

**Mohawk Valley Library System
Director's Report
January – February, 2020**

Administration & Governance

We have a candidate for the vacant Schenectady County seat on the MVLS board. This is to replace Marion Grimes. Deb Escobar, a relatively new SCPL trustee, has agreed to join the MVLS board. Her appointment, to a term that will expire in June 2020, will be a March agenda item.

The state budget situation continues to be tenuous. As you know, the governor cut \$20 million from library construction aid and \$5 million from library operating aid. The legislature says they want to restore the cut aid, but the state deficit and coronavirus are tough issues to compete with.

We received 13 applications to the Public Engagement and Education position, about half of which were nominally qualified. We will be starting the interview process in mid-March.

The MVLS Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 from 5:30 – 7:30 at SUNY Cobleskill. We are working to keep the cost the same as last year, which was \$32 per person. We are again planning to provide free attendance to the director and one trustee from each library, as well as to the MVLS staff.

Our April MVLS Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16. The meeting will be held at the Sharon Springs Free Library, 129 Main St., Sharon Springs, NY 13459. Some space will be available in the MVLS van.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The March JA Council meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 18 here at MVLS. One topic for discussion at the meeting is the new NYS Shield Act, which goes into effect this month. This act sets data security and disclosure standards that must be met by all NYS businesses and organizations. JA staff have been researching any new policies or practices that we may need to implement to comply with this new law.

MVLS did a thorough study of delivery data for December and January, to gauge the impact of the reduced delivery runs that were implemented when we began delivery service with Arnoff. System-wide, the typical item spends 3.4 days in delivery. For libraries that have 5-day delivery the average is 3 days. For libraries with 3-day delivery the average is 4 days.

Outreach & Adult Services

We continue to schedule NYSCA literature discussion programs. The full schedule can be found at: <https://www.mvls.info/current-projects/2020-nysca-book-discussions/>. Libraries are currently working on proposals for the writing projects which are also a part of the NYSCA grant.

Adult Literacy programming also continues. Participating libraries are Schenectady, Schoharie, Middleburgh and Johnstown.

Youth Services

The annual MVLS/UHLS Summer Reading Program workshop was held on January 30 at SCPL. The 66 attendees were treated to several panels and presentations of ideas as well as a potential performers showcase with 8 program presenters. Twenty-four staff from 9 MVLS member libraries were present. The materials are on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/services/youth/summer-learning-at-mvls/>

The updating of the Start with Science kits continues. Info on these kits is on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/services/youth/program-kits/startwithscience/>. Science at the Library is also in full swing for the year. To date programs have been scheduled or held at the following locations: Fonda, Johnstown, Northville and the Bornt, Mont Pleasant and Niskayuna branches in Schenectady.

Applications have been sent to the Stewarts Holiday Match and WGY Christmas Wish for resources to add to the graphic novel and food pantry/laundromat collections.

Sue's contacts & visits: Imagine Your Story Webinar, 1/7; MVLS Staff Meeting, 1/7; RIF Meeting, UHLS, 1/8; MVLS/UHLS SRP planning, 1/8; Best of the Best Workshop, 1/9; MVLS Board Meeting, 1/16
Children's Department Meeting, SCP, 1/16; MVLS/UHLS SRP Workshop planning, 1/21
Science @ the Library, JOH, 1/23; ALA 2020 Youth Media Awards, 1/27; MVLS/UHLS SRP Workshop, SCP, 1/30; Raising the Bar NYPL Webinar, 2/12; RIF Meeting, UHLS, 2/13; SWS Meeting, MVLS, 2/18
NYS Youth Services Call, 2/18; PLA PreConference, Nashville, 2/25; PLA Conference, Nashville 2/25-29

Member Services

The last few day have been dominated by response to the coronavirus situation. We have been advising libraries on their response, with today's info at: <https://www.mvls.info/blog/2020/03/12/10206/>. To date all MVLS and library services are fairly normal, but we are having many discussions on ways that we can help libraries reduce exposure. What we have done so far is stop loans of the legos and science and other program kits that are designed to be touched by many program participants in succession. There are some libraries nationally, and a few in NYS, that have closed, and libraries as close as Saratoga and Clifton Park have cancelled all public classes and events.

On a happier note, Wade continues to provide customizable videos for libraries to share via Facebook and other social media. All MVLS video templates are available at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1_BU-RQ

The annual Best of the Best workshop was held in January. See: <https://www.mvls.info/services/readers-advisory/best-of-the-best/> for some good book suggestions.

It is state annual report season. Most MVLS libraries have completed their reports. The MVLS report is nearly complete. We will be reviewing that at the April board meeting.

We continue to have orientation meetings with our many new member library directors. I have been working with the St. Johnsville board on financial management issues, and with Schoharie on a possible charter change.

Advocacy & Awareness

We had a good contingent of MVLS representatives at Library Advocacy Day. Thanks to Barb Madonna, Chris Pesses, John Naple, Deb Escobar and Karen Bradley who came with us to visit all 7 MVLS representatives. We were also joined at most of our visits by Kathy Gundrum and Emily Spinner from CDLC and by Kristy Beedon from the HFM BOCES school library system. I am sure that we will be asked several times over the next few weeks to participate in NYLA advocacy efforts, so please watch you inboxes and do what you can to advocate for increased library funding.

The Middleburgh Library is beginning the 21st Century library initiative, and will be working with Wade over the next several months on community engagement initiatives.

New York State Complete Count 2020 Census funding was made available to all NYS counties for distribution to non-profit organizations for census promotion efforts. Of the MVLS counties, Fulton County elected not to accept the money, and Schenectady County developed their own program which did not accept applications from non-profits. MVLS did apply for funding from Montgomery and Schoharie counties. We should hear whether we will receive anything within a week or so. If MVLS is awarded funding, it will primarily go toward efforts to promote libraries as organizations that can provide information on and access to the 2020 census portal. We could also receive funding for chromebooks and internet hotspots.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

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| 1/2/2020 | Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 1/3/2020 | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie |
| 1/6/2020 | Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| 1/7/2020 | Michael Klein, Arnoff Global Logistics Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| 1/8/2020 | Christina Knee JA Council Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 1/9/2020 | Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| 1/10/2020 | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 1/14/2020 | Division of Library Development, NYSED |

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| | Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library |
| | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library |
| | Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | PULISDO |
| | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 1/15/2020 | Christine Pesses |
| 1/16/2020 | MVLS Board of Trustees |
| | MVLS Public Relations Event |
| | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System |
| 1/17/2020 | Capital District Library Council |
| 1/21/2020 | Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| 1/22/2020 | MVLS Member Library Directors |
| | Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie |
| 1/23/2020 | Christine Witkowski |
| | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library |
| | Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill |
| 1/24/2020 | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library |
| | HFM School Library System Council |
| | Kim Zimmer, The Community Library |
| 1/27/2020 | Kaitlyn Forbes, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery |
| 1/28/2020 | Peg Voth, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery |
| | Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council |
| | Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill |
| | Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library |
| 1/29/2020 | Craig Clark |
| | Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| 1/30/2020 | MVLS Workshop |
| 1/31/2020 | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library |
| 2/3/2020 | Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill |
| | Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library |
| 2/4/2020 | Kaitlyn Forbes, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery |
| | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library |
| | Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| | Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie |
| 2/6/2020 | Jon Stead, Fulton County Administrative Officer |
| | Matthew Ossenfort, Montgomery County Executive |
| | Steven Wilson, Schoharie County Administrator |
| 2/10/2020 | Michael Klein, Arnoff Global Logistics |
| | MVLS Trustee Education Session |
| | Rory Fluman, Schenectady County Manager |
| | Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| | Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |
| 2/11/2020 | Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library |
| | Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| 2/12/2020 | Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library |
| | Matthew Ossenfort, Montgomery County Executive |

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| 2/13/2020 | Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Particia Clancy Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library Matthew Ossenfort, Montgomery County Executive MVLS Board of Trustees |
| 2/14/2020 | Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Kaitlyn Forbes, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library |
| 2/18/2020 | Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library Foundation Board MVLS Member Library Directors Steven Wilson, Schoharie County Administrator Kim Zimmer, The Community Library |
| 2/19/2020 | Kaitlyn Forbes, Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery MVLS Member Library Directors |
| 2/20/2020 | Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library |
| 2/21/2020 | Foundation Board Foundation Event Committee |
| 1/24/2020 | Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library Katherine Hawkins Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library PULISDO |
| 2/25/2020 | John Naple NYLA Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library |
| 2/26/2020 | Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library |
| 2/27/2020 | William Levering Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library Foundation Event Committee Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library Catherine Caiazza, Schoharie Free Library Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library |