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## **Executive Director's Report**

### **June 2017**

**(covering time period of May 25 – June 16, 2017)**

#### *NYS Aid for Public Library Construction*

Part of the approved FY2017-2018 New York State budget included an increase to State Library Construction Aid to a total of \$24 Million. New York State Library Division of Library Development (DLD) informed WLS that the System's total allocation for the 2017-2020 program cycle is \$1,122,684. The allocation is formula driven based on a System's service area population and represents an increase of 26% over the FY2016-2017 allocation of \$888,790.

Grant award notifications for the 2016-2019 program cycle were sent in late May; and the online portal for the 2017-2020 cycle is now open and available via the [State Library's construction webpage](#). WLS is working with the Public Library Directors' Association (PLDA) to update the guidelines and procedures that will be used by the PLDA Grants Committee to evaluate and rate this year's construction aid applications. More detailed instructions for the 2017-2020 application process will be sent out by the end of the month.

#### *Member Library and Other Public Library System Visits*

I attended the Larchmont Public Library's Mini-Grant Culmination Event, *Acting for Seniors*, that was held on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This event was funded through a WLS Creative Aging mini-grant made possible with financial sponsorship provided by the Westchester Community Foundation. Each participant wrote and then acted out a scene that represented an aspect of their identity, personality or life history that they wanted to explore and share. Each performance offered an opportunity to learn more about the participants and how their life experiences have impacted their personal development, their family dynamics and their interactions with society. The participants had clearly bonded as a social support network for each other, and they expressed how helpful it was to have the library's resources and support as they engaged in this project.

On June 12-13, I visited the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) and made presentations on self-assessment and evaluation approaches for library boards and directors at the Lake Placid Public Library and at their system headquarters. The presentations offered an opportunity to discuss challenges of the evaluation process faced by library trustees and directors and to explore options that might work more effectively as libraries move their strategic initiatives forward. While at CEFLS, I also had the chance to meet with System staff to learn about their new initiatives related to helping libraries and communities prepare for natural disasters and to cope with and ideally prevent drug addictions. My visit also included a visit to the Plattsburgh

Public Library which serves as the System's Central Library for their member libraries in the three-county service area.

### **WLS Trustee Institutes & Trustee Oaths**

The WLS Trustee Institute regarding Financial Statements with Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer, took place at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak on June 7<sup>th</sup>. WLS Trustee Dave Donelson along with 26 participants from 14 member libraries were in attendance. The financial overview provided a good opportunity for discussion among participants about their current practices, challenges and best practices.

The next event will feature WLS Board President Cathy Draper regarding effective board meetings. The program will be held on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, NY, with a light dinner beginning at 6 p.m. and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Detailed invitations will be sent after the summer, but you can register online now for this event via the [WLS Evanced calendar](#).

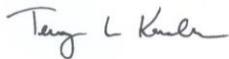
Since many library trustee terms begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the NYS DLD sent a reminder via NYLINE regarding the requirement for all public library trustees (not association library trustees) to take an oath of office within 30 days of beginning their term of office [New York State Public Officer's Law §10]. Public library trustees are public officers and the oath of office is required to officially undertake and perform the duties of a public library trustee. If a public library trustee does not properly complete and file an oath of office, the trustee's position may be deemed vacant [Public Officer's Law §30(1)(h)].

Additional information about how the oath is administered and filed can be found on the [New York State Library website](#).

### **Future Events**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| June 22-27  | American Library Association (ALA) Conference – McCormick Place, Chicago, IL |
| October 21  | WLS Battle of the Books – Location TBD                                       |
| November 17 | WLS Annual Meeting – Location TBD  |

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED  
May 25 – June 16, 2017

**MAY**

- 25 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center: Westchester Free Reading Zone, West Harrison  
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
- 26 Daniel Sabol, Director, Pound Ridge Library
- 30 United Way LEARN Group Meeting  
WLS Board
- 31 Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
Tomorrow's Genius  
Summer at the Library

**JUNE**

- 1 Mini-Grant Culmination Event, Larchmont Public Library's Acting for Seniors
- 2 Anthony Harris, AIA, LEED, CDT & Cliff Bollman, AIA, Senior Associate/Gensler  
Joanna Straub, Executive Director, Nonprofit Westchester (NPW)
- 5 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 6 Adult Services Librarians  
Webinar 101: *Overcoming Barriers: How to Grow Successful Board Structures and Behaviors*  
Public Library System Directors (PULISDO) and NYS Library Division of Library Development  
Conference Call
- 7 Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
Webinar: *LLAMA: Evidence-based Advocacy at National, State and Local Levels*  
WLS Trustee Institute re Financial Statements with Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer,  
John C. Hart Memorial Library, Shrub Oak
- 8 Westchester Library Association (WLA) Luncheon  
WLS Central Library Study Committee
- 9 Webinar: *If You're Not Outside Your Comfort Zone, You Won't Learn Anything!*
- 12-14 Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System Conference Presentation
- 15 Booksite Training  
Joe Levy, Sales Representative, Recorded Books
- 16 Westchester County Family Task Force, White Plains  
Jim Irvine, Director, Corporate Education & Continuing Professional Education