

---

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **October 2016**

**(covering time period of September 19 – October 18, 2016)**

#### ***Battle of the Books 2016***

The third Annual Battle of the Books took place on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Ossining Union Free School District at the Ossining High School. Twenty-eight teams from sixteen member libraries competed in this year's competition. Fifteen teams competed in the Grades 4-6 category and thirteen teams in the Grades 6-9 category. Rye Free Reading Room's Grades 4-6 team, the Rye Rockets, won their category's championship by defeating Bedford Free Library's team, Bedford Brainiacs. In the Grades 6-9 category, the championship went to Somers Library's team, The Popcornians, and the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library's team, Keeler Battlers, was awarded second place.

This fun and fast-paced event is a trivia tournament for Westchester youth grades 4-10 where kids are questioned on how well they understand 5 books. Started in 2014, the program is planned and executed by Westchester Library System's Battle of the Books Planning Committee, comprised of staff from the member libraries and WLS. This year's Committee was led by Ms. Elizabeth Portillo, Battle of the Books President and YA Librarian at the Eastchester Public Library. In addition, youth services librarians acted as coaches for their teams; many sponsors helped support the event; and numerous volunteers ensured the event's smooth running and success. I had the privilege of being emcee and trophy presenter. I was extremely impressed with the teamwork and good sportsmanship of the competitors and how well the coaches supported and modeled this behavior to create an atmosphere of friendly competition. The participants' excitement and enjoyment was evident!

I extend my thanks and appreciation to Ms. Portillo and the entire Battle of the Books Planning Committee for their hard work that made this year's event such a success.

#### ***Trustee Educators Cohort Meeting***

On September 29-30, 2016, Elise Burke and I met with staff from other New York State public library systems to review the core elements of the trustee training modules that were developed as part of the New York State Library's ILEAD (Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover) HATS (Helping All Trustees Succeed) initiative that was funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

On the first day, alternative training styles were discussed and explored. On the second day, the HATS training modules that were developed as part of this initiative were reviewed. The modules

cover five components: Trustee Orientation; Financial & Fiduciary Responsibility; Legal Basics for Libraries; Strategic Thinking: Planning & Advocacy; Seven Habits of Highly Effective Boards. The system trainers were introduced to each module and given the opportunity to see how the modules could be customized and applied to one's own training. All system trainers agreed to use the HATS curriculum as an element in future trustee education, and WLS will work with the member libraries to develop future initiatives.

### **Professional Reading on Public Libraries**

["Digitally Unconnected in the U.S.: Who's Not Online and Why?"](#) is the title of the September 28<sup>th</sup> blog post written by Maureen Lewis, Director, Minority Telecommunications Development, Office of Policy Analysis and Development. Her blog used data from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's (NTIA) July 2015 Computer and Internet Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey to explore why 33 Million households (27% of all U.S. households) reported that they did not use the Internet at home.

Three top reasons were found for why individuals did not have Internet access in their homes: 55% indicated that they had neither the need for nor interest in the service, 24% cited the expense of the service, and 7% noted that they lacked a working computer. In particular, there was an increase in households that indicated that they had neither the need for nor interest in home Internet service from 47% in 2013 to 55% in 2015. Of the 55%, 60% indicated that they did not need the service and 40% stated that they had no interest in the service.

In addition, households citing expense of the service as a deterring factor had declined from 28% in 2013 to 24% in 2015. Of the 24%, 92% explained that they could not afford the service and 8% indicated that the service was not worth the cost. From a different perspective, households reporting lack of a working computer had declined from 12% to 7%.

In terms of library services, the outcomes of this study have challenged me to think about how WLS and the member libraries can better promote digital library services to individuals who do not see the need for nor have interest in the Internet. I see great potential benefit to the "unconnected" individuals if we can help them to more fully engage with digital library resources and services, government e-documents, online job applications and other services that would allow them to more fully engage with and learn from the world around them.

With regard to the service cost challenges and lack of hardware barriers, many public libraries in Westchester County have started and/or expanded lending programs for mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, laptops and tablets. For the libraries that offer these lending programs, the demand has generally been high and the public reaction has been very positive. What's not explored in the study is how many individuals in households without Internet access actually use their local public library for that service. I am hopeful that for now, the public libraries' public Internet workstations are helping to fill the gap for these individuals.

### **WLS Annual Meeting**

The WLS 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, November 17, at our new Headquarters in Elmsford. The event will start with registration, refreshments and networking at

9 AM; the WLS Business Meeting and election of Trustees at 9:25 AM; and our Guest Speaker Alison Macrina, Privacy Activist and Director of the Library Freedom Project, at 9:45 AM. Ms. Macrina will speak and foster dialogue about the delicate balance between using big data to customize intuitive, seamless services and protecting users' basic human right to privacy, which does not need to be sacrificed for the convenience of new technologies. Ms. Macrina and the Library Freedom Project were recently named as the recipient of NYLA's 2016 SirsiDynix Intellectual Freedom Award. For more information, contact Elise Burke (914-231-3225; eburke@wlsmail.org) or sign-up via the [WLS Evanced Calendar](#).

### **New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference**

This year's NYLA Annual Conference is taking place in Saratoga Spring from November 2-5. Several exciting programs are in store. I will be presenting *Can You Learn to be a Visionary?*, which is being sponsored by the Library Trustees Association of New York State (LTA). In addition, Alison Macrina, our Annual Meeting Guest Speaker, will also be presenting on *Privacy, Anonymity, and More with Tor*. This session will focus on the joint efforts of the Library Freedom Project and The Tor Project to protect internet freedom by introducing Tor, a free software and open network that is the only web browser to give the user anonymity while also preventing tracking and censorship.

WLS Trustees interested in attending the NYLA Conference should contact Elise Burke for registration information.

### **Future Events**

November 2-5	New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference – Saratoga Springs, NY
November 17	WLS Annual Meeting, WLS Conference Room, Elmsford, NY
January 20-24, 2017	American Library Association Midwinter Meeting – Atlanta, GA

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
Executive Director

**LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED**  
**September 19 – October 18, 2016**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 19 Ryan Fohl, Vice President, Government Banking Senior Relationship Manager, New York Market;  
Doreen LoBalbo, Vice President, Treasury Management Services; John Bojko, Assistant Vice  
President, Store Manager; TD Bank Meeting; Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer;  
Elise Burke, WLS Executive Assistant  
WLS Board Strategic Working Group
- 20 Joe Levy, Account Manager, Recorded Books, Inc.  
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)  
Webinar: *BoardSource Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education Series – Week 1*
- 21 WestCOP's Youth Build Program and how WLS might support: Francine Vernon, Youth  
Connections Coordinator; Elaine Sozzi, WEBS Director  
New Yorkers for Better Libraries Conference Call  
Fran Feuerman, Chief Financial Officer
- 22-23 Pioneer Library System Presentation: The Ins and Outs of Evaluation
- 23-24 Rochester Public Library & Monroe County Library System Presentation: The Ins and Outs of  
Evaluation
- 26 Conference Call - Tim Gavin, Executive Director, Library Trustees Association of NYS (LTA)  
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 27 Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Webinar: *BoardSource Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education Series – Week 2*  
WLS Board Meeting
- 28 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Board Meeting  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
- 29-30 Helping All Trustees Succeed (HATS) Trustee Educators Cohort Meet-Up – Guilderland, NY

**OCTOBER**

- 3-7 Vacation
- 11 Erin Horne, Account Representative, hoopla  
Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Webinar: *BoardSource Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education Series – Week 4*  
Public Library System Directors (PULISDO) & New York State Library Division of Library  
Development Conference Calls
- 12 Webinar: Mid-Hudson Library System: The Ins and Outs of Evaluation  
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement
- 13 Jacob Burns Film Center Meeting: Edie Demas, Executive Director; Sarah Lempke O'Hare,  
Manager of School Programs; Sarah Soliman, Marketing Assistant; Denise Treco, Director of  
Communications and Marketing/Jacob Burns Film Center; Pat Braja, Director of  
Development; Allison Midgley, Technology Trainer/WLS  
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
- 14 PULISDO Executive Committee Conference Call  
Webinar: *The Library's Legal Answers for Meeting Rooms*
- 15 WLS Battle of the Books – Ossining High School
- 17 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant  
ArtsWestchester: *The Journal News/LoHud Discussion on Improving Coverage of Cultural  
Institutions*, White Plains
- 18 Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
METRO Digital Literacy Training  
Webinar: *BoardSource Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education Series – Week 5*