

Mohawk Valley Library System

Director's Report

April - May 2021

Administration & Governance

Thanks to all who were able to attend the 2nd virtual MVLS Annual Meeting. We were able to follow-up and do in-person presentations for both award winners. The annual report is on the website at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2020-Annual-Report.pdf>.

I would like to continue our discussion on changing the date of the MVLS Annual Meeting and the term year for trustees and officers. There are definite advantages to having the annual meeting in the fall rather than the spring; and it makes sense to have trustee and officer terms correspond with our calendar year fiscal year.

Don LaPlant from Schoharie has recommended a candidate to fill the trustee seat from which Christina Knee resigned earlier this year. April Davies, a librarian at SUNY Cobleskill, is prepared to begin serving as an MVLS trustee. That seat runs until 2025. We will still have vacancies from Fulton (Patty Franco) and Schoharie (Ellie Spencer) Counties.

The MVLS 2020 state annual report has been accepted. This means we will be eligible to receive all aid payments when they are released. There is no schedule yet for when we can expect that. We should receive the first payment of our CARES act funding soon. The state has not yet announced how the library funding included in the American Rescue Plan will be distributed.

We continue to work on the state plan of service that is due in October. The surveys closed on June 1. We had higher-than-before participation levels. I will share some results at our June meeting. The next step is some more in-depth listening sessions. Consultant Elissa Kane, who MVLS has worked with before, is submitting a proposal for this next phase.

Of course, a part of that plan will affect our plans for our fourth staff consultant. We are working on a position description. Here is a draft of the basic description:

Mohawk Valley Library System

Position Description: Technology and Advancement Consultant

A full-time professional position that contributes to making the Mohawk Valley Library System and its member libraries models in technology, data utilization and library advancement.

General Statement of Duties: The MVLS Technology and Advancement Consultant works with public libraries in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady and Schoharie counties, contributing toward library public services supporting the following system goals:

- MVLS libraries effectively integrate technology into their library services, and are leaders in helping library users effectively use technology
- MVLS libraries demonstrate impact and effect change by using data to tell the library story and to transform their libraries

All MVLS Staff encourage MVLS libraries to recognize library best-practices, evaluate their services and implement effective and consequential plans for library advancement. The Technology and Advancement consultant will accomplish that by providing leadership in technology and data use, and by actively working on trustee training and library advancement.

We will discuss this position at the June meeting.

Our June meeting is the reorganizational meeting, which means we will elect officers, fill committees and do other annual approvals. The current committee list is at: <https://www.mvls.info/board-of-trustees/committee-list/>. The proposed meeting dates are at: <https://www.mvls.info/board-of-trustees/meeting-schedule/>. Please note that the summer meeting is proposed for July rather than August. I would like to get a final job description approved in July so we can post the position and get it filled.

Automation and Resource Sharing

The JA Council met on May 12. Patron self-registration continues to be the big push on JA. In order to make that more efficient, we will be implementing another change which is that library patron's home library (Registration Branch) will be determined by where they live, rather than by where they get their card. This has been a long-term goal of mine, so it is good to see it progressing.

After many years of effort, we finally have new contracts with our automation vendor, the current owner of the Polaris software, Innovative Interfaces (III). This will reduce our base cost over the next few years.

When libraries were closed for the shutdown, use of e-resources increased significantly. I am happy to report that use has basically continued at that increased level. Our work in developing this shared resource is paying off.

The Schenectady County Public Library has completed its state annual report, triggering the next payment of Central Library Development Aid.

Outreach, Adult and Youth Services

MVLS Summer Programming Mini Grants were distributed to 21 libraries, ranging between \$300 and \$600. The system awarded a total of \$11,549 to support summer programming for all ages. This mini grant was supported by CARES act funds. The full list of projects will be included with the documents posted for the June board meeting.

The FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides grants to individuals who need home access to the internet. Heather shared information via MVLS Facebook and sent print fliers and bookmarks to all locations and spread the word about the program among our communities.

The Family and Adult Literacy 2020-21 projects are coming to a close. Most of the adult literacy programming has been organized and facilitated by Jennie Mosher. She's indicated interest in expanding the program further into the system. MVLS will purchase Job Seekers Toolkits - books with great job searching strategies and help - with the remainder of the funds for our libraries and community partners to use. Family Literacy funds are being used for Start with Science kits and early literacy materials.

Fulton, Montgomery, and Schenectady county jails have received books and magazines for their collections; a much needed refresh after the COVID hiatus. Fulton County Jail is also getting donations

from the Gloversville library to expand their collection. The Hale Creek facility has been more of a challenge to get restarted since they're down a librarian.

Just before the pandemic, Sue Rokos was planning the Little Free Laundromat Libraries project. The progress of reopening means that Heather has now finally been able to begin implementing this effort. Johnstown has two locations, at a laundromat and at a food pantry. Fonda set up a box (and play kitchen!) in their food pantry. We will continue to help supply books as needed while we have a supply. Other locations initially interested in the project have elected to wait until the fall.

Member Services

Director's meetings have continued to be popular. We will be taking July off, and will restart in August. Directors are excited about possibly returning to in-person meetings.

The annual MVLS/Foundation Annual Meeting presentation will this year be a Zoom panel discussion featuring the Schoharie, Johnstown and Fort Plain libraries programming staff talking about how they were successful in continuing library programming during the pandemic. It is scheduled for the same day as our board meeting, Thursday June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Wade and I have been working with the Community Library in Cobleskill, using the community workshop data to help build their strategic plan. Wade is also assisting Schenectady with their community survey. We also attended the Woodlawn branch opening ceremony highlighting the completion of their public library construction project.

Much MVLS time and effort is going into assisting the Schoharie library with their sudden director vacancy. We are also working with Fonda on an unforeseen director search.

Advocacy & Awareness

The state legislative session is ending soon. There are several library bills that are close to approval. We will continue to monitor whether these get legislative approval and the Governor's signature:

- Library Trustee training requirement. In its current configuration, the bill requires a minimum of 2 hours per year of training for library trustees. The current bill has no monitoring or enforcement language
- E-books for all is a bill designed to require publishers to provide licenses to libraries for all published e-books. It is largely symbolic and too late, but is still nice to have our legislators paying attention to the needs of libraries. The e-book market continues to develop, and this could be useful depending on what publishers decide to do in the future.

The Foundation has golf tournaments scheduled for July 26 and September 17. We will be opening up another round of advocacy grants next week, and will do the Dream & Do grants later in the summer.

Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits

4/1/2021	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
4/2/2021	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
4/5/2021	Joanne Mickle
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
4/6/2021	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill
4/7/2021	Mary Donohue
4/9/2021	Foundation Board
4/12/2021	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	MVLS Awards Committee
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
4/13/2021	Particia Clancy
	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	PULISDO
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
4/14/2021	MVLS Trustee Education Session
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
4/15/2021	Particia Clancy
	Judi Steiger, Fort Hunter Free Library
	MVLS Board of Trustees
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
4/16/2021	Capital District Library Council
	MVLS Member Library Directors
4/19/2021	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
4/20/2021	Shannon Aldi-Hogan, Frothingham Free Library
	Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
4/21/2021	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
4/22/2021	Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery
	Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
4/23/2021	Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
4/26/2021	John Naple
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
4/27/2021	Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	MVLS Trustee Education Session
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
	Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
5/3/2021	Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Devon Hedges, Schenectady County Public Library
	Marianne Milton, Wilkinson Memorial Book Station
5/4/2021	Kathleen Gundrum, Capital District Library Council
	Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/5/2021	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Member Library Board Presidents
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Chris Tague, New York State Assembly
	Mary Beth Walsh, New York State Assembly
	Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assembly
	Michelle Hinchey, New York State Senate
	Peter Oberacker, New York State Senate
	James Tedisco, New York State Senate
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/6/2021	MVLS Member Library Directors
5/7/2021	Bonnie Kerr
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
5/10/2021	Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development
	JA Council
5/11/2021	Foundation Board
	MVLS Staff
	MVLS Trustee Education Session
5/12/2021	Nicole Hauser, Gloversville Public Library
	HFM School Library System Council
	JA Council
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System
5/13/2021	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/14/2021	Foundation Board
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/17/2021	MVLS Board of Trustees
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
5/18/2021	Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
	Erica Wing, Johnstown Public Library
	MVLS Member Library Directors
	MVLS Trustee Education Session
	Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library

5/19/2021 MVLS Board of Trustees
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
Kim Zimmer, The Community Library

5/20/2021 Kristi Beedon, HFM BOCES SLS
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

5/21/2021 Capital District Library Council
MVLS Member Library Directors
Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library

5/24/2021 Mary Beth Farr, Division of Library Development

5/25/2021 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
MVLS Trustee Education Session
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System

5/26/2021 MVLS Trustee Education Session Amsterdam
Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library

5/27/2021 Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library
Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library

5/28/2021 Whitney Hubbard, Fort Plain Free Library
MVLS Member Library Directors
Kaela Wallman, Schenectady County Public Library
Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
Jennie Mosher, Schoharie Free Library
Dawn Lamphere, The Margaret Reaney Memorial Library