
Executive Director's Report

September 2015

(covering time period of June 22 – September 23, 2015)

Member Library News

A number of special events were celebrated during the summer. Bedford Hills Free Library enjoyed their Centennial Celebration in June with live music, special programs, and other fun activities.

The Mount Vernon Public Library Foundation held its *Light the Night with Literacy Gala* on August 26th. This year's honorees were recognized for their exemplary community leadership, and I was flattered to be one of the honorees. The other honorees included Camille Banks-Lee, former President of the Mount Vernon Public Library Foundation and former Executive Director for the City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau, and Kenneth C. Davis, bestselling author of *Don't Know Much® About History: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned*. The event was very inspirational, and I extend my congratulations to all those who contributed to this special evening.

The Harrison Public Library had an open house on August 26th as a preview to their Grand Opening held on September 12th of their newly-renovated main library. The transformation of space, use of color, and state-of-the-art equipment will certainly afford Harrison's library community a wonderful facility both now and for the future.

Barbara Lilley, Westchester's Regional Representative from New York State Library's Division of Library Development, visited both the New Rochelle Public Library and Mount Vernon Public Library on September 23rd. This visit focused on general questions related to library construction activities and State requirements such as the registration of the Mount Vernon Public Library as a school district public library.

WLS Budget FY2016

Budget preparations are currently underway. New York State Library Aid for FY2015-16 was finally released at the end of August along with official allocation figures. Work continues with the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) eContent Committee and Technology Committee to identify future needs and goals. WLS Chief Financial Officer Fran Feuerman is working with the WLS Managers to help identify program opportunities and objectives for the coming year.

WLS Integrated Library System Update

Since last year, WLS has been diligently working toward achieving the various criteria stipulated with the approval of the contract renewal with SirsiDynix.

In order to improve the customer experience on the SirsiDynix, WLS has invested in a discovery layer program to enhance the user experience and to add enriched content to make the catalog more engaging. In June 2015, the WLS Board approved the purchase of NoveList Plus and NoveList Select. These products upgraded the current standalone product NoveList and allowed for full product integration into the WLS online catalog, increasing the coverage from 259,000 to 387,000 adult and K-8 fiction and non-fiction titles; from 57,000 to 108,000 authors; and adding 39,000 audiobooks.

In order to expand the public's awareness of public library materials, the Board also approved the purchase of Zepheira. Zepheira is a leading provider of software and services designed to help their clients make information available and more prominent on the Web. WLS is one of the first four participants in their Experimenter Program. This program will build awareness of the power of Linked Data through education and training; provide an assessment of WLS's MARC data; and will develop a pilot to experiment with publishing Linked Data on the Web. Upon discovery of library materials, users are automatically redirected to the Library's catalog or Discovery Layer for further action.

In addition, WLS has hired Melissa Glazer in Cataloging to help "clean up" our metadata to improve searching and Allison Midgley in Information Technology to initiate a training program for library staff to ensure optimal usage of the SirsiDynix software and new features. Quarterly meetings with our Sirsi representative have begun and have been helpful in addressing new developments and other concerns.

While work continues, steady progress is being made and significant steps have resulted in addressing issues regarding access to patron history profiles and ADA compliance.

New Media Consortium (NMC) Horizon Report > 2015 Library Edition

The recently released [NMC Horizon Report > 2015 Library Edition](#) examines the impact of key trends, challenges and technology developments on libraries. The report's primary focus is academic and research libraries, but its findings are equally relevant to public libraries. The two key long-term trends faced by libraries include increasing the accessibility of content and rethinking library spaces to foster more hands-on activities and training opportunities.

The Report also identifies challenges and upcoming technology developments. The first challenge is to improve digital literacy among library professionals and the communities served. The second challenge is the need to embrace radical change in libraries. This concept is very hard to define, but the ultimate goal is for libraries to be organized in ways that enable them to continually innovate and cater to communities' expectations.

The technology developments expected to evolve within the next 1-2 years are makerspaces and online learning. Developments within the next 2-3 years are the semantic Web and Linked Data. Within 4-5 years, Location Intelligence is expected to be fully integrated into academic and research library, but public libraries are already experimenting in this area. Some member libraries are exploring opt-in features of mobile apps that would push out location-based notices such as items on hold available for pick-up, a book on a patron's wish list now available on the new books shelf.

WLS and the member libraries have proactively been addressing the issues identified, and we will continue to be actively engaged with the major concepts identified in this Report.

WLS Lease

Work continues with Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) on test fits for potential leasing properties. This has been an excellent opportunity to redefine our staff work spaces and public training facilities as a significant step in working towards our mission. We are seeking to create a space that will offer us the flexibility to accommodate emerging service and programming needs, technology innovations and general trends in public library operations. We are looking to present the options to the WLS Board at the October meeting.

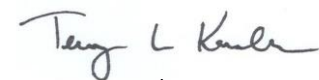
WLS Upcoming Events

The WLS Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th, at the Westchester Marriott. This year's meeting will not be your usual Annual Meeting. A panel of libraries in Westchester who have used collaboration, WLS leverage, and creativity to engage their communities with programs that foster learning, inquiry and discovery will be speaking about their experiences in starting cutting edge initiatives. The program is expected to begin at 7 p.m. and will include a brief WLS Business Meeting with election of WLS Trustees, and refreshments and networking will follow. Invitations will be sent soon, and all are welcome to join us.

Future Events

October 17 WLS Battle of the Books – Ossining High School
November 5 WLS Annual Meeting – Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown
April 13, 2016 WLS Breakfast with Barney Frank – Tappan Hill, Tarrytown

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

June 22 – September 23, 2015

JUNE

- 22 Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
Ed Falcone, Director, Yonkers Public Library
- 23 Joe Levy, Sales Representative, Recorded Books
Mark Rollins, Insurance Review
New York State Office of State Comptroller Audit Introductory Meeting
- 24 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Board Meeting
Pat Braja, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
PAC Conference Call
NPW Meeting
WLS Trustee Institute: *Renovation or New Construction: Lessons from the Field on making the Right Decision*, Dobbs Ferry Public Library
- 25 Public Forum on Family Issues, The Field Library, Peekskill
- 29 Katherine Hite, Executive Director, Patrick Raftery, Librarian, Westchester Historical Society;
Elise Burke, WLS Executive Assistant
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 30 NPW Programming
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)
WLS Executive Committee
WLS Board Meeting

JULY

- 1 Pat Braja, Director of Development
- 2 Webinar: *Overview of my E-Verify*
- 7 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
NPW Networking Event, White Plains
- 8 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
- 9-16 Vacation
- 20 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 21 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) Conference Call
- 22 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Emily Sementilli, E-book Sales Manager; Trent Endsley, Inside Sales Manager, Public Libraries / Gale Cengage
- 23 Westchester Disability Advocacy Partnership (WDAC)/Americans with Disabilities Act: ADA 25
Yesterday and Tomorrow, White Plains
Leading & Executing Change: An Interactive Workshop @ WLS
Paulette Pellani, Program Administrator, Professional Development Center, Westchester Community College
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
- 24 Teal Postula, Director of Interior Design, Dennis Noskin Architects
- 27 METRO Digitization Opportunities Meeting
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

JULY (continued)

28-30 PULISDO Conference – Vernon Downs, NY

31 Mark Jacobs, Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) Conference Call

AUGUST

3 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

4 Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Libraries

5 Pat Braja, Director of Development

Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing

Rob Caluori, Director of IT

6 Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services

7 Webinar: *Back to the Future: Learning with ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries*

10 Mount Vernon Public Library Trustee Training for Sean McIntyre

11 Rob Caluori, Director of IT

Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

12 Pat Braja, Director of Development

Webinar: *Mindfulness: The Essential Foundation of Sustainable Personal Change*

Mike James, Sales Manager, K12 & Public Libraries; Matt Antonucci/Ebsco

WLS Executive Committee

13 Westchester Library Association Board Meeting, White Plains Public Library

Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)

Sean McGowan, Brodart

14 Teal Postula, Director of Interior Design, Dennis Noskin Architects

17 Jill Rosenberg, Vice President, Treasury Sales/Chase Bank; Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

18 Rob Caluori, Director of IT

Webinar: *Data for the Non-Data Librarian*

Luke Vander Linden, WLS Trustee, Pat Braja, Director of Development

19 Pat Braja, Director of Development

Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing

New Yorkers For Better Libraries Conference Call

Webinar: *The Impact of Preparedness on the Bottom Line*

Mark Jacobs, Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) Conference Call

20 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call

Elena Falcone, Director, PIE

Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services

24 Mirela Roncevic, Director, Content & Publisher Relations, Total Boox, Ltd.

25 Rob Caluori, Director of IT

Brian Medeiros, All Island Courier

26 Harrison Public Library Renovation Special Preview

Pat Braja, Director of Development

Webinar: *Change Your Data Story* with Speaker: Lori Jacobwith

Mount Vernon Public Library Foundation Light the Night with Literacy Gala, New Rochelle

27 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call

ACRL-Choice Webinar: Energize STEM Learning with Maker Spaces

Elena Falcone, Director, PIE

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Laura Wolven, Director, The Field Library, Peekskill
Pat Braja, Director of Development
- 2 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Grants Committee Meeting
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Chris Herpers, Regional Sales Manager, OverDrive
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 3 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, PIE
- 8 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
PULISDO Conference Call
- 9 Pat Braja, Director of Development
PULISDO Subcommittee on Group Purchasing
Same/Single Sign-on and Active Directory Project Discussion
- 10 Hudson Valley Greater Chamber of Commerce: Breakfast with NY Senator Terrance Murphy,
Cortland
Advisory Board for the Nonprofit Management Certificate at Manhattanville College, Purchase
Elena Falcone, Director, PIE
Webinar: *Growing Through Conflict: Healthy Workplace Communication*
Mamadou Barry, Associate Examiner Office of the State Comptroller; Fran Feuerman, WLS
CFO
- 14 PLDA e-Content Committee
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 15 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 16 New Yorkers for Better Libraries Conference Call
Bill Davison, Chief Executive Officer; Sheridan Richey, Vice President of Software
Development/SirsiDynix
- 17 PLDA General Membership Meeting @ WLS
- 18-21 Vacation
- 22 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Carolyn Morris, Sales Manager, BiblioLabs
- 23 Pat Braja, Director of Development
Barbara Lilley, Library Development Specialist & WLS Regional Consultant, New York State
Library Division of Library Development, Visits to New Rochelle Public Library and Mount
Vernon Public Library