

Mid-Hudson Library System Board Meeting Director's Report September 2006

Construction: We have begun the application process for the distribution of the \$500,000 in state construction funds. In the past we divided the available funds evenly based on the number of applications. With this amount of funding, we expect the process to be more complicated.

Technology: With the extra one shot money we received this year in state aid, we had said we would use about \$30,000 for new modules. The Directors voted to buy the Spell Check feature for the OPAC and the Ecommerce module that would allow people to pay fines and bills online using a credit card. The Directors asked us to present a selection of federated search products. A federated search allows users to search the OPAC, web, electronic databases etc, in one search.

Group Buy: We have negotiated a deal with Dell for a group buy on computers and monitors.

Intern: A SUNY Albany library school student will be doing an internship at MHLS this fall. She will be working on developing targeted adult programming.

Saland: Senator Steve Saland divided \$350,000 for capital improvements among the libraries in his district. This includes most Dutchess county libraries and all of Columbia County. We held press conferences at PPLD and Claverack Library.

CE: Fall is back to school time and MHLS will be holding a number of continuing education events including our Essentials and Advanced Board trainings, workshops on Green Buildings, Friends Matter, Fall Into Books and a Board Leadership session on Legal issues.

Communication Technology: With Outreach money we have supported the purchase of Interpretive Technology which makes it possible for someone who is hearing impaired or speaks Spanish to communicate with library staff.

Gates Grant: Another Gates Grant will support a program of assisting library staff in working with Spanish speaking patrons. Staff from around the state will attend a *Train the Trainer* session and will be expected to present three workshops on this topic. Meribeth Advocate and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich will be attending this for MHLS.

The list below includes documents & information that are to be placed in the permanent record. Board members may request copies of documents by contacting Peggy on ext. 16 pwinn@midhudson.org.

Member Memos:

- #06-08: Registration for the October 12th FRIENDS MATTER Event
- #06-09: Outreach Grants/Group Purchase of Interpretive Assistive Technology for Face-to-Face Communication
- #06-10: Millennium Products
- #06-11: Discounted subscription to TumbleBooks children's literature online
- #06-12: PC Group Buy

Correspondence Received:

- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Carolyn Macarille, Saugerties Public Library, for her presentation at the library on database usage.
- Thank you note to Josh Cohen from Cassie Artale, Library Development, for providing a reference leading to a promotion, and a special thank you to Merribeth Advocate for her assistance in planning the Statewide Outreach meeting.

- Email from NYSERDA representative, Mary Gordon, to Linda Vittone, praising Chris Herron, for his conscientious assistance during the energy audit.
- Thank you letter to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Betsy Morris, Assistant Director of the Pioneer Library System, for the informative and interesting *Friends Group* workshop she presented on July 21.
- August edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's "*On the Shelves*" with reviews by Howland Public Library Director, Phyllis Keaton.
- Letter of appreciation to Deb Begley from Par Kumar, President Friends of the Staatsburg Library, for her input and support of the libraries *Murder Mystery Dinner Night*.
- Thank you note to Josh Cohen from Sara McCain, Division of Library Development, for his work in organizing two NOVEL database focus groups in Highland.
- Article from the August 25, edition of The Independent re: Senator Saland's capital improvement grants to Columbia County libraries.
- September edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's feature "*On the Shelves*" contributed by Ellen Tannenbaum, Director Dover Plains Library.

Other Reports:

- Staff Library Visits Report