

Executive Director's Report January 2019

ILS Migration to Evergreen

Training is well underway for library and WLS staff on the Evergreen software, and the first edition of *Migration News* has been sent. Current data is being prepared for the migration of information over to Evergreen. Here are a few important dates to be aware of:

February 18: This is the last date that new bibliographic records can be added and new items can be linked in SirsiDynix.

March 10: The last day that items can be circulated ONLINE, holds can be placed, bills can be paid, and new patrons can be registered or renewed in SirsiDynix.

March 11-13: There will be no system available. Checkouts will be processed offline, no items will be due, and check-ins will be set aside during this period until the new system is up.

March 14: The first day on Evergreen! Transactions completed offline and all new data will be entered.

Budget Update

Westchester County allocated a 2% increase for WLS, bringing our total to \$1,020,000 to support WLS services and programs in 2019. In addition, the Board of Legislators added \$50,000 designated for the Mount Vernon Public Library.

New York State (NYS) Governor Andrew Cuomo released his proposed FY2019-20 budget on January 15th that eliminated the additional funds approved by NYS Legislators in FY2018-19 for library operating and capital aid programs. The proposed allocations are as follows:

- State Library Aid (operating funds): \$91.6 Million [\$5 Million less than last year];
- Public Library Construction Aid: \$14 Million [\$20 Million less than last year]; and
- No additional funds to support Census 2020 planning activities.

Another item for your information is that Governor Cuomo is trying to impose lobbyist registration and reporting requirements on all organizations that spend just \$500 per year lobbying for New York City or NYS (included in Part R of the Governor's FY2019-20 Good Government & Ethics Reform Article VII Legislation). The current expenditure threshold is \$5,000. WLS is reviewing the definitions in the proposed law to see if library advocacy would be included in this requirement.

New York Library Association (NYLA) is sponsoring its annual Library Advocacy Day on **Wednesday, February 27, 2019**, at the State Capitol Building in Albany. WLS has started to coordinate travel plans for those who would like to make the trip to Albany and visit with our State

representatives for Westchester County. Please add this date to your calendar and watch for more information to be emailed soon.

2020 Census

WLS and the member public libraries are accessible and trusted institutions in the County. Together we are well-placed to assist individuals to be aware of the Census, understand why it is an important survey to complete, and assist individuals in completing the survey. WLS and the member public libraries are a Complete Count Committee (CCC), and as such, will work with other community partners to achieve high completion rates of the survey in our communities. Westchester County has also created a CCC, and I have been asked to serve on that committee to assist with the overall countywide effort.

Data from the Census is used for many different purposes, such as:

- Determining how many congressional representatives each state will have for the next decade.
- Redrawing congressional districts.
- Distributing funds to financial assistance programs and block grants, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
- Planning infrastructure and transportation improvements.
- Supporting emergency preparedness, disaster relief and resiliency planning and training activities.
- Assisting businesses in identifying new markets and locations for expansion.

Therefore, having a high completion rate is critical. However, in 2020 the Census Bureau will encourage households to respond primarily through an online portal or by telephone. This shift away from a paper-based census survey to an online or telephone response will make completing the survey more difficult for households without online or telephone access. The addition of a question regarding citizenship status, especially if the survey cannot be submitted with unanswered questions, may also deter people from completing the survey.

Historically, the Hard-To-Count (HTC) groups include: children under 5 years of age, racial and ethnic minorities, limited English proficiency households, immigrants, renters or residents who move often, alternative or overcrowded housing units, gated communities and publicly inaccessible multifamily units, persons displaced by natural disasters, persons experiencing homelessness, young mobile adults, and single-parent headed households. The Census Bureau provides an online interactive tool, the Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM), to help identify census tracts with HTC groups.

Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast

The Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast will take place this year on Friday, April 5, 2019 at Doral Arrowwood. The Breakfast will feature a Conversation with Michelle Young, new President of New York Library Association. Ms. Young is the Director of Libraries and Associate Professor at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. Additional details and information will be sent out soon. Please remember to add this event to your calendar and invite friends to join you.

Trustee Training

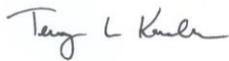
It has been my privilege to help facilitate several library board training sessions. The Dobbs Ferry Public Library held a board retreat that focused on crafting their new mission statement. The Mount Vernon Public Library held a new trustee orientation that focused on roles and responsibilities and board self-assessment. The Katonah Library also has a session scheduled to focus on roles and responsibilities, board self-assessment and redistricting options available. Library Trustee volunteers play a vital role in the library's success, and WLS is committed to providing training toward that goal.

While I am available to assist with setting up individual sessions like those mentioned above, our WLS Trustee Institutes are geared toward a broader audience. The next Trustee Institute will feature Open Meetings Law with Robert J. Freeman, NYS Committee on Open Government Executive Director, and will be held on **Wednesday, June 12**. The exact time and place is being confirmed.

Future Events

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