

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
May & June, 2024**

Empowering Member Libraries with Sound Administration & Governance

The first 2024 state aid payments were received in early July. All of MVLS' reports and budget assurances have been approved by the state. With these payments, we have the information to do budget amendments for the 2024 MVLS budget. Other income increases include bullet aid received and additional intertest payments through our participation in NYLAF. Most of the expense increases are related to these income increases. We will be moving away from our current \$30,000 budgeted deficit.

We continue to have follow-up activities related to the Spring Symposium. We scheduled a number of small-group meetings with library directors, and held individual meetings with others. These meetings have been extremely helpful in gaining a clearer idea on the value that member libraries place in MVLS, and on their wishes and needs for the future. The "Results" section of the symposium summary that you reviewed at the May meeting was a good summary of the changes that would be welcomed by MVLS directors. Our next activity is a survey to give each director an opportunity to provide candid feedback. We will decide after we have the survey results how we will proceed after that.

A further result of the symposium is new information on the MVLS website. The MVLS Staff page (<https://www.mvls.info/mvls-staff/>) now includes details on which staff member should be contacted for various inquiries. And there is a new Menu of Services (<https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/MVLS-Menu-of-Services-8.5x11.pdf>) to give everyone information on what MVLS can do for them. Mary Carrier produced a document on programming opportunities for member libraries that was distributed to all directors and will be included with the July meeting materials.

I am very sorry to report that Rosemary Barger will be leaving MVLS board because she has moved out of our service area. Rosemary's last meeting will be the July meeting. We have a recommendation to replace Rosemary with William Bonner from Amsterdam. Bill is the husband of Amsterdam trustee Mary Donohue, the former Director of the FMCC Library. Appointing Bill to Rosemary's unexpired term will be on the agenda for the July board meeting. We are still working on getting a trustee from Fulton County to replace Becky Sokol, who resigned in March.

We have begun planning for the 2024 MVLS Annual Meeting. We have confirmed that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2 from 5:30 – 7:30 in the meeting room at the Fort Hunter Free Library. We will be working on the details over the next several weeks.

I will be attending the New York Alliance of Library Systems mini-conference and meetings in Ithaca from July 30 – August 1.

Empowering Member Libraries with Automation and Resource Sharing

Much has happened since our last meeting concerning the proposed SCPL exit from JA; but, at the same time, very little has actually changed. Many meetings have been held, attorneys and the State

Education Department consulted, etc. There is a lot of information on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/joint-automation-information/>. We continue to work with our lawyer, the State Education Department, and other colleagues to get clarity of the options that are open to us for moving forward.

We are still in the position of having no clear plan on when SCPL will actually exit the JA ILS, and what they will move to. The UHLS Board has not taken action on whether they will work with SCPL, and has tabled that discussion until September. We have received some answers from the State Library, but there are still many unanswered questions.

There are two positive, or maybe hopeful, developments to report. We are working to re-start the Transition Team meetings to make sure we have a clear line of communication with SCPL. The JA Ad Hoc Committee process, which I will review below, has been very positive in getting input from both MVLS and SALS JA libraries, but there has also been some confusion on how issues need be communicated. Finally, we have a meeting scheduled with MVLS, SCPL and DLD to discuss options for moving forward.

The Joint Automation Council met on July 10, with much of the meeting devoted to the work of the Ad Hoc Committees. A summary of the committee findings is on the JA website. Please see the list below.

<https://jacouncil.sals.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Ending-Reciprocal-Holds-Committee-Minutes-June-12-2024.pdf>
https://jacouncil.sals.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/20240627_Joint_Automation_Finance_Ad_Hoc_Committee_Meeting_Minutes_final.pdf
<https://jacouncil.sals.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/20240702-Minutes-Third-Party-Ad-Hoc-Meeting-3.pdf>
https://jacouncil.sals.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ILS-Features-Ad-Hoc-Committee-Meeting-Notes-6_27_24.pdf

More information is on the JA website at: <https://jacouncil.sals.edu/10-2/meeting-documents/>.

JA Council also approved budget amendments for the 2024 budget. They will come to the MVLS board for approval at the July meeting. The budget amendments approved by the JA Council will be included with the meeting materials.

JA staff are working on a variety of projects, including changes to the email spam filter.

We have begun working with Amsterdam and the Central Library Advisory Committee on the new Central Library Plan, which will need to be approved in October.

Empowering Member Libraries with Youth, Adult and Outreach Services

MVLS GO! Is the collaborative Summer Reading program project that MVLS libraries are participating in this summer. The Fort Plain Free Library developed the concept and designed the trading cards, and worked with MVLS staff to bring it to all libraries. The program encourages users to visit multiple libraries to collect the trading cards. More information is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=806591831604765&set=a.516592470604704>. Beth and Kate will talk about the project in the staff update at the July meeting.

The Awards committee met to review the Outreach Mini-Grants. Six grants totaling \$5,047 were awarded to libraries, with an additional project funded through left-over technology training grant funding.

Beth is working with all four county jails and the Hale Creek state facility to provide funding for materials and other projects.

Another new initiative is a Books for Babies program that Beth is piloting with the Nathan Littauer hospital in Gloversville. Beth is working to find a way to bring this to the other counties. Finally, Beth is also working to connect libraries to the New York Center for Agricultural Health and Medicine. MVLS did a couple of projects with them in the early 2000s.

Empowering Member Libraries with Training, Consultation and Collaboration

A new issue of the MVLS Newsletter was produced in June. It is on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MVLS-Newsletter-June-2024.pdf>. A Director's Update was also produced in June. A copy will be with the meeting materials.

Training has been happening for the Memory Care initiative that was outlined at the May board meeting. Training was provided by the Alzheimer's Association, and Memory Care kits are circulating.

On May 22 Beth coordinated a regional meet-up in Richfield Springs with libraries from MVLS, the Four County Library System (Binghamton) and Mid York Library System (Utica). Five MVLS libraries were represented. Our libraries were very pleased with the opportunity to make these cross-system connections.

Mary continues to work with libraries on websites, helping to update sites for Gloversville and St. Johnsville in the last month. The MVLS site has also been updated. Technology training is also continuing, with five sessions reaching nearly 50 people in June. Mary and Kate also assisted at a technology fair organized by the Fort Plain Free Library at their school.

We have more funding than ever for the 2024 round of construction grants, but we also have more applicants than ever before. Eight MVLS libraries are interested in applying this summer, with a total project cost of \$2.3 million. If all applications remain as proposed, we will most likely be funding projects at an average of 50%. Fortunately, there should be additional funding to allocate as the state goes through the grant approval process.

Trustee training is scheduled for Amsterdam and St. Johnsville in July.

Empowering Member Libraries with Advocacy & Awareness

Wade has been scheduling meeting with state representatives to keep them up-to-date on system activities. He has also been very engaged with the fallout of Gloversville's defeated budget proposition, handing press releases and media inquiries.

The July 1 Foundation Golf Tournament in Canajoharie was a success. Our profit was \$3,200. This goes to support Foundation Dream & Do and Advocacy grants. As is often the case, we had no summer

applicants for the Foundation Advocacy Grants. The next deadline will be January 1. We will be announcing Dream & Do Grants over the summer. The next Foundation event is the Cobleskill Golf Tournament on Friday, August 23.

We continue to participate in the monthly Broadband Coalition meetings, and have given official support to several grants prepared by the coalition and counties. Mary Carrier is exploring training partnerships to build on the existing MVLS digital training offerings.

The MVLS awards process will be starting soon. The library program, staff, and volunteer awards provide a great opportunity for member libraries to advocate for their library's excellence! The website has more information at: <https://www.mvls.info/awards/>.

Empowering Member Libraries with Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

5/1/2024	Jeanne M. Irwin John Naple Kathy Naftaly, Crandall Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams Heather Devitt, Mohawk Valley Digital Inclusion Coalition Kate McNally, New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. NYCON Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/2/2024	Madelyn Thorne Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Spring Symposium! Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Kim Zimmer, The Community Library Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
5/3/2024	MVLS Member Library Directors Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Kevin Verbesy, Suffolk Cooperative Library System Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
5/6/2024	Frank Reese, Division of Library Development Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/7/2024	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library John Sullivan Valerie Acklin, Gloversville Public Library

	JA Council
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/8/2024	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	JA Council
	Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library
	MVLS Awards Committee
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/9/2024	Christine Witkowski
	Joe Burke, Altamont Free Library
	Frank Reese, Division of Library Development
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Awards Committee
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
5/10/2024	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System
5/13/2024	Susan London
	Jeanne M. Irwin
	Frank Reese, Division of Library Development
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Staff
	PULISDO
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/14/2024	Bonnie Kerr
	Christine Witkowski
	Valerie Acklin, Gloversville Public Library
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	PULISDO
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
5/15/2024	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Thomas Gessick, CPA, T.M. Byxbee Company, CPAs, NY, PC
5/16/2024	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Board of Trustees

5/17/2024	Kathy Naftaly, Crandall Library Valerie Acklin, Gloversville Public Library Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams MVLS Board of Trustees Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/20/2024	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Kathy Naftaly, Crandall Library Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams MVLS Member Library Directors Charity Thorne, Schenectady County Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/21/2024	Madelyn Thorne Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Awards Committee MVLS Staff Charity Thorne, Schenectady County Public Library
5/22/2024	Beverly Osborne Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams Kate McNally, New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. NYCON Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/29/2024	Christine Witkowski Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Staff Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/30/2024	Natalie McDonough, Division of Library Development Frank Reese, Division of Library Development Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian Grace Riario, Ramapo Catskill Library System Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/31/2024	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Julia Maxwell, DLD Charity Thorne, Schenectady County Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
6/3/2024	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Julia Maxwell, DLD Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System MVLS Member Library Directors

6/4/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Beverly Osborne</p> <p>Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery</p> <p>Julia Maxwell, DLD</p> <p>Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams</p> <p>Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System</p>
6/5/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Foundation Board</p> <p>Heather Devitt, Mohawk Valley Digital Inclusion Coalition</p> <p>MVLS Member Library Directors</p> <p>Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library</p> <p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Kim Zimmer, The Community Library</p> <p>Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library</p>
6/6/2024	<p>Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library</p> <p>Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library</p> <p>MVLS Board of Trustees</p> <p>Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library</p>
6/7/2024	<p>Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library</p> <p>MVLS Board of Trustees</p> <p>MVLS Staff</p>
6/10/2024	<p>Christine Witkowski</p> <p>Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams</p> <p>Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Mid-Hudson Library System</p> <p>MVLS Board of Trustees</p> <p>MVLS Staff</p> <p>Max Prime, NYLA</p> <p>PULISDO</p> <p>Charity Thorne, Schenectady County Public Library</p>
6/11/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>MVLS Member Library Directors</p> <p>PULISDO</p>
6/12/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Foundation Board</p> <p>Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library</p> <p>MVLS Member Library Directors</p> <p>Sean Wyse, Rivers Casino & Resort</p>
6/13/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>David Fronk</p> <p>Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery</p> <p>Max Prime, NYLA</p>
6/14/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Foundation Board</p> <p>Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams</p>
6/17/2024	<p>Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System</p> <p>Paul O'Brien</p> <p>Katherine Hawkins</p>

	Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/18/2024	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/20/2024	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/21/2024	MVLS Staff
6/24/2024	Madelyn Thorne
	Bear Briggs, Cobleskill Golf and Country Club
	Division of Library Development, NYSED
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Lauren Moore, New York State Librarian
	Max Prime, NYLA
	Grace Riario, Ramapo Catskill Library System
	Charity Thorne, Schenectady County Public Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/25/2024	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
6/26/2024	John Naple
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
	Meghan Keaney, Sharon Springs Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
	Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library
6/27/2024	Mary Donohue
	Rosemary Barger
	Stephanie (Cole) Adams, Law Office of Stephanie Cole Adams
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
6/28/2024	Joe Burke, Altamont Free Library
	Natalie McDonough, Division of Library Development
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System