

Mid-Hudson Library System Board Meeting Director's Report July 2007

Construction: We have set a deadline of August 3 for libraries wishing to submit an application for some of the state construction funds. The Incentives Committee will meet and make recommendations for funding which will be brought to the board for approval in September. We have told the libraries that their applications need to be complete with all the required attachments by August 3. We also need clear evidence of matching funds.

Technology: We had another problem with a bad disk, so we moved the migration to the server up a few days. The migration took place with few problems, thanks to Sanjay and Laurie. We have also implemented, after many setbacks and delays, the teleform system that automates calls to patrons regarding holds and overdues. We have also turned on E-Commerce which allows patrons to pay fines and charges with a credit card. With the new server in place, we can now switch to WebPac Pro which provides for priority ranking of search results and spell check.

CE: What began as a spring meeting of our correctional facility librarians has grown into a regional conference coordinated by Merrieth Advocate. This year, we had people from around the region with a program on dealing with mental health issues. Both the Assistant Commissioner for Corrections and Jean Botta, Correctional Library Coordinator, praised Merrieth and the Mid-Hudson Library System for this program. As part of our Plan of Service, we said we work to increase CE to front line staff. In May, we held several workshops for them including workshops by Sue Hermans (funded under the Central Library Program) on *Tips and Tricks for Front line staff* in one series and *Advanced Techniques* in another. She held five sessions of each. In addition, under the Gates funding, Merrieth and Rebekkah did workshops on *Serving Spanish Language Patrons* and a series on *Quick Answers* where we have set up a Web page with frequently asked reference questions with links to the answers.

Growth Cycle: As part of our Advanced Trustee series we used the Growth Cycle chart. We had strong turnouts at both sessions and most participants seemed to see this as a valuable tool.

America Library Association : Margaret Keefe, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and I attended the ALA conference in Washington. I met with our Innovative Representative about new products and also talked to her about the program she will present at our Annual Meeting. I attended two programs on the use of library space, which provided several ideas about more effective use of space. I also went to a program on *Delivery*. Another interesting program was on *GASP* (Graphics, Ambiance, Style Presentation) which promoted having a coherent theme for your library. The next generation Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs) will feature faceted searching, and I attended a program on *Authority Control and Facets* which discussed issues in implementing a faceted search.

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:

- #07-08: Bulk Order of Delivery Slips
- #07-09: SAM upgrade
- #07-10: Print Copy of "Public Library Law in New York State"

Correspondence Received:

- Article from the Poughkeepsie Journal dated 5/4/07 by Josh Cohen re: Senator Saland's member item grant to help underwrite the cost of the System's new computer server.
- May edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's "*On the Shelves*" contributed by Phyllis Keaton, Director of the Howland Public Library.

- Thank you note to Josh Cohen from Julie Hamrah Johnson, Director Kinderhook Memorial Library, for his visit to the library to discuss special districts.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Bruce George, Director Kingston Library, for conducting part of their Staff Development Day.
- Article from the “Beacon Free Press” dated 5/16 re: the Howland Library’s summer Teen Intern Program.
- Thank you letter to Josh Cohen from Patti Haar, Director Patterson Library & President Putnam County Libraries Association, for his attendance and participation at the PCLA’s Annual meeting.
- The June edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal’s feature “*On the Shelves*” contributed by Ellen Tannenbaum, Director Dover Plains Library.
- Thank you note to Deb Begley, Print Services Manager, from Elizabeth Powhida, for her excellent work on the Valatie and Kinderhook fliers and newsletters.
- Article from “Library HOTLINE” dated May 21 re: Supreme Court ruling requiring the Town of Philipstown’s payment of the full funding increase to the Butterfield Library.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Poughkeepsie Public Library District Friends Board member, Terri O’Shea, for help in preparing their strategic plan.
- Thank you note to Sanjay Dabhi from Lee Eaton, Director Beekman Library, for his assistance in getting the library’s computer up and running.
- Thank you letters to MerriBeth Advocate and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Laura Staley, Project Coordinator, for their participation and contributions as trainers in the Spanish Language Outreach Program.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MerriBeth Advocate and Josh Cohen from Greta Boeringer, Director Hudson Area Association Library, for the Advanced Trustee Education Session held at the Catskill Public Library on June 9.
- Thank you note to Josh Cohen, from Sherry Haluska, Director Saugerties Public Library, for the creation and distribution of the “Library Growth Cycle Chart”.

Other Reports:

- Staff Library Visits Report