

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
August 2019**

Administration & Governance

Glen Winter from our audit firm T.M. Byxbee will be at the September meeting to present the 2018 MVLS reviewed financial statements, the 2018 MVLS/SALS reviewed financial statements and the MVLS 2018 IRS990 form. All will be posted on the MVLS website for your review. As usual, Glenn praised the job that Joe Sherry does in preparing for the annual review.

We will also be looking at proposed amendments to the 2019 budget at the September meeting. As has been shared before, there was a very small increase in state aid, we need to adjust the lines that reflect member library computer purchases, and we have a few other minor adjustments. There is little change to the overall bottom line; just a very slight reduction in the budgeted deficit. Since we have a very healthy fund balance, slight deficit spending is not a problem.

I have begun preparing the proposed 2020 MVLS budget, which will be presented at the November board meeting. The Audit and Finance Committee will meet immediately following the September board meeting to review the long range budget forecast. The 2019 budget should be very similar to 2020.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council will meet at SALS on September 11. The JA staff is very busy with the Polaris software upgrade and preparations for moving to a hosted database. The change to hosted service is scheduled to take place in early October. While there may be some disruption to service on that day, the changes should be largely invisible to library staff.

The JA Council will be approving the proposed 2020 JA budget at its September meeting. That budget will be presented to the MVLS board for your approval at the October meeting. The work done at JA to reduce the JA deficit has been very successful. The proposed 2020 budget will be a balanced budget.

Outreach and Adult Services

Book orders for the county jails are beginning now that state aid is received. Schenectady County has had some trouble with missing items. They are addressing it. There are more staff changes coming at the Hale Creek facility. The "Write for Your Life" program is scheduled for five sessions in October.

A 2020 Census workshop for librarians is being planned for October. This joint program with SALS will feature representatives from the NY census office and from NYLA.

NYSCA programs are ongoing. A highlight for September is the writer's conference that will happen at Schoharie on September 28.

The 2018-2019 Adult Literacy final report has been accepted. The 2019-2020 projects are getting underway. Schenectady, Johnstown, Middleburgh and Schoharie are participating. A program schedule will be available soon.

Lois' contacts & visits: 8/5 –Barnes and Noble with Don Wheeler; 8/13 – Attended CA\$H meeting – SCAAP Schoharie County; 8/15- Met with Erica at SALS; 8/21 –SCHSCC- Schoharie County
8/30 – Conference call Erica Freudenberger and Jeremy Johansen

Youth Services

The Summer Reading Program has ended for 2019. Members are working on their final reports, which are due in late September. We will have statistics to share in October.

We have reached a milestone in the Picture Book City project with the Schenectady Central library getting started. We will soon have all MVLS locations onboard.

In September, publishers release new books, and so the preview collections have started again. Each year, Sue requests publishers review copies of new titles, which rotate among interested member libraries to help with selections for purchase. The books are used in giveaways after they go through the rotation.

The NYS Family Literacy Program final report was written and submitted July 30. Several requests for clarification on the report have been answered and the report resubmitted. Consultant Joyce Laiosa completed updating and refreshing MVLS's Start with Science kits on Nature and Dinosaurs. The returned Big Play evaluations have been useful in adding some supplies to those kits, making them more useful to the participants. Joyce will present on our Big Play program and introducing STEM to babies and Toddlers at our October 3 workshop, to be held at the Rotterdam Branch. A second workshop "Meet the Millennials: Early Literacy Success Through Parent Engagement" will be offered on Tuesday, October 22 at the Guilderland Public Library in collaboration with UHLS and our FLLS program.

Sue's Field visits: SLJ Teen Live! Virtual Summit, 8/8; Rudy Dehn, Scientist Volunteer, 100 Year Birthday Party, Schenectady, 8/10; GOAT 2020 Planning Meeting, MVLS, 8/22

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

September 12 – Director's Council
September 20 – Adult Program Swap
October 3 – Early Literacy Storytime Training
October 10 – Census 2020: Are You Ready?
October 22 – Family Literacy Workshop

Two MVLS libraries have new directors. The Fort Hunter Free Library has appointed Judi Steiger as director and Fonda has appointed Shannon Aldi-Hogan. We have started the orientation process for each, which involves many visits and often a field trip to MVLS. Cobleskill is on the verge of making an appointment, which just leaves Canajoharie with an active search. We are working with all of these libraries and with library boards whenever they are open to our input.

Lois has been working on libraries with construction grant applications. This year's deadline is September 27 for nearly \$900,000 in funding. We are expecting applications from Amsterdam, Cobleskill, Northville and Schenectady. The Library Services meeting is scheduled for October 11.

Advocacy & Awareness

The Broadalbin story continues and progresses! They have agreed to bring Wade in to assist with community conversations to help the community reach consensus on what they want for the community and whether that includes a library. I am hopeful that we can help bring legitimate library service to this community.

Wade continues to develop promotional videos for libraries, including videos promoting the upcoming writing conference in Schoharie. You can view and follow these videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1_BU-RQ

We continue to work on developing a schedule and procedure for advocacy visits to state lawmakers in the fall.

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

8/1/2019	Beverly Osborne MVLS Member Library Directors
8/2/2019	Susan Kazilas Beverly Osborne MVLS Board of Trustees Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill Devon Hedges, The Community Library
8/12/2019	Beverly Osborne Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Jen Cannell, Capital Region BOCES Foundation Event Committee MVLS Member Library Directors
8/13/2019	Sharon Fuller Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Division of Library Development, NYSED Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library PULISDO
8/14/2019	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/15/2019	William P. Leitch Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council MVLS Board of Trustees

8/16/2019 Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
MVLS Member Library Directors

8/19/2019 Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library
MVLS Member Library Directors

8/20/2019 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie

8/21/2019 Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library
MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
MVLS Member Library Directors

8/22/2019 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station

8/26/2019 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

8/27/2019 Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station

8/28/2019 Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
MVLS Member Library Directors

8/28/2019 Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

8/29/2019 Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development
Foundation Board
JA Finance Committee