

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
April - May 2019**

Administration & Governance

There is little news on the state funding situation. The only good news is that the funding process seems to be moving forward at a good pace, so we should receive the state aid fairly early in the summer. On the bad news front, most of the slim hope we were fed when the budget was first released is rapidly evaporating. There now seems to be little likelihood for alternative construction funding or for 2020 Census complete count funding coming to libraries. There has also been no action on bullet aid, which seems to confirm the predictions that bullet aid is likely to be a thing of the past for most of our libraries.

Thanks to all who helped make the annual meeting a success. The awards process worked well, and we had good attendance, and participation by many of our legislative representatives. The MVLS Annual Report is available on the website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2018-annualreport.pdf>

The June meeting will be the reorganizational meeting, with the election of officers and the various annual approvals. One of those is the meeting schedule, which has been updated on the website at: <https://www.mvls.info/board-of-trustees/meeting-schedule/>

We have two committees that will be meeting after the June 20 board meeting. The Building and Equipment Committee will hold its annual walkabout meeting immediately after the board meeting; with the Communications Committee meeting after that.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met at SALS on May 29. We had a discussion on the fee structure, and an update on the changes to the norms concerning fines and notices. These changes are facilitating many of our libraries going fine free. The patron address project is implemented and is going well. JA is also continuing to refine the security policy, particularly concerning integrating with third party vendors.

In addition, the JA Council has approved moving the JA Polaris database to a hosted environment. This is something we have been working toward for several years, and everything is now ready for it to move forward. Here are the advantages to going to hosted service.

- It is less expensive than maintaining servers at SALS
- It offers a redundancy and backup that we cannot achieve on our own
- it provides better security against hacking and other threats to the data
- it will allow JA staff to concentrate more on service to the members

The JA Council and SALS boards have approved this change. We will be addressing MVLS approval at the June 20 meeting.

We continue to monitor delivery issues. SALS has switched vendors and is now using Arnoff. We sought a proposal from them, and unfortunately the pricing was significantly higher than our current costs. Our service has shown significant improvement since we last discussed these issues.

Outreach Services

The 2018-19 Adult Literacy project is coming to an end. Schenectady Central, Bornt and Mont Pleasant sites, as well as Gloversville, Johnstown and Schoharie have held programs. The next 3-year cycle of state Adult Literacy grants has been submitted to the state. The project is tailored to the needs at the participating libraries: Schenectady, Johnstown, Middleburgh and Schoharie. The program remains focused on resources and programs to build job skills. The Outreach Advisory Committee will be meeting to review these activities on June 11.

Lois participated in the Hale Creek Re-Entry Day, an event designed to help released inmates successfully transition out of incarceration. There was better interest than in past years. Lois also met with the staff and worked to develop a new annual agreement with the facility.

Lois' regular meetings with social service colleagues in our counties are yielding good results. The Sharon Springs Library received a grant through the Schoharie County Human Services Coordinating Council; and the next Fulton County Gateway meetings will feature the services of the Johnstown and Gloversville libraries.

Adult Services

The 2019 NYSCA series is underway. Libraries have scheduled a wide variety of book discussion and writing programs. The schedule is on the web at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-poster.pdf>

The Library Moon Walk project was a big success. The project received some national attention as a notably successful grant program through the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Statistical results are as follows:

4210 people from 147 zip codes moved 76,897 miles toward better health and at least 759 people attended 187 programs. Project Outcome evaluations from 404 people showed that:

- 98 % Learned something new
- 96 % Felt more confident about what they learned
- 95 % Intend to apply what they had learned
- 91 % Were more aware of resources and services provided by the library

The Adultprogrampalooza was a three system workshop (MVLS, UHLS & SALS) held in Glens Falls. Forty representatives from the three systems participated. These combined workshops allow us to have access to nationally recognized speakers that bring current ideas to our members.

Lois' contacts & visits: 4/1 Webinar practice with NNLM; 4/2 NNLM Boostbox Webinar ; 4/12 Hale Creek Reentry Fair; 4/15 Staff Meeting; 4/16 Adult Program Swap; May 7- Adultprogrampalooza- GLE; May 7- MVLS Annual Dinner; May 20 – SALS Annual Dinner – Lake George; May 22 – Hale Creek –Authentication Review; May 22- GLV- Christine Prokopiack and Robert Weatherby

Youth Services

The 2019 Summer Reading Program, “A Universe of Stories” is ready to begin! Sue is assisting libraries with the Beanstack and READsquared software, and assisting libraries with the Read it Forward books. The state is once again providing access to the myON educational e-book platform; we have many baseball cards to give away, and libraries are scheduling summer Science @ the Library programs.

The Early Literacy project is also ready to begin the next year. An early literacy storytime workshop was held in Middleburgh on May 22. Participating libraries received \$100 worth of STEM equipment suitable for toddlers and babies. MVLS is continuing to add age-appropriate STEAM materials to our loaning collections, and Sue and Joyce Laiosa, with help from Kathy, are updating the Start With Science kits. Four “Big Play” kits for babies and toddlers are beginning to be used by the member libraries. Picture Book City labeling is continuing at SCPL branches.

Sue’s meetings, contacts & field visits: YSS Webinar – MVL - 4/2 ; Beanstack/Read Squared/GOAT Meeting, SALS, 4/3; GOAT Meet Up, EGRN, 4/11; Staff Meeting, MVL, 4/15; MVLS Board of Trustee Meeting, GLV, 4/18; Science @ the Library, SCO, 4/23; Delivery Conference Call, MVL, 4/25; SWS Planning Meeting, MVL, 4/30; Early Literacy Workshop Planning Meeting, MVL, 5/2
Adult Program Palooza, GLE, 5/8; Early Literacy STEM Workshop, MID, 5/16; GOAT Wrap Up Meeting, MVL, 5/22; SLJ Day of Dialog, NYC, 5/28-29

Member Services

Upcoming workshops include the following:

June 19 – Library Legal Issues
September 12 – Director’s Council (tentative)
September 20 – Adult Program Swap

Annual report season continues. We have been answering many inquiries from the state, and helping libraries button up all loose ends. The Schenectady report is nearing completion, which leaves Cobleskill as the only library left with unanswered questions.

Wade continues to assist Gloversville with their strategic plan, which should get final approval this summer. Community listening sessions continue in Amsterdam, and a few other libraries are exploring getting started with the 21st Century Libraries initiative.

We had a scare with the proposed library construction project at the Scotia branch library. Native American artifacts were discovered on the site, which put the required State Historic Preservation approval in jeopardy. We worked extensively with the Division of Library Development to keep that project moving.

The application process for the next round of construction grants has begun. Our tentative application deadline is September 6.

Advocacy & Awareness

It does appear that census funding will not be coming to libraries, in spite of excellent library advocacy at the complete count hearings. I gave testimony in Albany, and got my picture in the Times Union.

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Census-hearing-raises-new-questions-in-advance-of-13826444.php>

Everybody loves libraries, but funding them is a different story.

We did have several libraries have successful budget votes in May. Congratulations to all. Wade helped several libraries with campaigns.

I will be at the PULISDO summer conference from July 23 – 25.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

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| 4/1/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 4/2/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 4/3/2019 | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 4/4/2019 | Jennifer Andrews, Mohawk Golf Club Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill |
| 4/5/2019 | Foundation Board JA Committee Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 4/9/2019 | Marion Grimes Judith Kelly Division of Library Development, NYSED Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library PULISDO Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Ellen Bach, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP |
| 4/10/2019 | Mal Martin Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 4/12/2019 | Pamela Crandall-Luby Foundation Board Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 4/15/2019 | MVLS Staff |
| 4/16/2019 | Judith Kelly Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary MVLS Trustee Education Session - Gloversville Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 4/17/2019 | HFM School Library System Council |

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| | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 4/18/2019 | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 4/19/2019 | Capital District Library Council |
| 4/23/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library |
| 4/24/2019 | Pamela Crandall-Luby |
| | Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library |
| 4/25/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 4/29/2019 | Susan Kazilas |
| | Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library |
| | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 5/2/2019 | Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 5/3/2019 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 5/6/2019 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 5/7/2019 | Complete Count Census Hearing |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 5/8/2019 | MVLS Annual Meeting |
| 5/9/2019 | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 5/10/2019 | Capital District Library Council |
| 5/14/2019 | Cheryl Cufari |
| | William P. Leitch |
| | Mal Martin |
| | Division of Library Development, NYSED |
| | Barbara Madonna, Gloversville Public Library |
| | PULISDO |
| 5/16/2019 | Beverly Osborne |
| | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | Rob Lang, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 5/17/2019 | Foundation Golf Tournament |
| 5/21/2019 | MVLS Member Library Board Presidents |
| | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | Fonda Library Board of Trustees |
| 5/28/2019 | Beverly Osborne |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 5/29/2019 | JA Council |
| | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 5/30/2019 | Mary Anne Waltz, Division of Library Development |
| | Catherine Caiazzo, Schoharie Free Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| | Devon Hedges, The Community Library |
| 5/31/2019 | Eric Kass, Fort Hunter Free Library |
| | Foundation Board |
| | Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |