

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

April - May 2020

Administration & Governance

MVLS staff is preparing to resume staffing the MVLS building in June. Full-time staff has been very productive working from home, and Joe Sherry has been working in the business office as needed. As approved at the April MVLS board meeting, we have been paying part-time staff their regular salary during the COVID shutdown. That is scheduled to end on June 30. We will hold an executive session at June's board meeting to discuss how we will go forward.

We are opening the MVLS building according to the MVLS Building Safety Plan that was shared with you via email. Formal approval of this plan will be an agenda item at the June board meeting. The plan continues to rely on considerable working from home for MVLS staff.

MVLS has applied for a Payroll Protection Plan Loan/Grant. It has not yet been approved. We know we will be experiencing at least a \$30,000 budget cut, and it could be more. A PPP loan could be a big help.

On the state budget front, there is no news. So far, there is no indication of mid-year cuts. If there is no action by early July, then the next deadline is the end of the year. There haven't been any new state income projections, and absent that, there is no way to predict mid-year cuts. Another issue is that every indication is that aid will arrive late this year.

The MVLS State Annual Report has been approved by the state. I neglected to place your approval on the April agenda, so MVLS board approval of the 2019 state annual report will be an agenda item at the June board meeting. The report is on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MVLS-State-Annual-Report-2019.pdf>

Thanks to everyone for helping to make the first – and with luck only – virtual MVLS Annual Meeting a success. The annual report has been posted on the MVLS website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2019-annual-report-5-27-20.pdf>

Automation and Resource Sharing

MVLS delivery service to member libraries is scheduled to resume on June 8. I can provide an update at the June board meeting. As you may remember, MVLS began using Empire Library Delivery last fall in order to maintain a delivery connection with the Upper Hudson Library System and Capital District Library Council. Since MVLS, SALS and UHLS are all now using Arnoff for delivery service, we are working to establish an internal delivery interface, meaning we will no longer need to pay for Empire Library Delivery service.

The JA Council met virtually on May 13. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8. JA staff has continued working throughout the shutdown, allowing libraries to continue with virtual services and wireless access. The Polaris software was also updated during the shutdown.

E-resources became very important while libraries were closed for physical borrowing. Around the state, libraries are reporting 30 – 40% increases to e-circulation. This doesn't nearly replace the lost physical borrowing of library materials, but it does help illustrate the importance of providing electronic borrowing.

Outreach and Adult Services

The 2019-20 state Adult Literacy project ends on June 30. We had some programs cancelled, and others became virtual programs. We purchased business-related e-books with the leftover money from the cancelled programs.

Several NYSCA programs have also been cancelled, with others rescheduled for fall. Some may end up being virtual. The NYSCA year has been extended, so we have more flexibility with these programs.

Our search process for the open Public Engagement & Education Consultant position remains on hold. I have been in touch with our two finalists, and they remain interested in the position.

Youth Services

The Family Literacy grant project has gone virtual. Sue worked with our consultant Joyce Laiosa to develop a six-part training video series titled "Virtual Advantage: An Early Literacy and Storytime Series". The videos provide help for libraries preparing and presenting their virtual storytimes. Videos are available on YouTube and Facebook, and positive reviews have come in from all around New York State. You can see the series at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nyvIOA1Q1vKPCn1_BU-RQ/playlists Sue and Joyce also did an online workshop on using feltboards for member libraries. Finally, instead of the toys and other sensory items that were to be purchased through the grant, MVLS added many e-books and other resources to the MVLS Overdrive collection.

The summer reading program is also going to be virtual. Sue is working with both Mary from UHLS and Jack Scott from SALS to help libraries become familiar with the READsquared software, and helping libraries prepare for virtual programs. A new project, "Welcome to Fairies & Gnomes: Imagine Their Homes!" originally developed by Jennie Mosher at the Schoharie Free Library, has become a project for the entire system. Sue put together a committee of interested library staff to develop a website and activities that MVLS libraries will use with families over the summer. The website, which will go live on June 20, is at: <https://www.518fairyhomes.com/>. The project provides a way for families to celebrate the library summer reading program safely outdoors, build "STEM," and practice good stewardship of land and resources throughout their local communities.

Two MVLS libraries, Canajoharie and Sharon Springs, are participating in the Read it Forward summer read for teens. Through this project, teens read a featured title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing. This year's selected titles are **Nimona**, by Noelle Stevenson, and **Croak** by Gina Damico.

Member Services

While we can't have in-person programs, MVLS is doing a lot of work with continuing education for members. We have been hosting regular virtual Directors' meetings to discuss reopening, getting full attendance of directors at many, with several library trustees attending as well. The early literacy videos above are another wonderful example of virtual MVLS programming.

Similarly, the Foundation annual meeting will also provide a virtual workshop offering. I will be doing the Overview module of library trustee training as a webinar on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 PM. My goal is to have this be the first of five sessions on public library trustee training. I am also hoping to add a session on the new minimum standards for libraries that go into effect in January.

All libraries except Schenectady have completed their state annual reports. We are working with libraries on how to track virtual activities for reporting next year.

I have been in regular contact with the Gloversville Library board as they go through their search process for a new director. They are getting close to hiring. I continue to work with the Schoharie and St. Johnsville libraries on potential charter amendments. Finally, I have met with the new President at SCPL. He will be asking me to present at a SCPL board meeting once in-person meetings are allowed.

Awareness and Advocacy

Wade has been having many online meetings with member libraries, helping with communications issues.

All MVLS libraries with spring budget votes are cooperating with school districts to have the library proposition on the mail-in school ballots. If your local library is having an election, make sure you mail in your ballot. The new due date is June 16.

The Foundation is determining whether golf tournaments will be possible this summer. With many businesses shut down, the business community isn't in a position to sponsor fundraising events.

Meetings, Contacts & Visits

Monday, April 6

CDLC

Bonnie Keller, NBT

PULISDO

Tuesday, April 7

Shannon Aldi-Hogan

CDLC Personnel Committee

Cheryl Cufari

MVLS Directors - Annual Meeting & Report

Wednesday, April 8

Craig Clark

MVLS Board

MVLS Member Library Directors - Pen & Ink

Thursday, April 9

Kathy Gundrum

Sara Dallas

Jennie Mosher SHO

MVLS Trustees

Mary Beth Farr

Friday, April 10

Kathy Gundrum, CDLC

Sara Dallas
Nicole Hauser
Nicole Hemsley
MVLS Trustees
John Naple
Craig Clark

Monday, April 13

Cheryl Cufari
Nicole Hauser

Tuesday, April 14

Foundation Board
MVLS Directors
CDLC Personnel Com
PULISDO & DLD
Shannon Aldi-Hogan
Bev Osborne

Wednesday, April 15

MVLS Directors (meeting)
Sue Friedlander
NYALS legal call
Kim Zimmer
Dawn Lamphere
Mal Martin

Thursday, April 16

MVLS Board
CDLC Finance
Kim Zimmer
Mal Martin
Glenn Winter

Friday, April 17

Kathy Gundrum
Foundation Board
Dawn Lamphere
Katherine Hawkins
Cathy Caiazzo

Monday, April 20

Karen Bradley
Natalie McDonough
Jennie Mosher
Terry Pavoldi
Erica Wing
Whitney Hubbard

Tuesday, April 21

Dawn Lamphere

Nicole Hauser
Kim Zimmer
Karen Bradley & Devon Hedges

Wednesday, April 22

Foundation Board
MVLS Directors
All legislators
Michael Burnett
Charles Straney, Dawn Lamphere
Mary Beth Farr

Thursday, April 23

Michael Burnett
Sara Dallas
Terry Pavoldi
Maty Beth Farr

Friday, April 24

CDLC
Kaitlyn Forbes
Erica Wing

Monday, April 27

MVLS Directors
Whitney Hubbard
Natalie McDonough
Nicole Hauser
Kim Zimmer
Sara Dallas

Tuesday, April 28

MVLS Directors (x3)
Nicole Hensley
Erica Wing
Nicole Hauser
PULISDO

Wednesday, April 29

NYALS
Sara D & Michele
MVLS Directors
Michael Burnett
Helen Thomas
Dawn Lamphere
Erica Wing

Thursday, April 30

Sara Dallas & Michele Largeteau
Nicole Hemsley
MVLS Directors (construction)

Jon Blackmon
Helen Thomas
Michael Burnett
Dawn Lamphere
COBY broadband research

Friday, May 1

Kristi Beedon
John Naple

Saturday, May 2

MVLS Directors

Monday, May 4

Kim Zimmer
Sara Dallas
Katherine Hawkins
Kathy Gundrum
Tim Burke
Kathryn McCary

Tuesday, May 5

MVLS Directors
Karen Bradley
Nicole Hauser
Kaitlyn Forbes
Michael Burnett
Kathrine Hawkins

Wednesday, May 6

Karen Bradley
Kim Zimmer
Erica Wing
MVLS Directors
Whitney Hubbard

Thursday, May 7

MVLS Directors
Sue Friedlander

Friday, May 8

MVLS Directors
Helen Thomas
Sara Dallas
Karen Bradley
Nicole Hemsley
Kim Zimmer
Kathy Gundrum
Bill Levering

Monday, May 11

Natalie McDonough

Elise Stefanik
Mal Martin
Karen Bradley
Whitney Hubbard

Tuesday, May 12

CDLC Finance
PULISDO
Kathy Gundrum

Wednesday, May 13

JA Council
Sara Dallas
Nicole Hauser
MVLS Directors

Thursday, May 14

MVLS Directors
Erica Wing
Dawn Lamphere
Helen Thomas
Craig Clark
Nicome Hauser
Natalie McDonough
Sara Dallas
HFM SLS
Ed Asselin
Bill Levering

Friday, May 15

CDLC Board
Sara Dallas
NYALS
Kim Zimmer

Monday May 18

Kim Zimmer
MVLS Directors, Trustees
CDLC Nom Com
PULISDO
Craig Clark
Katherine Hawkins

Tuesday, May 19

MVLS Directors
Dawn Lamphere
Sara Dallas
Tim Burke

Wednesday, May 20

Deb Paden

Karen Bradley
MVLS Directors
Sara Dallas

Thursday, May 21

MVLS Directors
Sara Dallas & Tim Burke
Michael Burnett
Karen Bradley

Friday, May 22

MVLS Directors
Michael Burnett
Helen Thomas
Jeremey Johansson

Saturday, May 23

MVLS Directors - reopening info

Tuesday, May 26

Sally Fancher
Helen Thomas
Barb Madonna
MVLS Directors, Boards, Trustees

Wednesday, May 27

Everybody! (Annual Meeting)
Karen Bradley
Michael Burnett
Deb Escobar

Thursday, May 28

MVLS Directors
Ed Asselin

Friday, May 29

Dawn Lamphere
Karen Bradley
Erica Wing
Ed Asselin
Kaitlyn Forbes