

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
March, April, 2026**

Empowering Member Libraries with Sound Administration & Governance

Parish Ogunjana has sent a letter of resignation to Bill, indicating that her work situation is interfering with her ability to continue as a trustee. We now need to find and appoint another MVLS trustee from Montgomery County, to a partial term ending 12/31/2029. I will contact the Montgomery County directors to get their thoughts on individuals interested in serving as an MVLS trustee.

The nominating and election process for 2026 is underway. The first part of that is setting up the Nominating Advisory Committee for the season. As of today, we have 2 members each from Schenectady and Schoharie counties, and one each from Fulton and Montgomery. Suggestions for additional Fulton and Montgomery County members are welcome. The Nominating Advisors typically have two Zoom meetings, in June and July.

Our Planning Process is progressing nicely. Just this week, we finished the initial planning sessions with each member library. Rotating teams of MVLS staff visited every library, meeting with combinations of library directors, staff, and trustee to review MVLS services and dream about possible futures. We will now begin analyzing that data, using it to inform the development of bigger hybrid meetings and a survey. The expected final result will be new action plans to help us better achieve our four MVLS goals.

The Governance Structure Review Committee is scheduled to meet via Zoom on May 27. The committee will review its charge and will make recommendations concerning the MVLS bylaws, a MVLS Trustee Job Description, and trustee onboarding policy. We should have new policies to review and act on in July and September. The Personnel Committee will also be meeting to discuss further changes to the Personnel Manual.

Each May, the MVLS board appoints trustees to fill the expiring terms on the Foundation for Mohawk Valley Libraries board. This year, we have two Foundation trustees with terms that expire in June: April Davies and Paul O'Brien. Both wish to serve for another term. Filling these positions, which will then expire in June 2029, will be an action item at the May board meeting.

Bill and I discussed ways to save on the \$6,000 to \$10,000 that it would cost to repave the driveway. I am working to make contact with the BJs project next door, to see if we can tack on to their paving when that happens. Earlier this month we had a plumber in to replace the leaking faucet in the kitchen. It is good to have formed a contact with a local contractor. We are also looking into changing VoIP telephone vendors, working more closely with the local vendor Logical Net.

Empowering Member Libraries with Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met at MVLS on May 13, for Jesse Jensen's first meeting as JA Project Manager. The plan going forward is for Jesse to report in-person at MVLS board meetings, making his first report at the May 21 MVLS Board meeting.

Vega Discover was implemented on April 27. The new product is up and running. There are some challenges for patrons in learning a new interface, and JA is working to solve these issues. Interestingly,

the ADA web accessibility requirements that were driving the Vega Discover implementation schedule have been extended for another year.

Many JA policies will be reviewed and developed over the next several months. The first of those is a JA Privacy Policy that is needed for using Google Analytics and other third-party services. A copy will be included with the meeting materials for the May meeting. It may not be there until Tuesday or Wednesday because of the short notice. As discussed at the March meeting, the JA Finance Committee will also be busy working to modify the JA fee structure for 2028.

Niche Academy is now live for all MVLS and member library staff and trustees! Mary Carrier demonstrated the platform at the Spring Symposium, and we will have a demonstration at the beginning of our May board meeting. Niche includes many training sessions that are appropriate for trustee education and other library applications. Sharon and Mary put a lot of work into setting this up to provide training materials for our libraries.

We will soon begin renegotiating our delivery contract with Arnoff. Both SALS and Upper Hudson will be renewing their contracts before the MVLS contract comes due in October.

Empowering Member Libraries with Youth, Adult and Outreach Services

MVLS hosted a Youth Services Meetup in March, and also helped facilitate the multi-system virtual teen Summer Reading workshop. Amsterdam's Leah Fitzgerald presented on Dungeons & Dragons programs.

The 2026 MVLS collaborative summer reading project will be a virtual scavenger hunt. Many MVLS libraries are participating.

MVLS and UHLS provided a storytime boot camp at MVLS in April. Several MVLS libraries sent staff to this half-day workshop. The follow up has been very positive.

Mary's Digital Literacy classes continue at libraries and outreach sites. In March and April there were 10 sessions reaching more than 150 participants.

MVLS is once again offering Outreach Mini-Grants to member libraries. This year we received three fundable projects and will be funding all three applications.

Empowering Member Libraries with Training, Consultation and Collaboration

The MVLS Spring Symposium was a great success! Thank you to the Middleburgh Library for hosting, and to our presenters: Emily Spinner, Mary Carrier and Antonia Bruno. We had around 50 attendees, library staff and trustees, who learned about Trauma Informed Librarianship, Niche Academy and the Ryan Dowd Homeless Library Academy, and strategies for helping library staff cope with challenging situations. Participants also had the opportunity to network with several social service agencies.

The April 30 Trustee Training session on the Library Mission was very successful, with more participants than we have had before – 25 on Zoom and 3 in person. The series will resume in the fall.

The next Director's Council's meeting is set for Wednesday, June 3 at St Johnsville.

Libraries have been working diligently on their state annual reports. As of today, nine reports have been submitted, and several more libraries have just a few glitches to fix. We expect to be able to work on the MVLS system report soon.

Mary continues to keep busy helping libraries with website accessibility and other issues. Eight libraries were assisted in March and April, and all were provided with information. Mary also developed an AI Interest Group of library staff, and shared related information with all libraries.

Beth has worked with some of our neighboring systems to develop a series of workshops promoting Reader's Advisory services for our libraries. The first session was held on May 13. Beth is also working with SALS and UHLS on an America 250 program series. An early session will be at Schoharie's Old Stone Fort on June 8.

MVLS has applied for the resurrected LSTA Grant opportunity provided by the New York State Library. We are applying for just under the maximum \$20,000 award for a project to help member libraries with agricultural and food literacy, assisting with food insecurity. Every member library is interested in participating in this project.

Empowering Member Libraries with Advocacy & Awareness

We still do not have a state budget, and probably won't have one before our May board meeting. There is still an open advocacy link on the NYLA website to send a message to your legislators. Please visit if you haven't participated yet: <https://app.oneclickpolitics.com/campaign-page?cid=yXscD3Fp5Fk3arX6LKflf&lang=en%22%20target=%22>

We continue to work with CDLC on an effort to make all three capital-region public library systems and four school library systems more effective in connecting with our state representatives. The goal is to organize meetings outside of the ordinary advocacy schedule. There is also an ongoing effort with CDLC and all of the public library systems to develop a partnership to bring social work interns to some libraries in the region.

MYLS has seven member libraries with budget votes scheduled for May 19. Two more libraries have votes planned for later in the year. If your local library has a vote, make sure you participate!

It is time to renew NYLA memberships. For many years now, MVLS has been underwriting the costs for member libraries to be organizational members of the New York Library Association. These memberships help libraries with continuing education opportunities and with advocacy. One of those training opportunities is the annual Spring on the Hill mini-conference that I will be attending on May 19.

Library Giving Day was again a good success for the Foundation, raising \$4,000 to date for library grants. We are also receiving good response for sponsorships for the June 29 Canajoharie Golf Tournament. This year we will be honoring Bonnie Kerr, former MVLS and Foundation trustee, who originated the Canajoharie Golf Tournament.

Empowering Member Libraries with Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

3/2/2026	Margaret Kindling JA Committee MVLS Member Library Directors	New Director! Search Committee Director's Council
3/3/2026	Margaret Kindling William Bonner MVLS Member Library Directors	Training Governance Committee Planning Process
3/4/2026	Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library	Symposium
3/5/2026	Mario Colon, Canajoharie Library Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Cyber Insurance JA Search
3/6/2026	Lauren Cardinal, Division of Library Development JA Council MVLS Member Library Directors Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	LSTA Grant Financial docs Annual Reports JA Fees
3/9/2026	Hannah Dillenbeck, Mohawk Valley Broadband MVLS Staff	Monthly Check In Regular Meeting Regular Meeting
3/10/2026	PULISDO Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	JA Fees
3/11/2026	HFM School Library System Council JA Council	Regular Council Regular Mtg
3/12/2026	William Bonner Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Personnel Doc Financial Reports JA Project Manager Vega Implementation
3/13/2026	Margaret Kindling William Bonner Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Board of Trustees Emily Bond, Sharon Springs Free Library	Emily Bond Agenda CLA resources Meeting Materials Welcome!
3/16/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Library Events JA Fees JA Fees
3/17/2026	MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Public Relations Event Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Planning Process Michele's Retirement JA Minutes
3/18/2026	Emily Bond, Sharon Springs Free Library Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Orientation JA Fees
3/19/2026	Susan London MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Staff Kim Zimmer, The Community Library	Personnel Manual Regular Meeting Training, Niche, etc. Construction, etc.
3/20/2026	William Bonner MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Personnel Committee	Trustee Resources Library Policies Personnel Manual
3/23/2026	Mark Davidson Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library	Personnel Issues Funding
3/24/2026	William Bonner Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Mario Colon, Canajoharie Library	Planning Meeting Construction Financing Exit Thoughts

	MVLS Staff	Planning Visits
3/25/2026	Amy Heebner, Division of Library Development	CLA and Annual Report
	MVLS Member Library Directors	Planning Visits
3/26/2026	MVLS Nominating Advisory Committee	MVLS Trustees
	Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Vega Discover
3/27/2026	Margaret Kindling	Planning Process
	Foundation Board	Library Giving Day
	MVLS Member Library Directors	Nominating Process
3/30/2026	Jill Ryder, Southern Adirondack Library System	Annual Report Data
3/31/2026	MVLS Member Library Directors	Annual Reports
4/1/2026	Cory Seymour, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery	Construction planning
	Lauren Cardinal, Division of Library Development	Website links
	Hannah Dillenbeck, Mohawk Valley Broadband	Monthly Check In
	MVLS Member Library Directors	Director's Council
	MVLS Staff	Symposium & Planning
4/2/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library	CLA budget
	MVLS Member Library Directors	Planning process update
	Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library	Annual Report
4/6/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library	CLA budget
	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library	Circulation Stats
	MVLS Member Library Directors	Circulation statistics
4/7/2026	MVLS Member Library Directors	Annual report data
4/8/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library	Planning process meet
	Cory Seymour, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery	Bullet Aid
	Amanda Maro Pendergrass, Canajoharie Library & Art	Annual Report
	Linda Bell, Frothingham Free Library	Planning Process
	Gianna Rodriguez, Frothingham Free Library	Planning process meet
	Emily Bond, Sharon Springs Free Library	Annual Report
4/9/2026	Cheryl Cufari	Foundation audit
4/10/2026	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library	Circulation Stats
	Emily Bond, Sharon Springs Free Library	Overdrive & Libby
4/13/2026	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library	Construction Quotes
4/14/2026	Cory Seymour, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery	Annual Report
	Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library	Annual Report
	Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library	Construction grant
4/15/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library	Central Library
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library	Election Database
4/16/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library	Construction Issues

4/16/2026	Amy Heebner, Division of Library Development Division of Library Development, NYSED Jesse Jensen, Joint Automation Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library Kim Bolan, Southern Adirondack Library System	Election Database Regular Meeting Orientation Meeting Annual Report Jesse Onboarding
4/17/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library Valerie Venturini, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Member Library Directors Yvonne Keller-Baker, Schoharie Free Library	Annual Report Annual Report Annual Report Trustee Training Annual Report
4/20/2026	Margaret Kindling Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Diane Empie, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library	MVLS Visit Trustee issues Planning Process Finance and Future Director's Council
4/21/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Linda Bell, Frothingham Free Library Chris Sagaas, Upper Hudson Library System	Annual Report Tax Cap Reporting Annual Report Financial Procedures Resignation:(Library Finances Annual Report Schedule GLV Open House Library Finances Trustee Training Trustee Training Annual Report
4/22/2026	Parish Ogunjana Diane Stewart Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Jesse Jensen, Joint Automation Library Public Relations Event	
4/23/2026	Diane Stewart MVLS Member Library Directors MVLS Member Library Directors	
4/27/2026	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library	NYLA Memberships
4/28/2026	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library	Central Library Planning Process NYLA memberships Trustees Question NYLA Memberships
4/29/2026	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Valerie Venturini, Gloversville Public Library Lauren Hoyt, New York Library Association Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library Kim Zimmer, The Community Library	
4/30/2026	Cory Seymour, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library MVLS Trustee Education Session Alisha Rivera-Holmes, Northville Public Library	Annual Report Library Vote Library Mission Planning Process