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# MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## Member Library Trustee Newsletter Fall 2019

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### Libraries in the News

*Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries*

At the 2019 New York Library Association annual conference, held November 13 – 16 in Saratoga Springs, the Southern Adirondack Library System will receive an award for their Farm-2-Library food distribution program. The idea is simple. A local nonprofit – the Fresh Food Collective – collects unused fresh produce from farms and farmer's markets. That fresh produce is then brought to libraries where community members can take and use it for free. For more information on this innovative initiative that boosts the community profile of libraries, see this article:

<https://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Sharing-summer-s-fresh-harvest-13142716.php>

There are many ways that libraries can – at little or no cost – increase their footprint in the community. What might your library consider as an activity to increase the library's visibility as the center and heart of your town? Become a passport agency...offer notary public services...embrace a role in the 2020 census...become part of a network to distribute goods to the needy...provide businesses with an offsite office space... the possibilities are endless!

Congratulation to our neighbors for the award and their innovative program. This is a perfect example of the public library playing its most important role: that of community leader.

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### Calendar of Events

*Opportunities for continuing education and input*

Thu Oct 3, 2019	9:30	Early Literacy Storytime Workshop
Thu Oct 17, 2019	9:30	MVLS Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri Nov 1, 2019	9:30	CDLC Member Showcase
Nov 13 – 19, 2019	All Day	NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs
Wed Nov 20, 2019	9:30	JA Council Meeting at MVLS
Thu Nov 21, 2019	9:30	MVLS Budget Hearing & Trustees Meeting
Wed Dec 11, 2019	9:30	JA Finance Committee 2021 Fees Discussion

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar

at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New\\_York](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](http://www.mvls.info) for details.

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## What's My Job - Trustee Training

*Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee*

Advocacy is one of the basic responsibilities of public library trustees. What does advocacy mean? At its most basic level, advocacy means being able to effectively communicate two things: why the library is important, and what the library needs to be effective.

In most cases advocacy is a local issue where library trustees are speaking to their own community. But sometimes advocacy is appropriate on a bigger stage. Here are two ways library trustees can easily advocate for libraries on a statewide and national level

- Predatory e-book pricing for libraries has been an issue since e-books were launched, but there is a new wrinkle: Macmillan is seriously limiting libraries' ability to buy e-books at all. You can easily sign a petition of protest at: <https://ebooksforall.org/>
- Every year since 2014, Governor Cuomo has proposed cutting state aid for libraries. This year, the New York Library Association is sponsoring a letter-to-the-editor campaign to try to influence the Governor's 2020 proposal for libraries. Find a letter template at: <https://www.nyla.org/userfiles/Advocacy/Letter-to-the-Editor-Template-10-2019.docx>

MVLS' Wade Abbot is always available to help libraries with advocacy efforts. Contact him at: [wabbott@mvls.info](mailto:wabbott@mvls.info).

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](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) for more information or to schedule a session at your library.

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## Policy Update

*Help in keeping your policies current*

Each year, the last week in September is marked as "Banned Books Week." Banned Books Week is a needed reminder of a basic freedom: that we can read what we want to read (and not read what we would rather avoid) without government interference or coercion. Of course, it is also a good reminder of the importance of libraries as a source for whatever you do want to read!

This year, this week can also serve as a reminder to review the library's collection policies. MVLS encourages libraries to review policies at least every three years, and collection policies are scheduled for a review this fall. Here are some resources for libraries looking to accomplish this policy review:

- New York Library Trustees Online has a policy tutorial at: <http://www.nylto.org/course/view.php?id=20>
- The MVLS Library Collections Policy and Guidelines are available at: <https://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/policies-and-guidelines/>
- The American Library Association has many resources available at: <http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>

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

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## MVLS Serves Member Libraries

*Highlighting services that can help your library*

Many of the MVLS services that make the most impact are those that fall under the heading of “Resource Sharing”; which really means that every library user has access to the materials in all MVLS libraries. This resource sharing happens in three ways. People go to libraries other than their local library, libraries loan books and other items to fill requests at other libraries, and libraries own items in common, including most e-resources and rotating collections. Here are some highlights:

- 15 items are sent to fill requests at other libraries for every 100 items borrowed at the library
- 30% of the items borrowed at the library are not from the loaning library’s collection
- An additional 10% of library borrowing is from shared e-resources
- 28% of the borrowing is by users from outside the library’s service area

These statistics show that resource sharing is alive and well at MVLS member libraries.

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](http://www.mvls.info), email Eric at [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) or call 355-2010.

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## The Library of the Future

*Interesting articles for library trustees to ponder*

Libraries are for everyone! That is one of the enduring marketing slogans for public libraries. But how are we really doing at the “everyone” thing? Is your library welcoming, useful and relevant to everyone?

Earlier this year the Pew Research Center released a study on library use by millennials – roughly those born in the 1980s and 1990s. Pew’s data showed that millennials had higher levels of library use – 53% reported using the library in the last year - than any other generational cohort. On one hand, it shouldn’t be a surprise that the generation actively raising young families would be the generation making the most use of the library. But how do Millennials use public libraries? Pew found three categories of use:

- Use of books and other traditional resources
- Use of technology resources – Wi-Fi, Computers, electronic resources, etc.
- Use of community space

You can read more from the Pew study here: <https://www.livingfacts.org/en/articles/2019/going-beyond-the-bookshelves>

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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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