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## **Executive Director's Report October 2015**

**(covering time period of September 24 – October 21, 2015)**

### *WLS 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

This year's Annual Meeting includes a special interactive presentation and panel discussion on *Library Trends: New Ideas to Engage Your Community*. The following libraries will be sharing stories from their innovative community engagement programs:

THE FIELD LIBRARY (Peekskill): How a system-wide collaboration engaged 4<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders in reading for fun and competition that led to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Battle of the Books. In addition, The Field Library will discuss their teen programs funded through mini-grants—including a three-week program that incorporated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning with Fashion and Design and took advantage of the University of Fashion database.

THE WARNER LIBRARY (Tarrytown): How a mini-grant program used gaming software to inspire teens to design a revitalization plan for the village train station. Student teams will design and build a model village to present to the Village of Tarrytown as part of the public input for sustainable development in a rapidly growing area.

WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC LIBRARY: How makerspaces and a designated teen area—THE EDGE—has transformed teen programming and inspired new directions for all programs.

HENDRICK HUDSON FREE LIBRARY (Montrose): How community programs funded with mini-grants represent a new trend in libraries—and engaged adults in creative programs that inspired them to become part of the action. Their mini-grant provided seed money to develop what has now become community theatre in the library—engaging participants and building a diverse audience.

Come and learn more about how these libraries identified the needs of their community; fostered community engagement; leveraged local support and advocacy; and measured their project's impact and outcomes.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. with welcoming remarks and a brief WLS Business Meeting with election of WLS Trustees. Refreshments and networking will follow. Please RSVP to Elise Burke [914-231-3225; [eburke@wlsmail.org](mailto:eburke@wlsmail.org)] or via the [WLS Evanced calendar](#).

### Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE)

Participation in Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) was established through NYS Executive Law, Article 15-1, NYCRR Part 143. The Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (DMWBD) helps promote equality of economic opportunities for M/WBEs and the elimination of barriers to their participation in state contracts. In addition, DMWBD provides resources that increase access to information and opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses throughout the State.

In June, the New York State (NYS) Library Division of Library Development (DLD) announced to the Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) that all NYS grant programs would be required to participate in the M/WBE initiative. This included the State Aid for Library Construction Program as of 2015-2018 with a 30% minimum M/WBE participation requirement for grant awards in the amount of \$25,000 and up. A number of concerns were raised by PULISDO regarding the implementation of this requirement in accordance with the construction grant time frame, online application process, and other legal considerations.

After further review, the State Education Department determined in late September that M/WBE participation will not be required as a condition for the State Aid for Library Construction Program—because Library Construction Aid is formula-driven State aid and not a grant program.

As always, libraries and library systems should comply with their local procurement processes, including any local M/WBE requirements that exist. In addition, M/WBE participation should be encouraged when participating in competitive grant applications. Although “low bid” provisions of General Municipal Law section 103 might make M/WBE participation difficult to achieve, this section was recently amended to permit “best value” procurements, which should help in meeting M/WBE goals.

The deadline for submission of the 2015-2018 State Aid for Library Construction Program applications to Albany was extended to October 15<sup>th</sup>, and all WLS applications were submitted on time.

### WLS Lease

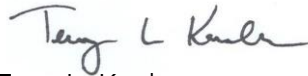
WLS's lease at 540 WPR expires at the end of June 2016. WLS continues to consider various properties (including the space we currently occupy) to determine what will be the best fit over the next several years.

Teal Postula from Dennis Noskin Architects has been developing test fit drawings in accordance with our staff work space and public training facility needs for each location. Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) continues to gather additional information to help establish a comparable set of cost criteria for the potential leasing properties.

**Future Events**

- November 5        WLS Annual Meeting and Library Trends Presentation – Westchester Marriott,  
                          Tarrytown
- April 13, 2016    WLS Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast with Barney Frank –  
                          Tappan Hill, Tarrytown

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
*Executive Director*

**LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED**  
**September 24 – October 21, 2015**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 24 White Plains Public Library Strategic Planning Meeting  
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)  
Nate Hill, Executive Director, Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), at WLS  
WLS Development Committee
- 28 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 29 Planning for an Extra Long Life  
Chris Harris, Vice President of Sales, SirsiDynix  
Fran Feuerman, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)  
WLS Executive Committee  
WLS Board Meeting
- 30 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Board Meeting  
Pat Braja, Director of Development  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
WLS Staff Meeting  
Teal Postula, Director of Interior Design, Dennis Noskin Architects, Tarrytown

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services  
Gallin Beeler Design Studio Open House, Irvington
- 2 Katherine Vander Vennet, Executive Vice President of Sales, Awe and Wonder, ZooBean
- 5-9 Vacation
- 13 Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)  
Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) Conference Call
- 14 Pat Braja, Director of Development  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
Mark Jacobs, Jones Lange Lasalle (JLL) Conference Call  
Ramapo-Catskill Library System Trustee Institute, Middletown, NY
- 15 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) General Membership Meeting at WLS
- 16-23 Vacation