

## **Mohawk Valley Library System**

### **Director's Report**

**July - August, 2022**

#### **Administration & Governance**

We have a new MVLS Trustee! Kim Zimmer will be replacing Helen Thomas as the Director's Council representative. She was the unanimous selection for those who responded to the poll conducted by Michael Burnett and I. Appointing Kim will be the first order of business at our September board meeting. The term runs through 12/31/2024.

We have a date and location for the 2022 MVLS Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place on Wednesday October 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the McChesney Room at the central Schenectady County Public Library. We will get a committee meeting on the schedule at the September board meeting to work on and finalize the plans

Two MVLS trustees, Jane & Katherine, will have their terms end at the end of December. Katherine is eligible to serve another term, but Jane is not. I know that the Northville Public Library is working to find a new MVLS trustee to replace Jane as a Fulton County representative. On a related note, the Nominating Committee will need to work on a slate of officers to serve in 2023. That election is scheduled to take place at the November board meeting.

State aid has been received. The only aid that is still owed is the final 10% payments of a few items. We are ready for the associated budget amendments. A draft amended budget is included with the meeting documents for September. This budget incorporates the increased state aid and other grants, and has budget adjustments related to increased expenditures, special building projects, etc. The deficit was greatly reduced. It would be eliminated if it wasn't for the one-time building issues and some calendar-year issues with some budget line items.

Our auditor, Tom Gessick from T.M. Byxbee is working on the annual MVLS and JA Consortium audit review. He expects to be ready to present to the board at our November meeting. On another auditing note, our JA operating checking account was the victim of fraud. At the bank's recommendation, we have closed the affected account and opened a new one.

The repair & painting of the back wall and the sign work are done! We will discuss next steps at the September meeting.

We are scheduled to review the MVLS Bylaws at the September board meeting. The bylaws are available on the website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MVLS-BYLAWS-2021.pdf>. Please give them a read and bring any suggestions or issues to the meeting for discussion.

#### **Automation and Resource Sharing**

The JA Council is scheduled to meet the day before our board meeting, September 14. JA staff are preparing for an upgrade to the Polaris software scheduled for early November. The expectation is that the JA Council will approve the draft JA 2023 budget at their meeting. A copy will be included with the MVLS meeting materials. The MVLS and SALS boards need to approve the JA budget before it goes into effect.

Sharon and I are negotiating a new delivery service contract with our vendor, Arnoff Global Logistics. Arnoff is the delivery contractor for all 3 area library systems – MVLS SALS and UHLS. Costs have skyrocketed due to high fuel costs. We are looking for several changes to promote more efficient service and better cost control, with more clarity in the specifics of the agreement.

### **Outreach, Adult and Youth Services**

We have received the \$3,900 in NYS I Love My Library funds. The funding was used to add to the Big Play and STEM kits that libraries can borrow from MVLS for programs. Heather is working to get the new items ready for use. Libraries are submitting their summer reading program reports, which are forwarded to the state.

Mary has received a \$7,000 grant through the Public Library Association to hold digital literacy workshops in MVLS libraries. We will be purchasing laptops to use in the classes, and the initial classes have been scheduled in three Schenectady locations for October. Other classes will follow.

Both aspects of the CDLC ARPA project are moving forward. The final accessible library website templates should be available this month. Mary will be piloting to roll-out of that at the Sharon Springs library, and then other libraries will follow. The marketing initiative is also active. I have not personally seen any of the ads, but I have heard that others have seen them. The goal is for more people to recognize public libraries as resources for access to digital information.

Tech Savvy programs are continuing. Attendance in summer has been light, we hope that picks up in the fall.

Heather is setting up a meeting with MVLS libraries and Lisa Cardilli, from Literacy New York of Fulton, Montgomery, and Schoharie counties. She has also established a new partnership with the Community Connections Clubhouse in Amsterdam. MVLS has provided them with new books for their little free library and back to school programs.

The Hale Creek Correctional Facility librarian continues to purchase books for their facility library. We had a few years of no activity, so we are catching up. We have a new strategy to connect with the Schoharie County Jail and will offer them magazine subscriptions.

### **Member Services**

The Frothingham Free Library in Fonda has a new director. John Sullivan started in August. I am hopeful that he and Linda Bell can form an effective partnership to provide leadership for this newly awakened library. MVLS is coordinating a series of field trips for their trustees to visit other libraries to get ideas on possible expansion.

We had a trustee training session for Fonda over the summer, and a session scheduled for Cobleskill in September. We are in the process of scheduling a session in Amsterdam. The Amsterdam Library is in the midst of a major expansion; MVLS has been active in helping them navigate the many changes they are experiencing.

Wade is facilitating community listening sessions for the Schoharie library, beginning a planning process that will help them establish a more secure future with funding and staffing plans to serve the community. Several other libraries are in the planning stages for similar initiatives.

It is public library construction grant season. Several libraries were interested in exploring projects. In the end we have three applications that are requesting slightly more than the available funds. The Library Services Committee is meeting on Monday, September 12 to review the applications and come up with a proposal for board action at the September board meeting. We are exploring changing the process so we have more clarity and less of a rush at the last minute.

MVLS has been providing New York Library Association (NYLA) organizational memberships to all MVLS libraries for 5 years. This serves an important role in keeping library staff and trustees plugged-in to the wider library world. NYLA has changed the way they do these memberships, but we have worked out with them a way to have MVLS continue to provide these memberships.

This year, the annual NYLA Conference is in Saratoga Springs. We would like to again offer mini-grants to encourage attendance. The concept is for each library to be able to apply for up to \$250 in conference attendance costs.

The annual Foundation Library Public Service grants (Dream & Do) application deadline is September 14. Each library may apply for up to \$500 (SCPL limit is \$1,000) for a project that will improve service at their library. Approval of this round of grants will be an agenda item at the September meeting.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

I attended the state-wide New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) conference in August. This event was structured to help with statewide advocacy and individual library advocacy. I will share some insights at our September board meeting.

The final in-person Foundation fundraising event of the year is a golf tournament scheduled for Monday, September 26 at the Van Patten golf club. We are also planning the annual Foundation year-end direct mail campaign, and an updated Stay at Home and Read virtual event.

### **Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits**

7/1/2022	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Valerie Acklin, Gloversville Public Library
7/5/2022	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
7/7/2022	Cheryl Miller Deb Escobar Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
7/8/2022	Cheryl Miller Foundation Board
7/11/2022	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council MVLS Member Library Directors
7/12/2022	MVLS Member Library Directors
7/13/2022	Ken Hotopp Bonnie Kerr Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council JA Council

7/19/2022	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
7/20/2022	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Wendy Sullivan MVLS Member Library Directors
7/21/2022	Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees
7/22/2022	Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees
7/25/2022	Foundation Board
7/26/2022	Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development Beth DeMidio, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
7/27/2022	Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library Beth DeMidio, Schenectady County Public Library
7/28/2022	Beverly Osborne Carol Stuff Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council MVLS Staff
7/29/2022	MVLS Library Services Committee MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library
8/3/2022	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Foundation Board Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Trustee Education Session - FON Beth DeMidio, Schenectady County Public Library Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
8/4/2022	Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
8/5/2022	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Jan Martin, Schenectady County Public Library
8/9/2022	NYALS
8/10/2022	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library NYALS Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
8/11/2022	Brideen Finegan
8/12/2022	Foundation Event Committee Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
8/15/2022	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
8/16/2022	Brideen Finegan
8/17/2022	Jane Borrelli Joanne Mickle Katherine Hawkins Bonnie Kerr John Sullivan, Frothingham Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors

8/22/2022 Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library  
Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
MVLS Member Library Directors  
MVLS Staff  
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System  
Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System

8/23/2022 Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
Natalie McDonough, Division of Library Development  
Beth DeMidio, Schenectady County Public Library

8/24/2022 Cheryl Miller  
MVLS Member Library Directors

8/25/2022 Charles Reed  
Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery  
Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

8/29/2022 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

8/31/2022 Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library  
MVLS Member Library Directors