

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
June-July 2019**

Administration & Governance

State Aid was nearly all paid in July; something of a record for state aid payments being received. A few aid categories are released in a 90% - 10% split. We should receive the final 10% later in the fall. There has been no word on bullet aid, which, while not a surprise, is still disappointing. There is also still a lot of confusion on construction aid. I will cover that in more detail under member services below.

Since there was a very small (0.1%) increase in our state aid, we will have budget amendments for the 2019 MVLS budget. We will do those amendments in September, once the numbers are all in. At the same time, we can adjust the JA equipment lines that have seen an increase in activity. September is also the time for an Audit & Finance Committee meeting to begin planning for the 2020 MVLS budget.

Our 2018 audit process began with a visit from Glenn Winter of T.M. Byxbee at the end of July. Glenn expects to have the reviewed statements and 990 form done in time for him to present at the September MVLS board meeting.

The Building & Equipment Committee met after the June board meeting. We observed and discussed possible parking lot and front entry repairs and sealing, and also again discussed exterior signage for the MVLS Service Center. I will provide more information at the August meeting.

I have been elected the Board President of the Capital District Library Council for July 1 2019 – June 30 2020.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met at SALS on July 10. The Council approved a minor budget amendment associated with the transition to hosted service. The amendment is to move \$4,400 from Software Maintenance to Hardware Maintenance. This change will require MVLS board approval.

Things are moving forward for our change to hosted Polaris service. We have a signed agreement with the vendor III to have that transition take place on October 30. Before that, in early September, the Polaris software will be upgraded. Other network changes are ongoing.

The importance of this change was highlighted this July when two New York State public library systems were hacked and severely disrupted due to security breaches. The system that had hosted service had a brief minor disruption to library service. The system with local servers was completely out of business for weeks. While we are confident that our security is better than theirs, this illustrates the advantages of hosted services.

Of course, you are all familiar with the little upset we had with the Schoharie Free library board on our denial of their request for access to Polaris for trustees. I am confident that our upholding of our

security protocols was appropriate, and the experience of these other systems bears that out as well. In both cases, the origin of the hack was through user accounts.

We are continuing to explore changes to the e-resources that are offered system-wide by MVLS through a combination of central library, system and member library funding. Use of e-books continues to rise, e-audio use is rising exponentially, but e-magazine use is dropping. At the same time, there continues to be interest in various streaming services. This is all complicated by a new round of price gouging by publishers for library customers. I will provide more information at our August meeting.

The MVLS graphic novel and Rotating audiobook collections are being updated.

Outreach Services

The Outreach Advisory Council met on June 12. The Council discussed the Adult Literacy grants and other outreach efforts. Notes from these meetings are posted on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/outreach-advisory-council/>.

The Adult Literacy grants from New York State are continuing. Lois has submitted the final report for the 2018 – 2019 year, and the project for 2019 – 2020 has begun. Funding has been received.

Adult Services

Lois is working with Katherine Dillon, Partnership Specialist, NY Regional Census Center, keeping up-to-date on the census and keeping our libraries in the loop. We are working with SALS to develop a workshop for libraries.

The NYSCA funded literary programs continue. Check out the schedule at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-poster.pdf>

Lois' contacts & visits: June 7- Legal Guidance for Oral History (CDLC); June 11- FTP – Project Outcome training; June 12- Outreach Advisory Council; 7/2- Katherine Dillon – Census Bureau; 7/2- Debra Piscerno- Union ; 7/17- Construction meeting at SCPL- Don Scheuer, Sharon Jordan, Beth, Karen Bradley

Youth Services

The 2019 summer reading program is underway at MVLS libraries, and the “Universe of Stories” theme is proving popular with our members. Many libraries are using the MVLS provided Beanstack software to register patrons. Next year this will change to the state provided Read Squared software. Two libraries held Science @ the Library programs. GE ELFUN volunteer Rudy Dehn turns 100 on August 12; Rudy has been with our MVLS Science program since its inception in 1992. Use of the MVLS Start with Science and STEM resources is increasing. Picture Book City implementation continues. The Glenville branch is nearly ready and Niskayuna is starting. Trustees will be able to see the Picture Books City concept when we visit the Mont Pleasant branch in August.

The 2018 – 2019 Family Literacy grant final report has been submitted. Forty member library staff/volunteers were trained. Libraries held 275 programs utilizing new training over the past year. Over the past three years, all but two of our 22 member libraries and branches have participated in training, some returning for additional training, some libraries sending new staff due to local changes.

STEM learning for the preschool ages has increased as well, with staff counting on MVLS for early literacy training and materials leadership and support. As a part of the 2019 – 2020 family literacy grant, early literacy consultant Joyce Laiosa is updating and refreshing MVLS's Start with Science kits. MVLS is partnering with UHLS and planning has begun for our Fall 2019 Family Literacy Parenting training workshop, Thursday, October 24, 2019, at the Guilderland Public Library.

Arnoff Delivery, MVLS, 6/3; STEM in Preschool Webinar, Part 1, 6/12; STEM in Preschool Webinar, Part 2, 6/19; MiSci Conference Call, 6/19; ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 6/20-6/25; Out for surgery/recovery 7/12-7/19; Supercharged Storytime Webinar, 7/17
Great Give Back Conference Call, 7/22; Science @ the Library, FON, 7/22
Science @ the Library, FTP, 7/24; FLLS Planning Meeting, Joyce Laiosa, MVLS, 7/29

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

September 12 – Director's Council (tentative)
September 20 – Adult Program Swap
October 3 – Early Literacy Storytime Training
October 24 – Family Literacy Workshop

It is new director season in MVLS. As of August 1, we have four member libraries in active new director searches. MVLS has a process where we work with boards when they are seeking new leadership. We are actively working with all of these library boards.

Summer is construction grants development season at public libraries. As I mentioned above, there is a lot of ambiguity in this year's process. At this point, we do not know how much money MVLS will have to allocate, and the state may extend the deadline to help libraries manage the continued confusion.

We have announced the summer Advocacy Grants for member libraries. These grants are designed to help libraries with community engagement and local public funding. There is a September 1 deadline for this round of grants.

The Foundation has again approved public service grants for all member libraries at \$500 per library and \$1,000 for Schenectady. MVLS approval of these grants will be an agenda item at the August meeting.

Also at the August meeting, we will discuss the MVLS conference attendance grant for member libraries. This year the NYLA conference is in Saratoga Springs from November 13 – 16. I will be recommending a conference reimbursement grant of up to \$250 per library.

Wade continues to develop video projects for libraries, promoting library programs and services with video clips that can be posted to social media.

Advocacy & Awareness

I am again working with Marianne Milton of the Broadalbin Wilkinson Memorial Book Station on their sustainability issues. They have been located in a small house on Main St. in Broadalbin for 30+ years.

The house is owned by the American Legion, and they want to use it for other purposes. The book station is once again contemplating getting a charter and becoming a real library.

Wade is developing a schedule and process to facilitate and encourage fall visits to our state legislators. The purpose of these proposed visits is to provide our representatives with more detailed local information on the impact of libraries in their communities and on the challenges that public libraries are facing. We are working on a structure for the visits and on getting representatives from every library to participate.

I was at the annual PULISDO conference – a gathering of library system leaders from around the state – in mid-July. Three themes emerged as the biggest challenges for all varieties of public libraries in our times:

1. How to develop more sustainable libraries. In other words, how to make sure that libraries remain relevant and vital in the future.
2. Libraries are for everyone, but not everyone acknowledges that or embraces it. Even within the library profession and among library trustees, there is a strong tendency for libraries to choose their favored audience; their ideal patron.
3. E-resources are growing in popularity, but that growth is testing library budgets and limiting libraries ability to reach unserved audiences. This is exacerbated by new outrages in the way e-content publishers interact with libraries. The crux of the issue: how much should libraries support a resource that serves a relatively small percentage of the population?

I will be attending the NYLA/NYALS New York Advocacy Launch on September 17. I am hoping we begin developing a more effective strategy for improving library funding in New York State.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

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| 6/5/2019 | Foundation Board |
| 6/6/2019 | Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System |
| 6/7/2019 | Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 6/10/2019 | Foundation Board Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary |
| 6/11/2019 | JA Committee Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 6/14/2019 | Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Robert Schofield, Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP |
| 6/19/2019 | Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors |

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| 6/20/2019 | MVLS Workshop – Legal Issues Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Building & Equipment Committee MVLS Communications Committee Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station |
| 6/21/2019 | Capital District Library Council Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 6/24/2019 | Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 6/25/2019 | Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 6/26/2019 | Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Jeff Kirkendall, DLD Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| 6/27/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 7/1/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 7/2/2019 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System |
| 7/3/2019 | Hannah Stahl, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery |
| 7/5/2019 | Hannah Stahl, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Foundation Board Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library |
| 7/8/2019 | Foundation Board |
| 7/10/2019 | Beverly Osborne JA Council MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 7/12/2019 | Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie Particia Clancy Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 7/15/2019 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Jeff Kirkendall, DLD MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 7/16/2019 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 7/22/2019 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Christine Witkowski Cheryl Cufari MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 7/23 – 7/25 | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library PULISDO Conference in Ithaca |
| 7/26/2019 | Susan Rorick Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station |

7/30/2019

Christine Witkowski
Foundation Board
Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary
Glenn Winter, T.M. Byxbee, CPA, PC
Devon Hedges, The Community Library

7/31/2019

Deborah Grimshaw
Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
Devon Hedges, The Community Library