

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
January – February 2018**

Administration & Governance

We have changed payroll processing vendors, moving from ADP to Paychex. The migration was mostly uneventful. The primary motivation was a considerable cost savings.

Weather events caused several hours reductions in the last couple of months. MVLS opened late on January 5, and was closed on February 7 and March 2. On most bad weather days, the delivery is done extra early to avoid the dangerous driving. One of our drivers did have an accident in January, totaling the van and destroying some items. The delivery company pays for any lost or destroyed items. Delivery is now back to normal with a new driver – John.

This accident was the impetus for purchasing replacement bins since some were destroyed in the accident, and we were getting low already. Since we need to order these in bulk, this causes a significant increase to spending in the supplies and materials line, necessitating a budget amendment.

I have been working with a solar energy company, RGS Energy, to explore options for using some of our property as a small solar farm. They were exploring several options for creative financing, none of which worked. We'll continue to look at this, but for now the only option would be for MVLS to foot the bulk of the up-front cost, which just isn't an option.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The Joint Automation Council will meet at MVLS on March 14. JA continues to work on the security policy implementation and on the patron address project. The preliminary database changes that were made to the patron database, as well as the effort to better define library service areas, has served to illustrate the great need for this effort. We get fresh evidence every day that our current data is inadequate. But progress is slow because MVLS/SALS are the first systems to address this problem. Our vendor, Quipu, is working closely with us and the state to find solutions that will give us accurate data on library users.

The annual JA Agreements have been sent to the member libraries, and are coming back approved. This annual approval process is a good opportunity for keeping member library boards up-to-date on JA policies and services.

Outreach Services

The State Corrections Aid-funded writing project at the Hale Creek facility has been very successful there, and is now being implemented at the county jails. Montgomery County has reported real interest and good success with implementing this writing project there.

Lois is working on a committee to plan a statewide library system Outreach Coordinator's meeting in Saratoga in May.

Lois is again working with the Schoharie County CA\$H Committee to implement the *My Free Taxes* program in the member libraries.

Adult Services

The NYSCA Book Discussion schedule for 2018 has been set, and is available on the MVLS website at: <http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018NYSCA-poster.pdf>. Lois has completed the Project Outcome analysis for the 2017 year, we have received the funding for the 2018 year and have submitted the application for the 2019 year. These NYSCA programs are a cycle that never ends.

MVLS encourages member libraries to participate in New York Heritage, which is coordinated in our area by the Capital District Library Council. We have several libraries participating, and all of our libraries have materials that would enrich the collection. See <https://nyheritage.org/> for more information.

Lois' contacts & visits: 1/16- CA\$H meeting, Schoharie; 1/24- Social Mediahhhh! Workshop – UHLS 1/26 – NY Heritage Workshop at Guilderland, given by CDLC; 1/29 – 3 system meeting @ SALS; 2/8 – Reference, Instruction, & Outreach workshop at CDLC; 2/21- Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; 2/27 – NYLA Construction workshop; 2/28 – Legislative Lobby Day

Youth Services

Nine MVLS libraries sent representatives to the annual Summer Reading Program planning workshop held each year in conjunction with UHLS. Those in attendance took in many program and activity ideas, and shared ways to build involvement and impact. Check out all of the workshop handouts available at: <http://www.mvls.info/services/youth/youth-services-workshop-handouts-and-information/2018-summer-reading-program-handouts/>.

On March 1 Mary Fellows from the Upper Hudson Library System Presented a workshop on *Everyone Serves Young Children*, designed to help non-youth services library staff learn how to better serve young library users. This workshop is a part of the the New York State *Ready to Read at New York Libraries* Initiative

And to return the favor, Sue presented the youth version of *The Best of the Best* for UHLS in January.

Sue's meetings, contacts & field visits: 1/3, UHLS Teen Workshop planning; 1/11, Read it Forward at UHLS; 1/12, Present *Best of the Best* at UHLS; 1/23, Beanstack Call; 1/25, Science programs at JOH; 1/31. Summer Reading Program set-up; 2/1, SRP Workshop; 2/9 – 2/13, ALA Midwinter Meeting; 2/15, Read it Forward, UHLS; 2/21, Youth Consultants Conference Call; 2/28, NYLA Advocacy Day.

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

March 1 – Everyone Serves Young Children
March 13 – NYS Construction Aid Webinar
March 28 – Adult Program Swop
March 29 – Libraries as Bridges Out of Poverty
April 5 – A+ Customer Service

April 10 – Talking Book and Braille Library Services
April 26 – MVLS/UHLS Teen Meet-Up
April 27 – CDLC Resource Sharing Symposium

We have two new member library directors, both starting in late January. Dave DeFazio is the new director of the Canajoharie Library, and Helen Thomas is now director of the Sharon Springs Library. Both have been visited and assisted by MVLS staff and me, and both have jumped right in to being active contributors to MVLS, signing up to participate in Library Advocacy Day!

I have been working with several libraries on charter and bylaws issues. Libraries are still dealing with the issues of trustee numbers and terms that were identified in last year's annual report, and the Schoharie Free Library is exploring a change in their chartered-to-serve area, and very positive development. I will be attending board meetings in Gloversville, Middleburgh and Schoharie in March.

It is 2017 state annual report season, and most libraries have now submitted their reports. I did several field visits and lots of phone calls and emails to assist libraries with filling out the annual report.

MVLS will hold a workshop on *A+ Customer Service* at Canajoharie on April 5. The presenter is Erin Weller from the Buffalo & Eric County Public Library. I observed her program at NYLA, and it was very good.

Advocacy & Awareness

We had a good showing at Advocacy Day. Representing MVLS were Barb Madonna, Katherine Hawkins, Karen Bradley, Dave DeFazio, Devon Hedges, John Naple and all of the MVLS professional staff. Christina Knee and Helen Thomas were also signed up to participate, but illness prevented them from joining us. Even so, we had a good group and delivered a strong message to our legislators. There is still time to influence the process. Keep those letters and emails going!

Of course, the NYS budget development process offers unlimited opportunities for monkey wrenches in the works; but in the general the mood was positive for the elimination of the Governor's cuts with small but real hope held out for a modest increase in funding. However, we will probably again be in the unenviable position of having to feel grateful for flat funding.

Wade Abbott has finished setting up the MVLS Library Stories Website! See for yourself at:
<http://stories.mvls.info/>

The 21st Century Libraries Initiative is beginning to catch on. Wade has visited several libraries to build up interest in participating, and we have five libraries currently interested. It is a long term process, but it is good to see libraries interested in getting started.

I have for 25 years served on the HFM-BOCES School Library System Council. It is good to get a different perspective on library services, and to have a chance to share the public library perspective. In March, I have been invited to share information on how school and public libraries can cooperate.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

1/2/2018 MVLS Member Library Directors
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
Mary Ann Warner, Schenectady County Public Library

1/3/2018 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

1/4/2018 MVLS Director's Council
MVLS Workshop – Best of the Best

1/8/2018 Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library

1/9/2018 Division of Library Development, NYSED
MVLS Member Library Directors
PULISDO
Devon Hedges, The Community Library
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library

1/10/2018 JA Council
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

1/11/2018 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

1/12/2018 Katherine Hawkins
Devon Hedges, The Community Library

1/16/2018 John Naple
Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
MVLS Member Library Directors
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

1/17/2018 Division of Library Development, NYSED
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

1/18/2018 John Naple
Katherine Hawkins
MVLS Board of Trustees
MVLS Communications Committee

1/19/2018 Capital District Library Council
Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library

1/22/2018 Christina Knee
John Naple
MVLS Member Library Directors

1/23/2018 Bonnie Kerr
Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library
MVLS Member Library Directors
Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

1/24/2018 John Naple
Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library

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| 1/25/2018 | John Naple Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library |
| 1/26/2018 | HFM School Library System Council Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 1/29/2018 | Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library Foundation Board Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library |
| 1/30/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 1/31/2018 | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| 2/1/2018 | Anthony Gaddy Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 2/2/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Susan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie |
| 2/5/2018 | Cheryl Cufari MVLS Member Library Directors Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| 2/6/2018 | Division of Library Development, NYSED Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library PULISDO Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 2/8/2018 | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 2/9/2018 | Pamela Crandall-Luby Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 2/12/2018 | Pamela Crandall-Luby Foundation Board Sherry Kirschman, Frothingham Free Library Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| 2/14/2018 | Judi Steiger David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Capital District Library Council Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 2/15/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 2/16/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Capital District Library Council Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board Tim Burke, Upper Hudson Library System |

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| 2/19/2018 | Cheryl Cufari Judi Steiger |
| 2/20/2018 | Christina Knee Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council |
| 2/21/2018 | Cheryl Cufari Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library |
| 2/22/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery MVLS Member Library Directors Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| 2/23/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Foundation Event Committee Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 2/26/2018 | David De Fazio, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| 2/27/2018 | Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library PULISDO |
| 2/28/2018 | NYLA Advocacy Day |