

Mohawk Valley Library System
Annual Meeting
October 27, 2022

MINUTES

MVLS Trustees: Jane Borrelli, Katherine Hawkins, Susan London, Mary VanPatten, Christine Witkowski

MVLS Staff: Wade Abbott, Mary Carrier, Kate Clingan, Heather Dickerson, Sharon O'Brien, Sally Rappa, Joe Sherry, Eric Trahan

Library Trustees, Library Directors and Staff, and Friends

Fulton County

Gloversville Valerie Acklin, Darla Barry, Bailey Darling, Barbara Madonna, Sally Ostrander, Shari Peto, Greg Niforos, Caren Pepper, Susan Shrader

Northville Jane Borrelli, Michael Burnett

Montgomery County

Amsterdam John Naple, Donna Naple

Canajoharie Maria Cancro, Charles Tallent

Fort Hunter Glenda Eager, Beverly Osborne

Fort Plain Whitney Hubbard, Jacob Trahan, Sam Zimmerman

Fonda Pat Galeazza, Lynn Richardson, Martha Stanton, John Sullivan, Wendy Sullivan

Schenectady County Charity Thorne, Devon Hedges, Chinasa Seyse, Kaela Wallman, Cheryl Cufari, Sylvia Curley, Angela Tatem, Karen Bradley, David Bradley, Arleen Cullen, Sara Doriguzzi, Robin Eddy, Lisa Esperti, Doreen May, Joan Molloy, Donna Nappi, Diane Nappi, Claudia Rolfe, Charlene Roman, Sharon Zalewski, Christine Witkowski, Mary VanPatten

Schoharie County

Cobleskill Katherine Hawkins, Janice Clark, Rebecca Leggieri

Middleburgh Susan London

Sharon Springs

Helen Thomas, JoAnn Fralick, Joyce Slater, Gina Gilbert, Jeanne Irwin

Director Eric Trahan welcomed everyone to the sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Mohawk Valley Library System. It is wonderful to see everyone in person after two long years of virtual! Eric encouraged everyone to embrace the spirit of collaboration by participating in tonight's scavenger hunt and by checking out the member library posters on the walls and the Annual Reports on the tables.

This year, 8 of our libraries had budget votes, and all were successful! Collectively, these libraries increased their budgets by \$130,000. This is a demonstration of how healthy the relationships between our libraries and their communities are. On a related note, currently all MVLS libraries are making the State Minimum Standards. Since many of the new minimum standards are all about transparency, this is another example of the great relationships that our libraries have and are continuing to build with their communities.

Lastly, before we get to the business meeting, Eric wanted to again note that we are the first and currently the only library system in New York State that is completely fine-free! This is another thing that improves our relationships with our communities, since good customer service leads to better community engagement. This is also an example of how together we can be greater than the sum of our individual parts. Once the majority of our libraries went fine-free, the climate shifted and holdout boards began to see what could be possible. Collaboration makes us all better!

Eric introduced MVLS Staff, MVLS board members, member libraries directors, and member library board members and staff.

Business Meeting:

President Jane Borrelli called the business meeting to order at 6:24pm. The first order of business is to elect trustees. The MVLS Board has 3 trustee terms expiring at the end of this year: Jane Borelli from Fulton County, who is ineligible for reelection, Rosemary Barger from Montgomery County and Katherine Hawkins from Schoharie County. Rosemary and Katherine are both interested in serving a second term. When Jane's term concludes at the end of this year, there will be two open seats from Fulton County on the MVLS Board. Jane asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION: To elect Rosemary Barger to represent Montgomery County and Katherine Hawkins to represent Schoharie County for five-year terms on the MVLS Board of Trustees.

London/Leggieri. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

Eric noted that there are two open seats on the MVLS Foundation Board, one from Fulton County and one from Schoharie County. He asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Awards Presentation: Eric presented the Awards tonight.

The **Outstanding Library Staff Award** is presented for the first time tonight. It honors a staff member at an MVLS member library for outstanding efforts and/or results in providing library service to community members and it is awarded to JoAnn Fralick of the Sharon Springs Free Library. Jeanne Irwin, the President of the Sharon Springs Free Library Board, spoke about all the hard work JoAnn has put in to increase participation from children in the library through story-times and the summer reading program. She has increased the number of children attending story-time weekly from just a few to 12-14, a huge amount for a library that serves a population of 1850. This also provides an opportunity for local caregivers to meet each other and network each week, which has provided more of an opportunity for these programs to continue to grow.

The **Library Recognition Award** honors an MVLS Library for an outstanding activity, program, or service. This year, it is presented to The Community Library for Trivia Night at the Library. To accept this award, we have Rebecca Leggieri and Janice Clark present from The Community Library Board. They thanked the MVLS Board for this award, and wanted to recognize Don LaPlant, the Adult Services Coordinator at The Community Library for all his hard work on this program. He identified a need in the community and satisfied it. Trivia Night draws multi-generational teams, has helped the Friends raise money, and encourages folks to visit the library. Don is unable to be here to accept the award because he's running tonight's Trivia Night!

The **Harold & Junice Wusterbarth Volunteer Service Award** is presented to an individual, organization, or business for contributions of time and effort promoting libraries. MVLS has given out a Volunteer Service Award since 1974, and in 2011, it was named in honor of Harold and Junice Wusterbarth. About a month ago, Junice passed away at age 101, so it's especially poignant to be able to present this year's award to Sylvia Curley from the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library. Sylvia is an incredibly dedicated volunteer, putting in hours nearly every day of the week to sort through donated books that the library receives for the library's bookstores as well as for their large book sales and online sales. She's a true Friend to the Library, always available when someone needs her, and has undoubtedly turned more children into readers by improving Schenectady County's access to books.

ADJOURNMENT With that, the Business meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting:

Thursday, November 17, 2022

MVLS Service Center