

Executive Director's Report September 2016 (covering time period of June 18 – September 16, 2016)

WLS Move Update

The WLS Headquarters opened for business on Friday, July 1st, at our new location, 570 Taxter Road, Suite 400, Elmsford, NY 10523. There were moments when it appeared that we might have a delayed opening, but the WLS staff and our outside contractors worked well together and were able to open on schedule. The BASF employees at our former location were also extremely helpful and accommodating as we prepared to leave that facility – and their assistance was also greatly appreciated.

As with any construction project, there are still a few more items to purchase as we settle into our new space; and we continue to work with Keystone Properties to address the remaining punch list items. New office desks, cubicles and chairs were purchased; and the training, conference and innovation lab spaces have been furnished with new tables and chairs that are actually easy to move – a big improvement over the furniture that we used in our former space!

I extend a special note of appreciation to the WLS Board for allowing this relocation to take place and to the WLS staff for their efforts to make the move a success.

WLS Annual Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th, from 9 to 10:30 AM in the WLS Conference Room and will be followed immediately by the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Meeting. The guest speaker will be Ms. Alison Macrina, a librarian, privacy activist, and the founder and director of the [Library Freedom Project](#). In this role, Ms. Macrina advocates for intellectual freedom in libraries by teaching librarians and their local communities about surveillance threats, privacy rights and law, and privacy-protecting technology tools to help safeguard digital freedoms. At this event, Ms. Macrina will address the challenge of maintaining library patron privacy in a world that uses personal data to create better user experiences. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

State and County Funding Update

By the end of August, WLS received most of its New York State Library Aid for the 4/1/2016-3/31/2017 fiscal year. The late arrival of the New York State Library Aid has become the new normal, and WLS has worked to adjust the budgeting and cash flow timelines to minimize the impact of this anticipated payment delay.

In a recent Nonprofit Westchester (NPW) meeting with Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer, and I learned that the County Executive Rob Astorino is

striving to maintain flat funding for nonprofits, including WLS, in the County's proposed 2017 budget. On the one hand, this is great news and highlights the important role that WLS and other nonprofits play to improve the quality of life for all Westchester County residents. On the other hand, we need to keep in mind that flat funding limits opportunities for growth, especially in light of upcoming increases in minimum wage, ongoing escalations in operating expenses, greater demand for services and emerging needs and trends. However, I also see many new opportunities for WLS to collaborate with other community partners and to find ways to maximize our shared abilities to better serve Westchester County's residents.

WLS Community Partnerships & Activities

Over the last few months, WLS has worked more closely with the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) and has become a Community Partner for one program in particular, JBFC Kids. This program is designed to deepen the experience of young film viewers (ages 3-13) and their families. The JBFC Kids theater-going experience will include free hands-on, drop-in activities on selected Saturdays as well as a full roster of courses and workshops that will promote digital and media literacy for youth. To date, JBFC has provided complimentary basic membership privileges to WLS and member library staff and has set aside a limited number of complimentary cinema tickets for staff to attend specific viewings; and WLS has assisted JBFC with the distribution of their program materials to the member libraries. WLS and JBFC staff are scheduled to discuss potential professional development workshops that could be offered to better support the member libraries' film collections and programming activities.

In July, the Digital Arts Experience (DAE) celebrated its 4th anniversary with an open house, and it selected WLS to receive \$1,000 in proceeds that it raised on our behalf. Through funding provided via the WLS Minigrants, DAE has helped many of the member libraries offer innovative and well-received Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs designed for middle school and high school aged youth. With the creation of the Innovation Lab in our new office space, WLS is exploring professional development opportunities with DAE that would support member libraries' efforts to expand the use of existing computer labs and makerspaces (or to help create such spaces in libraries).

Over the next few months, I will provide more examples of how WLS is working with community partners to support member libraries and the communities they serve.

Professional Reading on Public Libraries

The Pew Research Center Internet, Science & Tech recently released two trends reports of particular interest to public libraries. The first report, [*Book Reading 2016*](#), noted that a growing number of Americans are reading e-books on tablets and smartphones rather than dedicated e-readers. In addition, print books are still more popular than digital formats such as e-books and audio books. In the 12-month period that was used for the study, the researchers found that 73% of U.S. adults polled indicated that they had read a book in any format—65% had read a print book, 28% had read an e-book and 14% had listened to an audio book.

For individuals who had read an e-book, 15% used a tablet computer, 8% used a dedicated e-book reader, 11% used a desktop or laptop computer and 13% used a cellphone. Between 2011 and 2016, the study noted that percentage of U.S. adults reading on tablet computers jumped from 4% to 15%, desktop or laptop reading moved from 7% to 11%, dedicated e-readers increased from 7%

to 8% and cell phones went from 5% to 13%. The researchers noted that about 20% of the U.S. adult population under the age of 50 have used a cellphone to read e-books.

In terms of why the reading occurred, the study reported that the percentage of U.S. adults who read for work or school was 57%, for pleasure was 80%, to keep up with current events was 82% and to research specific topics of interest was 84%. This study provides a snapshot into the reading habits of U.S. adults and can serve as a framework for member libraries as they develop their collection management priorities and budgets.

The second report, [Libraries 2016](#), noted that trends in visiting public libraries have steadied and many Americans have high expectations for what their local libraries should offer. The percentage of U.S. adults aged 16 or older who said that libraries should definitely buy 3-D printers and other digital tools to allow people to learn how to use them to make different kinds of objects was 50%. In terms of having more comfortable spaces for reading, working and relaxing, 57% indicated libraries should definitely support these types of spaces. Offering programs to teach people, including kids and senior citizens, how to use digital tools such as computers, smartphones and apps was identified as a service that libraries definitely should provide by 80% of those polled.

This study also indicated that 69% of the individuals polled felt that libraries are doing a good job of providing a safe space for people to hang out or spend time; 58% reported that libraries effectively provided educational opportunities for people of all ages; 49% felt that libraries helped to spark creativity among young people; and 47% recognized libraries as providing a trusted place for people to learn about new technologies.

The researchers noted that over the one-year period studied, 53% of young adults aged 18 to 29 had visited a library or bookmobile in person compared to 40% of adults aged 65 or older. A grimmer statistic noted was that 19% of adults polled said that they had never visited a public library. If there is a silver lining in this statistic of 19%, it is that the researchers noted that this percentage has been a persistent trend over the past five years. Individuals who report never having been to a public library are more likely to be male (24%), ages 65 and older (26%), Hispanic (32%), black (28%), high school graduates or less (29%), or living in households earning less than \$30,000 (27%). One of the questions I often get asked is who is not using our member libraries. This report can help us get a better sense of what populations may be unaware of the types of resources that actually would interest and/or help them if they were to visit their local library.

Future Events

October 15 WLS Battle of the Books – Ossining High School, Ossining, NY
November 2-5 New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference – Saratoga Springs, NY
November 17 WLS Annual Meeting, WLS Conference Room, Elmsford, NY

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

June 18 – September 16, 2016

JUNE

- 20 Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) Conference Call with Robert Hubsher, Director of Ramapo-Catskill Library System (RCLS) and Tim Burke, Director of Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS)
Kathy Miller, President, Empire State Library Network
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
Ossining Public Library's Annual Meeting
- 21 José Cordoba, All Island Courier
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology
- 23 Sirsi Operations Conference Call
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Mid-Hudson Library System
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
WLS Board Tour of 570 Taxter Road, Elmsford, NY
WLS Board Meeting
- 24 Creating a Voter Engagement Plan, Child Care Council of Westchester, Hartsdale
- 28 Needs Assessment Sub-Committee of the Westchester Youth Funding Study Group, Westchester Children's Association, Inc. (WCA), White Plains
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 29 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Executive Committee, Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Tarrytown
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
570 Taxter Road Construction Meeting
- 30 WLS Move from 540 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, to 570 Taxter Road, Elmsford, NY

JULY

- 1 WLS Move from 540 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, to 570 Taxter Road, Elmsford, NY
- 5 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 6 Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Jacob Burn Film Center (JBFC)/WLS Partnership
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
- 7 Sirsi Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
- 11 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 12 Joe Levy, Sales Representative, Recorded Books
PULISDO & New York State Library Division of Library Development Conference Calls
NPW Summer Mixer, Yonkers
- 13 Needs Assessment Sub-Committee of the Westchester Funding Study Group, WCA, White Plains
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Tax Certieri Discussion at Croton Free Library
- 14-15 Vacation
- 18 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 19 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Mount Vernon Public Library Team Conference Call
- 20 Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
New Yorkers for Better Libraries Conference Call
Nate Hill, Executive Director, Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)
- 21 Sirsi Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
- 22 Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
Digital Arts Experience (DAE) 4th Anniversary
- 25 WLS Strategic Working Group

JULY (continued)

- 27 Needs Assessment Sub-Committee
3M/Bibliotheca Cloud Library; Don Jannazzo & Regan Dewey; Rob Caluori, Hui Sheng, WLS
Webinar: *Moving Social Media into the Boardroom*
- 28 PressReader Demo at WLS

AUGUST

- 1 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 2 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Conference Call with New York State Library: Bernie Margolis, State Librarian, Carol Desch, Coordinator of Statewide Library Services and Director of Library Development; Barbara Lilley, Team Leader of Library Aid Coordination and Preservation Services; Karen Balsen, Team Leader of Outreach, Networking and Regional Advisory Services
NPW Strategy Briefing
- 3 Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
NPW/Westchester County Executive Quarterly Meeting
- 4 Sirsi Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
GPS4Kids Summer Celebration, White Plains
- 8 Nancy Coradin, Coordinator, Multi-language Collections and Services
- 10 Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Bruce Nickerson, CPA, B.L. Nickerson & Associates, LLC; Fran Feuerman, Chief Financial Officer
- 11 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Jim Peterson, Chief Revenue Officer, Library Ideas
- 15 CSBNO, library consortium based Northwest of Milan, Italy, Visit to WLS
- 16 Matt Antonucci, Regional Sales Manager, EBSCO Information Services
- 17-19 New York Association of Library Systems (NYALS)
- 22 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) eContent Committee
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 23-24 IBM Leadership Workshops PILOT Program exclusive to Volunteer New York!, Somers
- 25 Patricia Mulqueen, Manager of Community Relations, Con Edison
- 29 WLS Strategic Working Group
- 30 Kathy Halas, Executive Director, Child Care Council of Westchester, White Plains
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 31 Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Webinar: *High-Performing Boards and the Organizations that Love Them*

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sirsi Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
- 2 Philip Sleeman, Managing Consultant, Owner, Org-Builders, LLC
- 6 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
American Library Association's (ALA) Excellence in Library Programming Award Presents: Creating a Civic Engagement Series about Race
- 7 WCA Invest in Kids, White Plains
Virtual Groundbreaking for The Hub at the White Plains Public Library
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation and Engagement; Kate Meyer, Community Engagement Coordinator
Webinar: *The Art of Succession Planning*
- 8 SirsiDynix Conference Call; Rob Caluori, Director of IT
PLDA Grants Committee Meeting
Sustainable Thinking for the Future of Libraries

SEPTEMBER (continued)

- 12 Mark Eaton, Director of Sales North America & Australia, ODILO13
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Allison Midgley, Technology Trainer, Conference & Training Room AV Training
PULISDO & NYS Library Division of Library Development Conference Calls
- 14 Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
- 15 PLDA General Membership Meeting
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Filtering: *The Man in the Middle*
Webinar: *Kanopy-ESLN PDA*
Stephanie Unger, Trustee, Ossining Public Library
- 16 Families Task Force Meeting, White Plains
Don Simmons, Jr., potential Intern candidate
Regan Dewey, Business Development Manager; Donald Jannazzo, Business Development
Manager, Cloud Library