

**Mohawk Valley Library System  
Director's Report  
April & May 2018**

**Administration & Governance**

The June board meeting is the reorganizational meeting. We will elect the new officers and have several other annual appointments and decisions to make at the meeting. Thank you to Barb Madonna for serving so ably as Board President for the past two years.

The Annual Meeting was once again a success. Thank you to all for attending and for your work on awards, etc. The annual report is on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2017-Annual-Report.pdf>

And on the subject of annual reports, our state annual report has been accepted and we will be submitting the state aid application soon for the 2018 aid. Most member library reports have also been accepted. We continue to have issues with several member library charters and bylaws concerning the number of trustees and trustee term lengths.

As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, our state senators have again been very good in allocating bullet aid to MVLS and the member libraries. We expect that once again all libraries, as well as MVLS, will receive this aid.

We will have our annual Building & Equipment Committee meeting and walkabout after the June 21 board meeting. This year we will discuss some possibilities for construction funding should the members be unable to claim all of the approximately \$900,000 that MVLS will have to allocate.

The state public library minimum standards updates that we have discussed are now in their final official comment period before they are officially enacted. You can see the proposed changes and make comments at: <https://docs.dos.ny.gov/info/register/2018/april25/pdf/rulemaking.pdf>

**Automation and Resource Sharing**

The Joint Automation Council is scheduled to meet on July 11 at MVLS. We have a lot of good news on the JA front. Our automation vendor, Innovative Interfaces (III), has accepted our proposal that we abandon our Zepheria contract and has gone one better by crediting us for all past payments for this (non) product. This will be a good and needed boost to the JA fund balance. Also, the Council and members have approved dropping the Novelist product, resulting in annual savings of \$50,000. At the same time, we will be improving the catalog offerings in several ways that the members have been wanting. Also, the Quipu product rollout is going well. We will soon have a seamless way for libraries to get accurate information on the physical address status of all library patrons. Once that is done we will look into allowing patrons to self-register for library cards via the web.

Several other automation changes are in the works. There will be a software update at the end of June that will give us a responsive public access catalog, meaning that the software will automatically detect the users device, be that a computer tablet or phone, and alter the orientation to best fit that device. JA is also implementing the Microsort OneDrive product which will allow MVLS to cease maintaining a

server, and will allow all libraries to implement remote access to files and allow for much easier sharing of files, etc. Finally, as more libraries become interested in eliminating fines on selected items, JA and the two systems will be developing policies and procedures that will let us implement that in a fashion that is unified and not-too-confusing to the library users.

At the May Director's Council meeting, we discussed the e-resources spending and library allocations for 2019. Each year libraries vote on the upcoming year's budget. Libraries are once again supporting a healthy increase in spending. This helps keep the MVLS e-resources the envy of many of our neighbors. This is illustrated in the statistics that we produce for this annual presentation. E-resources borrowing continues to grow at an average of over 8% per year even while overall circulation is falling. For many of our libraries, the e-resources circulation is much more robust and healthy than the physical circulation.

We have paid the second installment of the annual CLDA grant to the Schenectady County Public Library. This year we implemented a schedule where we release 50% of the funding when the grant is approved – usually in January; 40% when Schenectady's state annual report is approved (that's what prompted this recent payment); and the final 10% when the annual final report is submitted, usually in December.

### **Outreach Services**

Lois presented information from the Research Institute for Public Libraries training and ALAs Project Outcome at the Statewide Outreach Consultant's meeting in Saratoga on May 8-9.

The MVLS Outreach Services information has been updated in preparation for sharing with new Sharon Springs Free Library director Helen Thomas.

Lois is planning an Outreach Advisory Council meeting to review 2018-2019 applications for the Adult Literacy mini-grants for member libraries. More information on these grants is on the MVLS website.

### **Adult Services**

MVLS, SALS and UHLS have received a National Library for Medicine grant for a three system project to be titled "Library Moon Walk". The project is designed to build cooperation between libraries and health service organizations. MVLS will be the fiscal agent for this grant. This is just one of the benefits we are seeing from increased collaboration between MVLS, SALS, UHLS and CDLC.

Four libraries will host NYSCA funded Authors Among Us programs in 2018. The full schedule is available on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/poster2018.4.pdf>.

Lois' contacts & visits: 4/3- Conference call Statewide Outreach Meeting; 4/5- A1 Customer Service Workshop – CAN; 4/10 – Talking Book and Braille Library – 3 system workshop; 4/18-4/19 – RIPL, Mid-York Library System; 5/2 - SHS; 5/3 - Director's Council; 5/8 – 5/9 – Statewide Outreach Meeting.

### **Youth Services**

Libraries and branches are gearing up for the 2018 statewide Summer Reading Program "Libraries Rock!" Beanstack webinars were publicized and held to get libraries started setting up this summer's

online reading tracker. Sue and Jack Scott from SALS have been working to update the main MVLS/SALS site.

Again this year an anonymous donor donated 6 boxes of baseball cards, 5 cards in each plastic sleeve to be distributed to kids through libraries. Several libraries have used them to distribute at Little League games to kids to publicize their library's Summer Reading Program.

Four member libraries and branches are taking part in the 2018 Read It Forward UHLS project (MID; QUA; ROT; SCO) which features the teen title **Beneath** by Roland Smith. Stickers and publicity come through UHLS.

The 2017-18 Family Literacy Grant is coming to a close. 1000 books and baby books bags have been replaced and updated as needed, and libraries received supplies and materials to assist with early literacy programming. MVLS has also acquired additional items for the STEM sets that libraries can borrow.

Five libraries/branches have scheduled Science @ the Library programs for July and August. Wade assists with the program and with publicity.

Lots of collaborative work is happening regionally in youth services. MVLS, SALS, and UHLS's first Tri-State Teen Meetup was held April 26 at the East Greenbush Public Library. Teen-serving staff from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey met to share ideas and experiences, with discussion led by Sue, Mary Fellows from UHLS and Jack Scott from SALS. The NYS Youth Consultants and Ready to Read cohort met at Clifton Park on May 10 at the full day NYS Early Literacy Ready to Read Summit; and the NYLA Sustainability Initiative Sub Committee held a Youth Services Meet Up at MVLS on Tuesday, May 29 to discuss environmental sustainability concerns especially pertaining to summer reading program.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: GOAT Teen Meet Up Planning Meeting, East Greenbush, 4/10; YSS Spring Conference, Syracuse, 4/12-4/13; GOAT Teen Meet Up Planning Meeting, CPH, 4/16; Field Visit, SHS, 4/17; GOAT Teen Meet Up Workshop, East Greenbush, 4/26; Field Visit, SHS, 4/27; Director's Council, COB, 5/3; Groundbreaking, MTP, 5/8; Annual Dinner, Riverstone, 5/9; Ready to Read Summit, CPH, 5/10; Beanstack Meeting, SALS, 5/22; NYLA Sustainability Initiative Sub Committee Meeting, MVLS, 5/29; SLJ Day of Dialog, NYC, 5/29-5/30

## **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

June 6 – Foundation Annual Speaker – Communications Across Barriers

September 13 (tentative) - Director's Council

September 27 – Adult Program Swop at MVLS

October 11 – Youth Services Workshop

The news of the year, which most of you have probably already heard, is that Johnstown School District voters resoundingly approved the establishment of a new school district public library. This gives them adequate, stable funding for their library's future. MVLS has been helping that process along through

consultations and Foundation advocacy grants. Now we begin consulting on all of the things that need to happen to get the newly organized library off to a great start.

The Canajoharie Library has appointed Hannah Stahl as the newest member library director. Hannah will begin working in Canajoharie part time in early June (she is the current director of the Argyle Public Library) and will transition to full-time in Canajoharie on August 1. MVLS staff will be meeting with her to help with the transition.

We have been working with the Middleburgh Library on charter amendments. They are changing their trustee term length, adding some necessary legal language and adding information to clarify the status of the Best House Museum.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Initiative is progressing well in Gloversville, with the strategic planning segment scheduled to begin in early June. Several other libraries, including Amsterdam, Sharon Springs Fort Plain and Cobleskill have also expressed interest.

I would like to suggest that we hold the September MVLS board meeting at the Amsterdam Free Library, so they can show off the soon-to-be complete renovations to the upstairs following last June's fire.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

I was very pleased to participate in honoring Schenectady director Karen Bradley at this spring's Hudson Mohawk Library Association dinner. Sue, Wade and I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mont Pleasant branch library on May 8.

Karen Bradley, Mary Salluzzo and I, as well as Chuck Tallent and Suzan Friedlander from Canajoharie, were able to attend a presentation and short talk given by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in Cooperstown on May 31.

The Annual Meeting and other presentations Wade has made have generated many potential stories for the stories.mvls.info blog. Wade was active in helping Gloversville and Johnstown with various press and social media challenges related to their recent public votes.

The Foundation held a very successful fundraising golf tournament at the Mohawk Golf Club in Schenectady on May 18. A second event is scheduled for July 30 in Canajoharie. These events provide the funding for the Dream and Do and Advocacy grant programs. We have started exploring additional grant projects that could be funded through the Foundation's fundraising efforts.

### **Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits**

4/2/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors
4/5/2018	Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery MVLS Workshop Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie Devon Hedges, The Community Library
4/6/2018	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

4/9/2018	Division of Library Development, NYSED
4/10/2018	Division of Library Development, NYSED PULISDO
4/12/2018	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Lois Powell, New York Library Association
4/13/2018	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board
4/16/2018	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Christine Pesses Katherine Hawkins Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Board of Trustees
4/17/2018	Sunny Ochs Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary
4/18/2018	Division of Library Development, NYSED Steve Bachman, Four County Library System
4/19/2018	Division of Library Development, NYSED Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
4/20/2018	Capital District Library Council Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee MVLS Board of Trustees
4/24/2018	Mal Martin Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors
4/26/2018	Bonnie Kerr HFM School Library System Council Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System MVLS Board of Trustees
4/30/2018	William P. Leitch Charles J. Tallent Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library PULISDO Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
5/1/2018	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie
5/2/2018	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
5/3/2018	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library

5/4/2018	William P. Leitch Bonnie Kerr Foundation Event Committee MVLS Member Library Directors
5/7/2018	Mal Martin
5/8/2018	Madelyn Thorne Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/9/2018	Mal Martin Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors
5/10/2018	Capital District Library Council
5/11/2018	Foundation Event Committee
5/16/2018	Beverly Osborne MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors
5/17/2018	John Naple
5/18/2018	Capital District Library Council Foundation Event Committee
5/21/2018	Capital District Library Council
5/23/2018	JA Council MVLS Member Library Directors
5/24/2018	Bonnie Kerr
5/29/2018	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
5/30/2018	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Devon Hedges, The Community Library Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/31/2018	Charles J. Tallent Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library