
Executive Director's Report October 2017 (covering time period of September 19 – October 17, 2017)

New York State Library's Five-Year Plan (FY 2018-FY 2022)

Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian Bernard A. Margolis announced that the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) approved the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Plan (FY 2018-FY2022) submitted by the New York State Library (NYSL). As one of the requirements for the receipt of the \$8 Million in annual federal funding for library services allocated to New York under the LSTA Grants to the States Program, the Plan took effect on October 1st. It details the goals, activities, and key output and outcome targets for the NYSL and consists of four major goals:

1. All New Yorkers will have improved access to library resources that advance and enhance their personal, educational and working lives.
2. The NYSL, library systems and libraries will deliver new and improved library programs that anticipate and meet New Yorkers' constantly changing needs for library services.
3. New Yorkers of all ages will perceive libraries as community learning spaces offering high quality lifelong learning, literacy, and knowledge creation opportunities that enhance civic engagement and economic vitality.
4. All New Yorkers will benefit from statewide programs and services of the NYSL that effectively leverage private and public funding through collaboration and partnerships and maximize value in order to achieve goals one, two and three.

The Plan's goals are in alignment with the 2017-2022 WLS System and Central Library Plans of Service and reflect societal trends that demand stronger digital literacy skills for library staff and community members to effectively access, create, evaluate and utilize the available services and information resources. The potential leadership role of public libraries as centers of dialogue and learning on issues of civic engagement and social justice has become more pronounced. Public libraries have also embraced the importance of sustainability as a lens through which a library examines how its current and future activities impact the library, the community it serves and the world as a whole.

58th WLS Annual Meeting: "Creating the Future"

New York State Regent Judith Johnson and State Librarian & Assistant Commissioner for Libraries Bernard A. Margolis will engage in a panel discussion that explores creating public libraries' future. The intent of the panel discussion is to challenge everyone in attendance to think about the future roles of public libraries. Have we reached the limits of the library's mission? Are today's public libraries structured in ways that will hinder or support thriving libraries? What are the roles and impacts of digital literacy activities in relation to social justice? These and so many more questions will be discussed by our panelists. Be sure to bring some questions when you join us at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 16th at the WLS Headquarters, 570 Taxter Road-Suite 400, Elmsford, NY. The agenda for the meeting starts off with registration and refreshments from 9-9:25 am; the WLS Business Meeting from 9:25-9:45 am; and the Panel Discussion on "Creating the Future" from 9:45-10:30 am. Register for the Annual Meeting via WLS's [Evcanced calendar](#) or by contacting Elise Burke [914-231-3225; eburke@wlsmail.org].

2017 Shubert Library Excellence Award: Rochester Public Library /Fines Elimination Pilot

The New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries awarded the 2017 Shubert Library Excellence Award to the Rochester Public Library (RPL) for its fines elimination pilot program. This award honors libraries or library consortia that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to users and is presented during the New York Library Association (NYLA) Conference.

In its efforts to address problems associated with poverty, RPL identified and documented usage trends and financial barriers to using the library. The main purpose behind the program was to increase access and circulation of library materials among families living in poverty by eliminating the daily accrual of overdue fines on children's and young adult materials owned by RPL. The pilot program ran from 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017 with approval from RPL Trustees and incorporation into the City's budget. A 10% increase in circulation of these materials occurred over the previous year. The initiative was well-received by the community and community leaders, and the fines elimination on children and young adult materials has been made a permanent practice. The program showed that reducing financial barriers makes a substantial difference to users and is a creative approach for removing a disincentive to using the library for families living in poverty.

The elimination of fines for children and young adult materials has the potential to attract and keep a new generation of library users engaged with public libraries. Several libraries to our north in the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) have gone even further and eliminated fines for adult materials as well. While there would be a resulting decline in the fine revenues generated, I cannot help but think that the benefit of fostering and nurturing a deeper love of reading and engagement with the library is a more valuable long-term benefit.

New Chair for the NYS Assembly Committee on Libraries & Education Technology

WLS welcomes Assemblymember Didi Barrett (106th District–Columbia, Dutchess) as Chair of the NYS Assembly's Committee on Libraries & Education Technology. Assemblymember Barrett is a

well-known supporter of public libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) as demonstrated by her sponsorship of special legislative grants to support Summer Reading Programs in her district's libraries and the annual publication and distribution of the booklet, *Women's History in the Hudson Valley*. In addition, she supported the \$95.6 Million in Library Aid and \$24 Million in Public Library Construction Aid in the FY2017-2018 State budget. We look forward to working with her on library initiatives.

WLS Trustee Institute

WLS Board President Cathy Draper gave an informative and engaging presentation on strategies for effective board meetings at the WLS Trustee Institute held on October 3rd. Eastchester Public Library was an excellent host; and we took advantage of the summer-like weather, enjoying a light dinner outside in the library's new reading garden. Ms. Draper shared from her extensive experience as both a library and school board member and covered the legal framework for board meetings; the importance of planning and knowing what you need to accomplish; tips for those presiding and those attending; the use of rules of order and executive sessions; and welcoming the public. All trustees will be notified once the handouts from the event have been posted to the WLS website.

Future Events

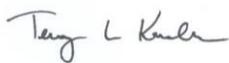
2017

- October 21 WLS Battle of the Books – Hendrick Hudson High School, Montrose
- November 8-11 New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs
- November 16 WLS Annual Meeting – WLS Headquarters, Elmsford

2018

- January 17 Westchester Library Association (WLA) Mid-Winter Conference, Ossining Public Library
- February 9-13 American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Denver, CO

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED
September 19 – October 17, 2017

SEPTEMBER

- 19 Max Linsky, Regional Sales Manager, EBSCO Information Services
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)
Webinar: *New York State Paid Family Leave Law*
Erin Horne, Account Executive, Hoopla Digital; Rob Caluori, WLS Director of IT
JR Richardson, Co-Founder & Advisor, The Library.Link Network
- 20 Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program-Course LIS703: Public Library
Finance
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Chris Harris, SirsiDynix
- 21 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) General Membership Meeting
Webinar: *Thinking Outside the Collection Box: How to Serve Genealogists Now*
- 23 The Loft Gala
- 25 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 26 Youth Services Meeting re VolunteerNY & Magic Box Productions
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Allison Midgley, SirsiDynix/Technology Trainer
WLS Board Meeting
- 27 Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program-Course LIS703: Public Library
Finance
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
- 28 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
Webinar: *Creating Library Community through Communication*
Panel Discussion: *Public Library – Re-Imagining the Future*, New York, NY
- 29 NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Affinity Group-Marketing & Membership Committees Joint Meeting

OCTOBER

- 2 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 3 Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Christie Kent, Chief Financial Officer, SirsiDynix
WLS Trustee Institute: Strategies for Effective Meetings with WLS Board President Cathy Draper,
Eastchester Public Library
- 4 Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program-Course LIS703: Public Library
Finance
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
- 5-9 Vacation
- 10 NPW Human Resources/Finance Affinity Group
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
Public Library System Directors (PULISDO) and NYS Library Division of Library Development
Conference Call
Community Conversations, New Rochelle Public Library
- 11 Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program-Course LIS703: Public Library
Finance
Pat Brigham, Director of Development
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing
Webinar: *Geo-Authentication: Amplifying Community Engagement*
Paycom Demonstration
- 12 SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
Community Conversations, Yonkers Public Library-Riverfront Library

OCTOBER (continued)

16 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

17 Rob Caluori, Director of IT

Webinar: *Troubled Library Boards: Prevention and Survival*

NPW Meet the Candidates for Westchester County Board of Legislators, Rye Brook, NY

Community Conversations, Yonkers Public Library-Grinton I. Will Branch Library