

## **Executive Director's Report November 2018**

**(covering time period of October 23 – November 16, 2018)**

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

Over 65 library directors, trustees, staff, government officials, and friends attended WLS's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in our Headquarters in Elmsford. Westchester County Executive George Latimer shared a few remarks and noted that a minor increase in funding for WLS and other non-profits has been included in the proposed 2019 County Budget. Other legislators in attendance were NYS Assembly member Steven Otis [91<sup>st</sup> District] and Alyssa Jacobs, representing Thomas Abinanti [92<sup>nd</sup> District].

Special guest speaker Hon. Rossana Rosado, New York Secretary of State spoke of her role as the first woman to serve as Editor & Publisher of *El Diario* and the journey to her current position and involvement with community re-entry for those returning from prison. Secretary Rosado sees the library's mission as a gateway to knowledge closely aligned to the journey of re-entry into society that can build a stronger society. She also spoke of her rebellious spirit and love of reading and her experiences with libraries as a space to learn, grow and reflect on one's own identity. In her role as a professor at John Jay, she encourages her students to explore literature and resources available at libraries that foster better understanding of one's self and greater compassion for others. Libraries are a place to find humanity.

The WLS Business Meeting was led by WLS President Sean Ryan, who recognized outgoing WLS Trustees Dr. LaRuth Gray and Sue Neale. The 2017 minutes were approved and two new trustees were elected: Maureen LeBlanc, WLS District 8 [Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Scarsdale] and Francis Okelo, WLS District 14 [New Rochelle]. Edris Scherer was elected to a second term for WLS District 4 [Lewisboro (South Salem), North Salem, Somers].

Established in November of 1958, WLS is happy to begin our 60<sup>th</sup> year of service. There have been many accomplishments, shared successes and numerous changes over the past six decades that will be celebrated throughout the next year. In addition to a new website and email newsletter, an Anniversary Campaign will be launched. WLS's newest corporate sponsor was introduced—The Westchester Bank represented by Patricia Cappelletti and Stephanie Weston—and long-standing sponsor TD Bank was represented by Alé Federico. A video was shown about the impact of libraries on Ms. Federico's life. The 2019 WLS Budget will focus on the three strategic priorities identified in 2018:

- *Expand WLS's competency as an incubator of solutions and services* – WLS will build on opportunities that allow the member libraries to share and cooperate with programs such as the Resilience Coalition, the migration to a new open source Integrated Library System (ILS), preparation for the 2020 Census and expanded growth in downloadable content and online services and the launch of Tutor.com.

- *Encourage and promote best practices across the member libraries* – Showing how to effectively tell success stories, the impact of libraries and the lessons learned.
- *Provide additional support for professional development for library staff and trustees* – With a focus on technology, people skills and board governance.

## 2020 Census

At the New York Library Association's (NYLA) Annual Conference held in Rochester, NY, a trending topic was the role of libraries and library systems in the 2020 Census. While libraries have always played an important role in promoting and supporting the efforts to obtain full participation within a community, the expectation is that there will be greater demands placed upon libraries in the upcoming census due to the transition to a primarily digital survey process – especially in those communities that face digital inclusion challenges.

The decennial census is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution and it is to include people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens residing in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas of the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau must submit the census totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2020. Libraries will need to be engaged in the 2019 planning processes to help launch a successful 2020 survey.

Census data are used in many ways. Some examples include:

- Distribution of more than \$675 billion annually in federal funds back to tribal, state, and local governments for all types of programs including highway planning and construction, grants to local education agencies, special education grants, Head Start, foster care support and child care assistance.
- Determining the number of representatives each state has in Congress.
- Redistricting of state legislative districts.
- Forecasting the future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
- Assisting federal, tribal, state, and local governments in planning and implementing programs, services, and emergency response.
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly and children.
- Businesses use the data when determining financial investments such as the location of stores in a community.

As trusted sources of information, digital literacy support and community engagement, libraries play a vital role in ensuring that all individuals residing in a community are counted in the 2020 Census. The New York State 2020 Complete Count Commission has been created; and it does include a representative from the library community: Lauren Moore, Executive Director of the Pioneer Library System and Past President of PULISDO (Public Library Systems Directors Organization). The Commission has recognized that New York State needs to make a \$60 million investment in its libraries to assure a complete count. This funding would support several key needs:

- Libraries will need to meet an increased demand for internet access.

- Early results from a census test in Providence, Rhode Island, suggest that the online census is difficult for individuals with limited digital literacy skills. Additional library staffing will be needed to meet the demand for one-on-one support.
- Additional levels of security and accountability will be required to ensure online privacy and security of the census survey.

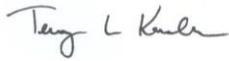
There are still many questions about the overall census survey process. One main concern is the potential inclusion of a question about citizenship or immigration status. It is unclear whether this type of question would jeopardize achieving maximum census participation or perhaps library participation in order to maintain public trust.

### Future Events

#### **2019**

January 25-29 American Library Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference, Seattle, WA  
February 27 New York Library Association (NYLA) Advocacy Day – Albany, NY  
April 5 Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast – Doral Arrowwood, Rye Brook, NY

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
Executive Director

**LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED**  
**September 18 – November 16, 2018**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 18 Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)  
Chris Harris, Director of Sales (Americas), SirsiDynix  
Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Integrated Library System (ILS) Committee
- 19 Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
Joanna Straub, Executive Director, NonProfit Westchester (NPW)  
SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
- 20 PLDA General Membership Meeting  
League of Women Voters (LWV) of Westchester  
Westchester Library Staff (WLS) Staff
- 24 Webinar: *Blockchain: Recommendations for the Information Professions*  
Conference Call with Ramapo-Catskill Library System, Mid-Hudson Library System & SENYLRC  
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 25 Diana Lennon, Westchester Library Association (WLA) Board President  
Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)  
WLS Board
- 26 NPW Board  
Long Island University (LIU) Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program  
Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*  
Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
In the #MeToo Era, New York Amends Anti-Sexual Harassment Laws  
Chris Harris, Director of Sales (Americas), SirsiDynix  
LWV
- 27-10/12 Vacation

**OCTOBER**

- 15 WLS Budget Committee
- 16 Westchester Children's Association: Vision Conference, Tarrytown  
Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 17 Enhancing Library Services for LGBTQ Patrons  
LIU Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*  
Sean McGowan, Brodart  
SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call
- 18 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) General Membership Meeting
- 19 WLA Panel: Immigration and Library Service in 2018, hosted at WLS Headquarters  
Webinar: *Community Advocacy in Family Learning Programs*
- 22 WLS Innovation Group Planning Meeting  
Joanna Straub, Executive Director, NPW
- 23 Westchester County Budget Public Information Session
- 24 NPW Executive Committee  
LIU Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*  
Joe Levy, Recorded Books
- 25 WLS Governance Committee  
NPW Keep Westchester Thriving Awards Meeting  
Doug Wray
- 29 Elise Burke, Executive Assistant

*OCTOBER (continued)*

- 30 Impact 100 Westchester 2019 Grant Cycle Nonprofit Information Session  
Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Burbio  
WLS Budget Committee  
WLS Board
- 31 LIU Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*  
Budget Discussion

**NOVEMBER**

- 1 METRO Site Visit  
The Families Task Force  
Majority Leader Catherine Parker, Westchester County Board of Legislators  
Regional Systems Planning Meeting
- 2 Mount Kisco Public Library Trustee Meeting re Bylaws
- 3 Dark Desert Eagles, Paramount Hudson Valley Theater
- 5 Joanna Straub  
NPW Annual Meeting
- 6 Anahaita N. Kotval, Executive Director, Lifting Up Westchester  
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant
- 7 LIU Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*
- 7-10 New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference – Rochester, NY
- 7 New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) Meeting  
2020 Census Work Group
- 8 Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO) Meeting  
PULISDO & Empire State Library Network (ESLN)—NY's Regional Library Councils – Census Meeting  
*I Still Don't Want to Talk about It* Workshop  
Long Island Reception
- 9 *Resilience* Movie Showing  
Q&A with Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia  
Active Hope and Restorative Justice  
AL Live: *What Do the Midterms Mean for Your Library?*  
Let's Talk 2030!
- 10 NYLA Conference
- 13 National Philanthropy Day 2018, Double Tree by Hilton, Tarrytown  
NPW Executive Committee Conference Call
- 14 LIU Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Course LIS 700: *Public Library Administration & Management*  
Update on United2Read
- 15 WLS Annual Meeting  
Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) General Membership Meeting  
Francine Vernon, WLS's Parent and Youth Outreach Coordinator