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# MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM

## Member Library Trustee Newsletter Spring 2018

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### Libraries in the News

*Intriguing services offered in NYS public libraries*

We have shared several stories from libraries around New York State in this newsletter section, stories of libraries being innovative, experimenting with new services and having a positive impact on their communities. But guess what? MVLS libraries are just as innovative and impactful! And to celebrate that, we have developed a new blog, at: <http://stories.mvls.info/>

The *Among the Shelves* blog highlights stories from the users of MVLS libraries; stories that celebrate the real impact that libraries have on the people they serve. These stories are designed to communicate the message that public libraries are a vital part of the community fabric; that libraries build community and improve the lives of the individuals that make use of library services.

Do you or does anyone else from your community have a great story about the library having a positive impact? Contact MVLS Communications Specialist Wade Abbott at [wabbott@mvls.info](mailto:wabbott@mvls.info) to get your story on the *Among the Shelves* website.

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### Calendar of Events

*Opportunities for continuing education and input*

Wed June 6, 2018	5:30 pm	Foundation Annual Meeting
Wed June 6, 2018	6:00 pm	Communication Across Barriers Workshop
Thu June 21, 2018	9:30am – 11:00pm	MVLS Board Meeting
Wed July 11, 2018	9:30 – 11am	JA Council at MVLS
Mon July 30, 2018	All Day	Foundation Golf Tournament at Canajoharie
Thu Aug 23, 2018	9:30am – 11:00pm	MVLS Board Meeting
Thu Sep 20, 2018	9:30am – 11:00pm	MVLS Board Meeting
Thu Sep 27, 2018	9:30 – 11:30am	Adult Program Swap at MVLS
Thu Oct 18, 2018	9:30am – 11:00pm	MVLS Board Meeting

You can always find the full MVLS Calendar at: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=mvls%40mvls.info&ctz=America/New_York)  
Keep in mind that workshops may require pre-registration. See [www.mvls.info](http://www.mvls.info) for details.

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## What's My Job - Trustee Training

*Information on how to be an outstanding library trustee*

Many libraries have trustee elections or appointments that become effective in the spring or as of July 1 each year. There is a steep learning curve for new library trustees. What is the trustee's role in providing library service to the community? What laws and regulations affect how the library operates? How can trustees have a positive impact on the communities that they represent? These questions can all be answered through trustee training and orientation. MVLS offers several trustee training programs, including a 45 minute overview of trustee responsibilities. If this would be useful to your library board or to your new trustees, contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) to schedule a session.

The *Handbook for Library Trustee in New York State* is another very useful resource for new trustees. Trustees can request a print copy from MVLS, or anyone can access the Handbook online at: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/handbook/index.html>

New library directors, and other library staff, also need orientation. MVLS offers extensive training to all member library directors, and provides copies of the *Handbook for New Library Directors in New York State*. This resource is also available online at: [http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Newdirectors\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Newdirectors_handbook.pdf)

MVLS offers trustee training several times a year, and we are happy to work with individual library boards on trustee training. There are a variety of 45 minute sessions on topics from a basic overview to finances, legal issues and planning. Contact Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) for more information or to schedule a session at your library.

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## Policy Update

*Help in keeping your policies current*

MVLS has established a three-year rotation to help libraries keep their policies up-to-date. Board and Governance policies are the policy manual section slated for review this spring. These policies form the basis of all other library policies. This is especially true of the library's Charter and Bylaws. Public library charters serve as the library's incorporation documents. Charters must define the number of trustees, the length of term of trustees and the mechanism for trustee appointment or election. Charters also define the library's official service area and name. Charters are held by New York State and can only be altered in cooperation with the Education Department. Information on charters is on the web at: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/charter/index.html>

Library Bylaws expand on the charter, defining the rules under which the trustees operate. As such they include details on the makeup of the board, board officers and board meetings. Bylaws typically also include sections on the library director, on committees, and include an amendment procedure. A sample bylaws document is available at: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/trustees/handbook/bylaws.htm>

Other board and governance policies, including policies on board development and planning, will be covered in the Summer edition of this newsletter.

MVLS is always available to assist libraries with policy development. Call or email Eric Trahan at 355-2010 x223 or [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) for more information.

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## MVLS Serves Member Libraries

*Highlighting services that can help your library*

One of the most important jobs for a public library board of trustees is planning for the library's continued success. We all have wonderful, valued libraries, but are our libraries universally admired in the community? Will our libraries continue to be valued and supported in the future? Do you have a plan for insuring your library's success?

The MVLS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Initiative is designed to help MVLS member libraries succeed with this future planning. MVLS can help your library gather community input, analyze trends and benchmarks and plot a course for future success. And it all comes with grant funding! See: <http://www.mvls.info/21st-century-libraries/> for more information.

These highlights provide just a few examples of the services that MVLS provides to member libraries. For information on any MVLS service see the website at [www.mvls.info](http://www.mvls.info), email Eric at [etrahan@mvls.info](mailto:etrahan@mvls.info) or call 355-2010.

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## The Library of the Future

*Interesting articles for library trustees to ponder*

As local library trustees seek to find ways to reach into the community with library services that residents will value, it may be helpful to look at national and international trends on how people around the world are using and interacting with libraries. This article presents several useful infographics on literacy, books, reading and libraries around the world from 2017:

<https://ebookfriendly.com/best-of-2017-infographics-books-libraries-reading/>

How is your library contributing to a literate society? Are there services, resources or events that would boost your library's impact in your community?

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This newsletter is a service for the library trustees that serve the 14 member libraries of the Mohawk Valley Library System. All newsletter issues are archived at <http://www.mvls.info/insidemvls/newsletter/> MVLS educates, empowers and supports public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties, helping libraries enrich their communities.



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