

Executive Director's Report November 2019

Census 2020

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that New York State will invest \$60 million in promoting Census 2020 activities statewide. A large portion of the funding (\$40 million) will be directed to marketing/awareness activities that will occur through statewide agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. The remaining \$20 million will support efforts by community based organizations (CBOs) and nonprofits that work in hard to count communities and are partnered with their local public library to provide census support. The details on how to apply for the available funds and when the funds will be released have not yet been provided.

The candidate for the Census Coordinator position at WLS is in process of being hired and is expected to begin in early December. This six-month, 15-hour-per-week position will support the Census activities that will occur at the member libraries. This individual will assist in identifying and addressing training and technology support needs at each of the member libraries.

On December 18th WLS is hosting a Digital Equity Lab train-the-trainer workshop focused on digital census preparation. The workshop will provide guidance on how to effectively incorporate the best practices identified in their newly released manual: *Preparing for the First Digital Census*. WLS staff, including the Census Coordinator, will participate in this workshop and will develop training programs for member library staff to be conducted from January to March 2020.

A good resource for keeping up-to-date on Census-related activities in New York libraries is Census 2020 for New York Libraries at <https://libguides.senylrc.org/Census2020/home>.

Information Technology (IT) Services Update

Responses to the three IT audit Requests for Proposal (RFP) have been received and are under review. The audits address three core activities: virtualization desktop infrastructure (VDI) environment; network operations, structure and security; and IT operations. In addition, WLS IT staff is currently scheduling site visits at each of the 44 library locations and, with the assistance of an outside network consultant, will examine and test the WLS network equipment at each site.

Lindsay Stratton, our new System Librarian, is spending time familiarizing herself with the WLS environment. The primary objective is the juvenile fine issue that is currently a problem for the libraries. After this is addressed, there will be reports generated that will separate all libraries and list all of their policies. This will help inform the libraries of all rules associated with each institution and therefore help to remove and update unnecessary ones. She will also be working on a roadmap for the next year in order to keep track of all major work that will be happening on the Integrated Library System (ILS).

One Book Westchester

The goal of *One Book Westchester* is to promote literacy throughout Westchester County by focusing on local authors who highlight the County's history as well as celebrate its diversity and shared vision of a better life. This literacy initiative is sponsored by the Westchester County Executive's Office, WLS,

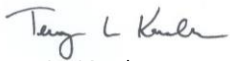
Chappaqua Children's Book Festival and BOCES. The books and authors were selected for three different age groups to widen the appeal of the initiative. *Dear George, Dear Mary: A Novel of George Washington's First Love*, by Mary Calvi (Yonkers resident), was selected for adult readers. *The Night Diary*, by Veera Hiranandani (Hastings-on-Hudson resident), was selected for young adult/middle school readers. With a wide range of titles written in English and Spanish, author and illustrator Eric Velasquez (Hartsdale resident) was selected as the elementary school author. The Westchester County Executive George Latimer made an official announcement about *One Book Westchester* during a press conference held at the Crestwood Branch of the Yonkers Public Library on Thursday, November 21st. The literacy initiative's activities will take place throughout 2020 with events that are held in different locations countywide. WLS is currently hosting the *One Book Westchester* website which can be accessed at <http://1bookwestchester.org/>.

Future Events

2020

January 24-28	American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting – Philadelphia, PA
February 25	New York Library Association (NYLA) Library Advocacy Day – Albany, NY
February 25-29	Public Library Association (PLA) Conference – Nashville, TN

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director