

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

August, 2020

Administration & Governance

We neglected to act on this at the August meeting, so it will be an agenda item in September. The Executive Committee met on July 9 to make decisions concerning the awarding of a Payroll Protection Plan Loan to MVLS. The committee took two actions that will in turn be actions for the board:

1. Accept the Payroll Protection Plan forgivable loan in the amount of \$95,700
2. Rescind the furlough for Library Clerk Sally Rappa effective July 1 to facilitate that loan forgiveness

We have received the 80% of Basic Aid state aid payment, and expect to receive 80% of the other aid lines in October. The status of the remaining 20%, as well as the timing of receiving state grant payments, remains unknown. We have completed all of the requirements for receiving 2020 state aid.

Glenn Winter of T.M.Byxbee has completed his draft audit for MVLS and the JA project, as well as the MVLS 990 form. We are reviewing the documents, and will invite Glenn to present at either the September or October board meetings.

The Audit & Finance and Personnel Committees will meet immediately following the MVLS Board meeting on September 17 to begin discussions on the 2021 budget and 2021 Salary & Benefits changes. I will provide a variety of information for the meeting. The staff has met to discuss their goals for salaries & benefits.

I have been notified that we should receive the Census 2020 funding through Montgomery and Schoharie Counties. More on the project below.

Automation & Resource Sharing

The JA Council will meet on September 9. We should have a proposed JA budget approved at that meeting, which means the MVLS board can approve at our September board meeting. The proposed budget keeps library fees and system allocations at or near 2020 numbers.

The JA Council will also discuss changes to our rules for cleaning up expired and unused patron records in the database. I will provide more information at the board meeting.

Outreach & Adult Services

Since the Adult Literacy Grant is uncertain at this point, we are holding off on scheduling events. A few libraries are starting to have in-person programs, and a few NYSCA programs may take place in the last few months of 2020.

Youth Services

All libraries except St. Johnsville had some form of summer reading program this summer. READsquared online summer reading tracking software has sent out info to participating libraries with a wrap up and reporting webinar for later in September. DLD purchased the READsquared app during the summer; MVLS will not have to pay for the app in 2021. The annual statistical report to the state is due on October 9. The MVLS partnership with UHLS is set to continue in 2021.

“Fairies and Gnomes: Imagine Their Homes” wraps up in September, however, the site will remain up through the fall. In all, 8 videos were produced to support this project, with views as of this writing at 352.

Joyce Laiosa, who has been our consultant for the Family Literacy state grant project, will not be returning. Sue has contracted with Jule Dahlie, a staff member at SCPL to continue the science kit updates and possibly produce more video training. As with the Adult Literacy activities, we are awaiting word from the state on payments on these grants.

Sue’s last day is September 15. Sharon O’Brien has organized a virtual retirement celebration on September 14.

Sue’s Contacts & Visits: 3 System FLLS Planning Meeting, 8/4; 3 System FLLS “When Learning Becomes School” Planning Meeting, 8/5; MVLS Directors’ Meeting, 8/6; SCP Youth Services Meeting, 8/13; 3 System Library Youth Services Fall 2020 Meeting, 8/17; Onondaga County 101 Homeschooling Webinar, 8/21; DLD Youth Services Consultant Call, 8/25; 3 System Adult Virtual Talking Book and Braille Library Webinar, 8/27; Wrap Up Fairy and Gnome Committee Meeting, 9/1; 3 System FLLS Workshop: “When Learning Becomes School”, part 1, 9/2; 3 System FLLS Planning Home/Hybrid School Website Meeting, 9/3; MVLS/UHLS Youth Services Wrap Up Meeting, 9/8; 3 System FLLS Workshop: “When Learning Becomes School” part 2, 9/9; 3 System FLLS Planning Meeting for HHVLR website, 9/11; Last day! 9/15

Member Services

The regular Directors’ meetings on reopening continue, but we are starting to see an eagerness to get back to a more rounded agenda, and a return to our traditional 1st Thursday of the Month schedule.

MVLS, SALS and UHLS are providing virtual Family Literacy workshops this fall designed to help families with education children at home. Here’s the schedule:

Wednesday September 2 at 1:00

Wednesday September 9 at 10:30

Wednesday October 14 at 10:30

A trustee training session that I did in June was converted by Wade into a YouTube video. You can see it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yg6inh1X1es>

The Library Services Committee is meeting on September 15 to review the member’s construction applications and develop a system package. This year, we have \$370,585 to distribute and 2 applicants: Amsterdam and Northville.

Advocacy & Awareness

The SCPL Friends have engaged in an advocacy effort to get Schenectady County to authorize the library to follow most of its neighbors in allowing people inside the building for browsing and borrowing. Chris Witkowski organized an effort including an online petition and information on how to contact the county to voice their opinion. The county is now saying that the target date for opening is October 1. Advocacy works!

On September 23, I will be participating in the annual NYALS Advocacy Launch for statewide advocacy. In 2021 this will be very challenging. I am hopeful that we will have some success in developing new strategies and in improving the state aid projections over the 20% cut that is the current prevailing prediction.

Here is a summary of what will happen at Montgomery and Schoharie county libraries through the census funding. The project is unfortunately very rushed and will probably have a limited impact on the census, but there are good things included in the grant activities.

- Four Lamar Advertising billboards promoting the census and libraries
- A Chromebook and hotspot for each library
- Free “We Count” books for distribution
- Flyers, bookmarks, etc. for distribution
- An small panel exhibit available to each library

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

8/3/2020	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
8/4/2020	Deborah Paden Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
8/5/2020	MVLS Trustee Education Session Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library
8/6/2020	Kaitlyn Forbes, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery MVLS Member Library Directors Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, The Community Library Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
8/7/2020	Natalie McDonough, Division of Library Development Division of Library Development, NYSED MVLS Member Library Directors
8/10/2020	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
8/11/2020	Cheryl Cufari Christine Witkowski PULISDO

8/12/2020	Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Bonnie Keller, NBT Bank
8/13/2020	Susan Shrader Capital District Library Council Foundation Event Committee Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
8/14/2020	Particia Clancy John Naple Foundation Event Committee
8/17/2020	Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library
8/18/2020	Particia Clancy William Levering Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development MVLS Board of Trustees
8/21/2020	William P. Leitch
8/24/2020	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Susan Mitchell, North Country Library System Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library
8/25/2020	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/26/2020	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
8/27/2020	Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
8/28/2020	Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
8/31/2020	Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library