

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

Please note that the October MVLS board meeting will take place on Thursday, October 18 at the Amsterdam Free Library. The library is at 28 Church St., Amsterdam, NY, on State Rt. 30 at the very bottom of the Market St. hill. For anyone interested in riding with us, the van will leave MVLS at 8:45 that morning. Please let us know if you plan on riding in the van.

Administration & Governance

State aid for 2018 is all received. Bullet Aid this year is later than usual, but is still expected before the end of the year.

Last month we briefly discussed the draft proposal for a training requirement for all library trustees. The statewide survey to gather input from current library trustees is now open at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YK52ZR6>. I encourage all library trustees, including you system trustees, to take the survey to make your views known. The proposed draft language for the training requirements will be available on the MVLS website with the other meeting materials.

The union has decided to pursue contract negotiations for a one year agreement for 2019. We will discuss some ramifications at the meeting.

A new New York State law requiring all employers to have a mandated sexual harassment prevention policy, as well as annual training for all employees, goes into effect on October 9. The state recently released a model policy that we will encourage all libraries to adopt. We will review copies at the October meeting in preparation for approval of the new policy in November. The training element must be completed in 2019. MVLS will work with NYLA and other library organizations to develop options for training for our members.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The Joint Automation Council gave provisional approval to the 2019 JA Project proposed budget at its September meeting. The budget will come before the MVLS board for approval at the October board meeting. The proposed expense budget is \$1,034,407, and includes \$75,000 as a plug number to cover either server replacement or operating costs for going to hosted service for the Polaris database. A copy of the proposed JA budget will be included with the meeting materials on the MVLS website.

Each fall, in implementing the MVLS Free Direct Access policy, I analyze Polaris database reports that provide information on how residents use our libraries. Since resource sharing is so central to the mission of MVLS, I have also added information on how library resources are used and shared within MVLS. We will review some of this data at the October board meeting. Here are a few conclusions that I draw from this data:

- Library use is greatly influenced by geography. In general, borrowers use the library that is physically convenient. Most library users will not go out of their way to use a public library

- Free direct access is alive and well in MVLS. On average, nearly 30% of the users for any 1 library are not residents of that library's service area.
- Most residents in "unserved" areas are truly unserved: they do not travel to use libraries in other communities.
- The Interlibrary Loan aspect of resource sharing is also very well used and valuable to our members and library users. On average, 28% of the circulation that happens at any library is for items that are not part of that library's collection.
- In addition to that, nearly all e-resources are shared items, and the 28% figure does not include most rotating collections, which, for purposes of the Polaris database, temporarily "belong" to the library where they are temporarily housed.
- The ongoing JA patron address project has made this much easier, and should provide more accurate data as we complete implementation.

The Central Library Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on October 23. We will be discussing the 2018 and 2019 Central Library Development grant, and possible new e-resources offerings. We have some survey results from other systems that offer other possibilities, and the resource sharing data is also very valuable in showing how the central library is used, and not used, by system residents.

Adult Services

The 3 system (Mohawk Valley, Southern Adirondack and Upper Hudson) "Library Moon Walk" project kicks off with a participant workshop on October 15. A tremendous amount of work has gone into helping the participating libraries make connections with healthcare related organizations in their communities. MVLS is serving as the fiscal agent for this grant project, so we may have some related budget amendments.

Lois' contacts & visits: 9/6. Directors' Council at STJ; 9/7, Library Moon Walk Meeting; 9/27, Adult Program Swop, Staff Meeting.

Youth Services

The youth books preview collections have been updated. Two hundred seventy-two books were received from publishers in September. These books are routed to participating member libraries to give them ideas for book purchasing. After the books rotate through all participating libraries, they are used in collections or made available to members.

Glenville, Niskayuna and Rotterdam have scheduled Science @ The Library programs for the winter. Start with Science kits are being updated with some fresh equipment and books, with the addition of six new kits: Shadows; Hygiene; Insects; Dinosaurs; Planets; and Tools.

Final Summer Reading Program evaluations were sent to members and branches and will be submitted to the state by October 15. System wide, children's participation increased 14% with teens increasing 9%: an overall 15% increase in participation. Two libraries did not take part (FTP and STJ). Programs held decreased 4% with a 1% increase in attendance (17,373) from the 2017 summer reading program. Eight libraries and branches have chosen book raffle winners. Winners receive seven paperback books.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: Director's Council, STJ, 9/6; Youth Staff Orientation, MVLS, 9/6;

Early Literacy Training Meeting, MVLS, 9/7; MVLS Board Meeting, MVLS, 9/20; Planning Meeting, ROT, 9/24; Diversity YSS Webinar, 9/25; Planning for Summer Reading Surveys Webinar, 9/26; Staff Meeting, 9/27; CDLC Member Showcase, Maria College, 9/28

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

October 11 – Youth Services Workshop
October 15 – Caring For the Mind (Library Moon Walk Grant presentation)
November 7 – 10 Annual NYLA Conference
November 15 – Early Literacy Storytimes workshop at Gloversville
December 6 – Book Pics from Two Book Divas
January 10, 2019 – Communications & the State Annual Report
February 7, 2019 – Summer Reading Program

Gloversville and Amsterdam continue to progress through the 21st Century Library initiative. Gloversville, of course, will be opening their expanded and renovated building on November 11. Amsterdam recently received word that the city has received a community development grant that will provide funding for library construction, renovation and community planning. Wade also continues to work with other libraries on communications projects and on encouraging community engagement.

Eight libraries are receiving Dream & Do grants for projects that include display shelving, a smart TV, language learning materials and a bike repair station.

Advocacy & Awareness

Sue, Lois and I will be at the NYLA conference in Rochester from November 8-10.

Wade provided libraries with a variety of public relations opportunities associated with September as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

I attended a presentation in Fulton County where Senator Tedisco announced a variety of bullet aid awards and presented ceremonial checks.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

9/4/2018	Bonnie Kerr Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
9/5/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors
9/6/2018	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors
9/10/2018	MVLS Awards Committee
9/11/2018	Pamela Crandall-Luby Division of Library Development, NYSED Sarah Glogowski, Finger Lakes Library System

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	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
9/12/2018	JA Council
9/13/2018	Devon Hedges, The Community Library
9/14/2018	Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees
9/17/2018	MVLS Library Services Committee MVLS Member Library Directors
9/18/2018	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library JA Operations Committee
9/20/2018	MVLS Audit & Finance Committee MVLS Board of Trustees
9/21/2018	Capital District Library Council Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
9/24/2018	MVLS Member Library Directors
9/25/2018	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
9/27/2018	Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Senator Tedisco Bullet Aid Event
9/28/2018	Christine Pesses