
MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Member Library Trustee Newsletter Summer 2019

Libraries in the News

Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries

Over the past several years, a good cross section of New York State public libraries have experimented with circulating mobile hot spots. What is a mobile hot spot? It is a device that provides internet access to the person who borrows the device, usually through a cell phone network. The idea is to provide users with internet access in homes where the internet isn't available. The article linked below outlines the experience of a Binghamton area public library in providing loaned hot-spots:

<https://www.binghamtonhomepage.com/news/up-to-the-minute/your-home-public-library-now-offering-mobile-hotspots-to-patrons/1733168843>

Of course, there are many questions to consider when libraries are considering providing this service. This Maine How-to guide for libraries <https://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/tech/How-to-Hotspot.pdf> provides a clear overview of the issues involved.

Calendar of Events

Opportunities for continuing education and input

Wed July 10, 2019	9:30	JA Council Meeting
Fri July 12, 2019	12:30	Foundation Board Meeting
Mon July 29, 2019	9:30	Foundation Golf Tournament
Thu Aug 15, 2019	9:30	MVLS Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri Sept 6, 2019		Construction Grants Due at MVLS
Thu Sept 19, 2019	9:30	MVLS Board Meeting
Thu Sept 26, 2019	9:30	Adult Program Swap
Thu Oct 3, 2019	9:30	Early Literacy Storytime Workshop
Nov 13 – 19, 2019	All Day	NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar at: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New_York
Keep in mind that workshops may require pre-registration. See www.mvls.info for details.

What's My Job - Trustee Training

Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee

Library leadership changes, but library services endure. In MVLS there are currently 2 open Library Director positions, and library trustees get elected every year. How can libraries maintain continuity and effectively serve their communities when leadership changes?

The answer is in planning. All public libraries must have a long range plan that sets a mission, goals, objectives, action steps and evaluation concerning library service in the community. A thorough and effective long-range plan is how library trustees impact the future of their libraries. Libraries that base their services and decisions on an established and often revisited plan are in the best position to remain a vital part of the community fabric.

MVLS provides services that have been very effective in helping libraries develop and live by long-range plans. The 21st Century Library Initiative (<https://www.mvls.info/21st-century-libraries/>) is one such MVLS initiative. But you don't have to jump in to the full initiative. MVLS will work with your library in any community engagement and planning activity that works for you. Contact Communications Specialist Wade Abbott at wabbott@mvls.info for any communications, community engagement or planning activity that you feel will benefit your library.

MVLS offers trustee training several times a year, and we are happy to work with individual library boards on trustee training. There are a variety of 45 minute sessions on topics from a basic overview to finances, legal issues and planning. Contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or etrahan@mvls.info for more information or to schedule a session at your library.

Policy Update

Help in keeping your policies current

The new New York State minimum standards for libraries go into effect on January 1, 2021. There are two additions that are common to most of the new standards: any document that the library is required to produce must be updated on a regular schedule, and all documents that the library is required to produce must be available to the public on the library's website. More information on the new standards can be found at: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/helpful/index.html>

This fits in well with the MVLS practice of providing information on policy development and review on a regular basis. For this newsletter, we are looking at personnel policies. New York State has a new requirement for all employers to have a state approved Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. MVLS' version of the state approved policy is on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Sexual-Harassment-Prevention-Policy.pdf>. All your library needs to do to be compliant with the new state requirement is to substitute your library's name for MVLS in this document and secure board approval. For information on more general personnel policies, see the MVLS Personnel Manual at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Personnel-Manual-2016.pdf>

MVLS is always available to assist libraries with policy development. Call or email Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or etrahan@mvls.info for more information.

MVLS Serves Member Libraries

Highlighting services that can help your library

Four years ago, MVLS, in partnership with the New York State Library Association (NYLA) began providing institutional NYLA memberships to all MVLS member libraries. These NYLA memberships give full MVLS membership benefits to one or more members of the library staff (depending on the library's budget size), and also provide non-voting membership benefits to every library trustee in MVLS.

Information on membership benefits can be found here:

https://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=410&MenuKey=membership

One of the benefits of membership is the lower costs for attending the NYLA conference and other continuing education sessions. The 2019 NYLA conference is in Saratoga Springs from November 13 – 16. Check out all of the continuing education offerings and sign up for the sessions that will provide the biggest help to your library. Conference information can be found at:

https://www.nyla.org/max/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=281&MenuKey=conf_info

These highlights provide just a few examples of the services that MVLS provides to member libraries. For information on any MVLS service see the website at www.mvls.info, email Eric at etrahan@mvls.info or call 355-2010.

The Library of the Future

Interesting articles for library trustees to ponder

What makes you happy? A study published earlier this year by a Baylor University professor relates the relative happiness level of the members of a community to the commitment that the community has to public good. <https://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=205582>

And what are public libraries if not a public good? If you would like to explore ways to better connect with the community and contribute to more public good - and more happiness; contact MVLS Communications Specialist Wade Abbott for ideas on how MVLS can facilitate community engagement and help your library contribute to a happier community.

This newsletter is a service for the library trustees that serve the 14 member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System. All newsletter issues are archived at <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/newsletter/> MVLS educates, empowers and supports public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.



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