2017.pdf>

The State budget has been approved! Library operating funding received a \$1 million increase (slightly more than 1%) and library construction aid was increased by \$10 million to a total of \$34 million. This should give MVLS over \$800,000 to distribute in this year's construction grants for libraries. If you haven't already done so, please visit the NYLA Advocacy page to send a thank you message to your legislators. That site is: nyla.org/advocacy

Our delivery contract with Airline Luggage Delivery Service (ADLS) came up for renewal on April 1. We have renewed the agreement for another 3 years at a 2.5% annual increase in fees, which matches the annual increase for the past several years. This is one of our major annual costs, but it is also one of the services most valued by the members. Approval will be an agenda item at the April meeting.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The Joint Automation Council is scheduled to meet on May 9 at SALS – but stay tuned – that meeting may be rescheduled to May 23. We have several important issues to discuss. First, we believe we are ready to implement the Quipu project that will give us much better demographic data on our registered library users. It is my hope that this will lead to lots of good things – like more uniform policies toward users from unserved areas, more uniform policies toward out-of-system borrowers and improved library cooperation. I am very pleased with this progress. This is MVLS/SALS JA being cutting edge!

JA has also been working on a couple of changes that will result in savings in the JA budget. First we are working on ending our contract with Zepheira. You may recall that we were all excited about this company a few years ago. They were promising to make library collections more accessible on general internet searches. Unfortunately, it was a great idea that they just have not been able to implement; the result being that we are paying \$24,000 per year for ????? It is time to admit defeat. Second, we will also be ending our relationship with the Novelist product. This is something we have been working toward for the last year. Essentially, we can provide better service with a much less expensive competing product, one that also offers other attractive library catalog enhancements.

Outreach Services

Book orders are ongoing for both the county jails and the Hale Creek facility. We will be reviewing the annual service agreement with Hale Creek. Lois sent materials to assist with Hale Creek's Re-entry Day.

Lois continues to work with the planning committee for the statewide Outreach Consultants meeting to be held May 8-9 in Saratoga.

Adult Services

Lois has been working with SALS and UHLS on a National Library for Medicine grant proposal for a three system project to be titled "Library Moon Walk". The project is designed to build cooperation between libraries and health service organizations.

Lois' contacts & visits: March 14 – Conference call Deanna DiCarlo and Erica Freudenberger ; March 19-23- Attended PLA in Philadelphia; March 28- Met Deanna DiCarlo and Erica Freudenberger to discuss grant; March 29 – Barriers to Access of Services workshop, SCP

Youth Services

Five libraries have scheduled Science @ the Library programs for 2018. Even though we no longer receive grant funding for these programs, GE retirees are still providing the programs, and we have been able to keep the equipment and supplies going through other grants.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten bags are being updated and renewed with materials retired from the publishers' preview books.

The "Everyone Serves Young Children" workshop provided by Mary Fellows from UHLS on March 14 was well received with 14 attending. This workshop focused on helping all library staff members to become child-friendly.

Sue is working with staff at SALS and UHLS to develop a 3-system teen services meet-up to be held on April 26 at the East Greenbush Community Library.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Everyone Serves Young Children Workshop, SCP, 3/1; Field Trip, CAN, 3/5; Beanstack Webinar, 3/15; Excellence Graphic Literature Webinar, 3/15; NYS Capital District SWENext Summit, RPI Troy, 3/24.

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

April 5 – A+ Customer Service

April 10 – Talking Book and Braille Library Services

April 26 – MVLS/UHLS Teen Meet-Up

April 27 – CDLC Resource Sharing Symposium

May 3 – Director's Council at Cobleskill

May 9 – MVLS Annual Meeting!

May 24 – Adult Program Swap – Health Programs

June 6 – Foundation Annual Speaker – Communications Across Barriers

We are once again assisting Canajoharie with a search for a new library director. They are getting more applicants this time around. Sue and Sharon have been assisting libraries with weeding projects. And Wade and I continue to work with Gloversville on strategic planning.

Advocacy & Awareness

Advocacy works! Thank you to all who assisted with the effort to save and increase our state funding.

Planning is going well for the Foundation's May 18 golf tournament at the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady. Feel free to promote this to any acquaintances who play golf. It has become a very successful way to raise money while also raising the profile of libraries in our region.

Wade has begun regularly adding to the MVLS Library Stories blog. Visit regularly to become inspired on how our libraries create a positive impact in our communities. www.stories.mvls.info

On April 18 and 19 Lois and I will be attending training provided by the Research Institute for Public Libraries on using data and stories to raise the profile of public libraries. This will be a discussion item at our April meeting.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

3/1/2018	Mal Martin Katherine Hawkins Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly Phil Steck, New York State Assembly Mary Beth Walsh, New York State Assembly Marc Butler, 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 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
3/5/2018	David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
3/6/2018	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
3/7/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors
3/8/2018	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development HFM School Library System Council
3/9/2018	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Foundation Event Committee

	MVLS Board of Trustees
3/12/2018	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
3/13/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
3/14/2018	Phyllis Lapi David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery JA Council
3/15/2018	MVLS Trustee Education Session - Schoharie Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development MVLS Board of Trustees
3/16/2018	Charles J. Tallent Foundation Event Committee Leah LaFera, Schenectady County Public Library
3/19/2018	Charles J. Tallent MVLS Trustee Education Session – Middleburgh
3/20/2018	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Trustee Education Session - Gloversville
3/21/2018	Judi Steiger Wanda Bruchis, Mid York Library System Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
3/23/2018	Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
3/26/2018	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Directors PULISDO Leah LaFera, Schenectady County Public Library
3/27/2018	Capital District Library Council
3/28/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors
3/29/2018	Christine Pesses MVLS Workshop – Bridges Across Poverty Leah LaFera, Schenectady County Public Library