

**Mohawk Valley Library System  
Director's Report  
January – February 2019**

**Administration & Governance**

Libraries are again in a difficult state budget situation. The Governor's executive budget proposal cut library operating aid by \$5 million and cut construction aid by \$20 million. So far the assembly is proposing a restoration of aid. The unfortunate fact is that we are likely again in a budget where we will be asked to celebrate basically flat funding.

The 60<sup>th</sup> MVLS Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 at the Riverstone Manor in Glenville. We looked into Amsterdam Castle, but it wasn't feasible. Prices will be the same as last year. We are again proposing that MVLS underwrite the cost for the director and one trustee from each library to attend.

The April MVLS Board Meeting – Thursday April 18 at 9:30 – will be held at the Gloversville Public Library.

My first full term as a Capital District Library Council (CDLC) trustee expires on June 30. Each component public library system (MVLS, SALS, UHLS) appoints one member to the CDLC Board. I am proposing that you appoint me to one more 5-year term, after which I will be term-limited from the CDLC board.

**Automation and Resource Sharing**

The JA Council will meet at MVLS on March 13. Security Policy amendments are on the agenda. There are two proposed amendments: a requirement that all signers of the Security Policy (and by extension all users of the Polaris software) must be 18 years of age; and a language change allowing the use of saved passwords on a mobile device. This second change is due to improving security technology, including biometric passwords on mobile devices.

The e-card software is in use at most libraries, and the introduction is going well. We continue to fine-tune the policies and practices to help libraries maintain accurate data on registered borrowers. We are also working on standards and policies to facilitate fine-free policies for libraries. We have many libraries now looking at their fine policies. MVLS is seeking to develop standardized ways to implement these policies.

We continue to work on developing a new agreement with our automation vendor, ILL, the owners of the Polaris library software. It is looking like we will get a contract with reasonable annual cost increases and a path toward hosted data servers. This should allow the JA consortium to make more effective use of staff.

Delivery volume continues to drop. The revolving door of delivery drivers is also continuing. While we have been very satisfied with the delivery service in general, there has begun to be some concern about the long-term outlook for ALDS.

## **Outreach Services**

The next 3-year cycle of state Adult Literacy grants is due in April. The program is unchanged from the previous round. In 2018 MVLS received \$4,727. Lois is applying to continue the current project, which is to provide libraries access to resume and job skills programs through Marsha Lazarus of Your Career Fit Matters. We started offering these programs about a year ago, and the response has been positive. It seems to be more effective than the previous strategy of asking libraries to develop grant projects. The small amount of funding makes it a challenge to develop something meaningful.

## **Adult Services**

Library Moon Walk programs are ongoing at participating libraries. Lois and Wade have developed a promotional video. It can be viewed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1\\_BU-RQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1_BU-RQ)

The final report for the 2018 NYSCA programs has been submitted. Total attendance was 242, which is down from previous years. Lois has worked with the member libraries to develop a new project, which will be titled: Pen and Ink: Life and Literature. This new project will give libraries more flexibility in providing literature-based programming. MVLS has received the \$5,000 grant for 2019 programs.

Lois' contacts & visits: 1/3 – NYSCA Planning Meeting; 1/10 Communications Workshop & Director's Council; 1/22 – Field Visit to MID; 2/5 – Watervliet Public Library program at the Watervliet Civic Center – martial arts; 2/6 – COB- construction; 2/9 – Clifton Park-Half Moon Public Library – family yoga; 2/10- AMS –construction; 2/12- phone meeting with Erica @ SALS; 2/22 – Guilderland Public Library – children's parachute exercise program; 2/23 SHO- Adult literacy program; 2/27- Advocacy Day

## **Youth Services**

The annual Summer Reading Program planning workshop was held at the Colonie Town Library on February 7. Wade produced a video of some of the action, you can view it at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1\\_BU-RQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1_BU-RQ) Sue is working with several regional libraries & systems on ways to promote sustainability goals through the summer reading program. She is also working on the teen "Read It Forward" activities for 2019.

The NYS Family Literacy Grant project, similar to the Adult Lit grant, will continue mostly unchanged for the next 3-year grant period. MVLS will have an early STEM toddler time training in May with Joyce Laiosa, who will also update our Start with Science kits with new titles and resources.

Four Science @ the Library events were held in January and February. Total attendance was 157 kids and 81 adults. The JCC, one of the outreach sights, donated \$50 to the Science @ the Library budget.

The Great Giveback is a program that was started in Suffolk County that is expanding throughout the state. This program is designed to give youth an opportunity for performing volunteer service on a set date in October. Sue is coordinating the MVLS effort. She has applied for a WGY Christmas Wish grant to provide some funding. The regular request to Stewarts Holiday Match for graphic novels has also been submitted.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: RIF Meeting, UHLS, 1/3; SCP Children's Orientation, MVLS, 1/3; NYLA Sustainability Meeting, 1/4; FLLS Planning Meeting, MVLS, 1/9; Communications Workshop, GLV, 1/10; Directors' Council, GLV, 1/10; Booklist Webinar, MVLS, 1/15; Making the Move from SRP Webinar, 1/17; Craft, Engineer, and Make @ Take Webinar, 1/17  
ALA Midwinter Conference, Seattle, 1/23-1/29; Science @ the Library, JOH – Wade Abbott, 1/31; Makerspaces in Libraries Webinar, 2/5; SRP Set Up, Colonie, 2/6; MVLS/UHLS SRP Planning Workshop, Colonie, 2/7; Science @ the Library, GNV, 2/19; Children's Book Meeting, SCP, 2/28

## **Member Services**

Upcoming workshops include the following:

February 27 – NYLA Advocacy Day  
March 19 – Trustee Training at GLV  
March 28 – Adult Program Swop  
April 10 – Talking About Oral Histories at CDLC  
April 16 - Adult Program Swop  
April 11 – GOAT Teen Meet-Up  
May 8 – Adult Program-Palooza  
May 8 – MVLS Annual Meeting

It is state annual report season. I have been working with most libraries on getting their reports submitted, and have made a few site visits to dig into financial reporting issues.

Wade continues to work with Gloversville and Amsterdam on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries project. Amsterdam has held a few community listen sessions, and Gloversville is on track to finish their strategic plan in a few months.

I have done several trustee training sessions at Gloversville in 2019, and am prepared to do more wherever there is demand. The proposed regulations for required trustee training are moving slowly, but have been modified to make them effective but less onerous.

## **Advocacy & Awareness**

MVLS had eight participants at NYLA's Library Advocacy Day. We had appointments with each of the three senators and five assembly members who represent the MVLS counties, and all were sent follow-up materials early in the following week. Library Advocacy Day has become an expected, successful event at state government, with all of our representatives as library supporting participants, but we need to keep the pressure on in this difficult budget year. Send a hand written letter! All addresses are on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/advocacy/legislators/> The basic message for legislators is to restore the library funding cuts, and provide libraries with an increase like the rest of education. More information is on the NYLA website at: [https://www.nyla.org/max/userfiles/Advocacy/2019\\_NYLA\\_Advocacy\\_Agenda\\_12-11-18.pdf](https://www.nyla.org/max/userfiles/Advocacy/2019_NYLA_Advocacy_Agenda_12-11-18.pdf)

NYLA also has started providing information on the 2020 census and its impact on libraries. It looks like there may be some funding available to get libraries ready to contribute to full-count efforts. See more at:

[https://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS\\_Document&DocID=2682&MenuKey=nomenucms](https://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=2682&MenuKey=nomenucms)

Wade continue to produce stories and videos, highlighting MVLS libraries. The latest efforts have centered on Library Moon Walk and the 2019 Summer Reading Program.

We had 3 libraries apply for winter 2019 Foundation Advocacy Grants. Schoharie is planning a budget vote in May, and is requesting \$2,500 to assist with that effort. Gloversville has an annual budget vote, and is requesting \$2,000 to increase outreach efforts designed to make the community more aware of the library and supportive of the budget. Fort Hunter has applied for the maximum \$2,500 amount for a print and social media campaign to increase the community's awareness of the library.

The total amount requested is \$7,000. The Foundation has approved spending that amount, and I will be recommending that you approve these three requests at the March board meeting.

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

1/2/2019	Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary MVLS Member Library Directors
1/3/2019	MVLS Member Library Directors
1/4/2019	Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
1/7/2019	Keith Seeber Foundation Board Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
1/8/2019	Amy Heebner, Division of Library Development Division of Library Development, NYSED Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Executive Committee MVLS Member Library Directors James Tedisco, New York State Senate James L. Seward, New York State Senate George A. Amedore, Jr., New York State Senate PULISDO
1/10/2019	Beverly Osborne Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Workshop – Communications & the State Annual Report
1/11/2019	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors
1/14/2019	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
1/15/2019	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Trustee Education Session - Gloversville
1/17/2019	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees
1/18/2019	Capital District Library Council

1/22/2019	MVLS Member Library Directors Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
1/24/2019	MVLS Member Library Directors Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
1/25/2019	Mal Martin HFM School Library System Council Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
1/28/2019	Jeff Kirkendall, DLD Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library
1/30/2019	Elizabeth Junquera Hannah Stahl, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
2/1/2019	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
2/5/2019	MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
2/6/2019	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
2/8/2019	Capital District Library Council Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Foundation Board Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
2/10/2019	Division of Library Development, NYSED PULISDO
2/11/2019	Ava Douglass
2/12/2019	MVLS Trustee Education Session - Gloversville Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
2/13/2019	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library
2/15/2019	Capital District Library Council Foundation Board
2/19/2019	Randy Fine Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Trustee Education Session
2/20/2019	Randy Fine Sharon Fuller Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
2/21/2019	Hannah Stahl, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
2/22/2019	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development

2/26/2019 Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie  
Division of Library Development, NYSED  
PULISDO Meeting

2/27/2019 NYLA Advocacy Day