

## **Mohawk Valley Library System**

### **Director's Report**

**June 2021**

#### **Administration & Governance**

With the end of the COVID state of emergency in NYS, all library board meetings now have to be in-person, public meetings. We have shared this info with all MVLS libraries. The July 15 MVLS board meeting will be an in-person meeting held at the MVLS Service Center.

Proposed language for the MVLS Bylaws amendments has been shared with trustees and will be discussed at the July Meeting, in preparation for approval at the September board meeting. The proposed changes will align all MVLS trustee terms and officer terms with the calendar year. The calendar year is the official MVLS year for everything else. The amendments will also enable us to move the MVLS annual meeting to the fall.

To complete the change, we will also need to pass a resolution to extend all current trustee and officer terms to end on December 31 of the respective year rather than the current, less definite, "at the reorganizational meeting."

Please keep in mind that we will be developing the committee list at the July board meeting. The list of committee duties can be found at: <https://www.mvls.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/MVLS-Committee-Charges-rev-10-2017.pdf>. The old committee list is at: <https://www.mvls.info/board-of-trustees/committee-list/>. The goal is to have each trustee assigned to at least one committee. We will also need to appoint an alternate auditor. Our regular auditor is Rosemary Barger. The alternate auditor is sort of like a vice president; they take over if the regular auditor is unable to perform the necessary tasks. The role of the auditor is to give one final check to all expenditures, making sure all approvals are accounted for.

A draft job description for our new position will be on the agenda for action at the July board meeting. The working title is "Technology and Advancement Consultant." Members have let us know that they need assistance with non-JA technology issues, and with websites. We hope to post the opening before August, and to have the position filled before the end of the year.

We have come to an agreement with Elissa Kane to assist us with gathering input on MVLS services and on developing a strategic plan for the coming years. We will discuss this at the July meeting. We anticipate most of Elissa's work will happen in August and September.

#### **Automation and Resource Sharing**

The JA Council meeting has been changed to Tuesday, July 13, at 9:30 here at MVLS. Like all library meetings, the JA meetings are returning to the in-person format. An issue that will be under discussion is data breach insurance.

#### **Outreach, Adult and Youth Services**

The Adult and Family Literacy grants for 2020-2021 have been closed out. For Family Literacy, the emphasis was on updating and expanding the Start With Science kits. Family Literacy Funds were also spent to purchase materials for Storywalks that member libraries can borrow. The Adult Literacy project

was built around the Tech Savvy virtual programs organized by Jennie Mosher in Schoharie. Additional grant funds went toward Job Search toolkits, a print and digital resource for job seekers developed by the Westchester Library System and shared with us.

Five MVLS libraries – Cobleskill, Fort Hunter, Johnstown, Middleburgh and Schoharie - are participating in the 2021 Read it Forward initiative; a way to get teens involved in summer reading. This year's titles are *Ghost*, by Jason Reynolds, and *Warcross*, by Marie Lu.

Materials have been purchased for the Fulton, Montgomery and Schenectady County jails. Heather continues to work on re-establishing a working relationship with the Hale Creek state correctional facility.

### **Member Services**

The Foundation Annual Meeting panel discussion on “Library Programs in the time of COVID” was a big success. The Schoharie Free Library, Johnstown Public Library and Fort Plain Free Library program staff shared their experience in library programming in a time when gatherings were prohibited. The panelists all appreciated the opportunity to practice making presentations, and learned a lot from one another. We hope to do more such programs in the future.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the disruption caused by the ongoing Schoharie Free Library debacle. Multiple MVLS staff members are spending large swaths of their time dealing with various aspects of the crisis. Sharon is working on the library computer system complications caused by their irresponsible actions, Wade is working on communications issues, Heather is helping with summer reading programs, I have been dealing with governance issues and keeping DLD informed. It is all a lesson in the importance of library directors in keeping library service available to communities.

### **Advocacy & Awareness**

Plans are progressing well for the two Foundation golf tournaments for libraries, to be held on July 26 in Canajoharie and on September 17 in Johnstown. We are getting good participation from sponsors and teams are starting to sign up to play. These tournaments are the primary physical fundraising events for the Foundation for Mohawk Valley Libraries; we generally net between \$5,000 and \$8,000 each year on these tournaments. This money then supports Foundation grants to libraries. But the tournaments are also great opportunities for reminding businesses of the importance of libraries.

MVLS and the Foundation invite all member libraries to apply for community engagement and advocacy grants each January and July. Our deadline this summer is July 12. We are expecting 1-2 applications, which will be discussed and acted on at the July board meeting.

NYLA has released a summary of the current state of library legislation in New York State. Several important bills are awaiting the Governor's action. A copy of this document will be included with the board meeting materials.

### **Meetings, Contacts & Field Visits**

6/1/2021	MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Don LaPlant, Schoharie Free Library
6/2/2021	JA Committee

6/3/2021	Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill MVLS Member Library Directors
6/4/2021	Particia Clancy Woodlawn Branch Opening Cobleskill Planning Meeting
6/7/2021	Dusty Putnam Particia Clancy Cathy Caiazzo MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill Suzan Friedlander, The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
6/8/2021	Particia Clancy Elissa Kane, Kane & Lekakis Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill
6/9/2021	Particia Clancy Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors Schoharie Board Meeting Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library
6/10/2021	Particia Clancy
6/11/2021	Particia Clancy Foundation Board MVLS Board of Trustees
6/14/2021	Particia Clancy Maria Cancro, Canajoharie Library & Art Gallery Kathryn McCary, Law Office of Kathryn McCary MVLS Member Library Directors NYLA - Jeremy Johannesen Jennie Mosher, Schoharie Free Library
6/15/2021	Particia Clancy Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library MVLS Member Library Directors
6/16/2021	Particia Clancy Elissa Kane, Kane & Lekakis MVLS Member Library Board Presidents MVLS Member Library Directors
6/17/2021	Don LaPlant April Davies Susan London MVLS Board of Trustees MVLS Workshop – Virtual Programs Panel

6/18/2021	Jennie Mosher, Schoharie Free Library Nicole Hemsley, Amsterdam Free Library Capital District Library Council Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Jennie Mosher, Schoharie Free Library
6/22/2021	Particia Clancy MVLS Member Library Directors Colleen Smith, New York Library Association
6/23/2021	Terry Pavoldi, Middleburgh Public Library Colleen Smith, New York Library Association Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
6/24/2021	MVLS Member Library Directors Karen Bradley, Schenectady County Public Library Edward Asselin, SUNY Cobleskill
6/25/2021	Particia Clancy Beverly Osborne Elissa Kane, Kane & Lekakis MVLS Member Library Directors Michael Burnett, Northville Public Library Jermei Johannesen, NYLA Helen Thomas, Sharon Springs Library Kim Zimmer, The Community Library
6/28/2021	MVLS Member Library Directors
6/30/2021	Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System Kim Zimmer, The Community Library