

Executive Director's Report June 2019

Lauren Moore Appointed as New York State (NYS) Librarian

The Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia recently appointed Lauren Moore as the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and NYS Librarian. Ms. Moore will assume her new responsibilities on August 1, 2019, and she will lead the operations of the NYS Library and serve as the primary representative of libraries across the state.

The NYS Library provides access to information and library services through its Research Library and serves as a regional library for the blind and visually impaired in New York's 55 upstate counties (which in this case does include Westchester). Ms. Moore will also oversee the Division of Library Development (DLD) which provides leadership and technical assistance to New York's 73 library systems and administers more than \$140 million in State and Federal aid to New York's libraries and library systems.

Ms. Moore is currently a member of the NYS Complete Count Commission that is focused on having every NYS resident counted as part of the 2020 Census. Ms. Moore is the Executive Director of the Pioneer Library System in Canandaigua, NY which works with the 42 public libraries in Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston Counties. Her professional experiences have included serving as the Chair of the Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO), as a Steering Committee Member for the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC, and as a New York Library Association (NYLA) Councilor-at-Large.

Ms. Moore also facilitated the WLS Trustee Institute held in October 2018 that focused on library board roles and responsibilities. We welcome Ms. Moore to her new role as NYS Librarian!

Regents Advisory Council on Libraries

The New York State Board of Regents will appoint three members to the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries. The Council advises the Board of Regents on matters concerning the New York State Library, library development programs, library aid programs and other issues related to the operations of libraries and library systems in New York. Working with officers from the State Education Department, the Council develops a comprehensive statewide library and information plan and makes recommendations to the Regents concerning the implementation of the program of library service. There are currently 14 members of the Council, who are leaders in a wide variety of endeavors across the State, including business, human services, education and libraries. The Council strives to represent the diverse populations, endeavors and experiences found throughout the State.

Of the three open terms, two will serve a five-year period from 10/1/2019-9/30/2024 and one will serve a partial four-year period from 10/1/ 2019 to 9/30/2023. The Council meets a minimum of four times a year: January (by conference call), April (Board of Regents meeting in

Albany), September (by conference call), and December (in person). Self-nominations and recommendations of others for membership in the Council must be submitted by August 1, 2019. For more information, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/rac/index.html>.

State Aid for Library Construction Program

The 2019-2020 New York State budget included \$14 Million statewide for public library construction aid. This allocation was \$20 Million less than had been budgeted the previous year. WLS will receive \$654,899 of the \$14 Million that was approved this year.

The Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Construction Aid Committee has been formed, and the Committee will meet following the June PLDA Meeting to review the guidelines for the application process. All libraries will be notified of any changes to the application process as well as of the deadline for submission of applications to the System (usually around mid-August). All applications will be reviewed by WLS staff and the PLDA Construction Aid Committee. Proposed award recommendations will be reported to PLDA and then to the WLS Board for their approval in September in order to meet the NYS Library Division of Library Development deadline of October 2nd.

It is also worth noting that our local legislators Assemblyman Steven Otis and Senator Shelley Mayer have co-sponsored or sponsored several bills that support the State Aid for Library Construction Program that were passed and are effective immediately.

A03771A / S05589: Co-Sponsored by Assemblyman Steven Otis and sponsored by Senator Shelley Mayer, this bill provides that State aid may be provided for up to 90% of the total project approved costs (currently only 75%) for buildings of public libraries that are located in an economically distressed community. The bill passed the Assembly on June 6th and passed the Senate on June 13th.

A03781 / S05590: Co-Sponsored by Assemblyman Steven Otis and sponsored by Senator Shelley Mayer, this bill provides that certain coordinated applications for State aid be submitted by the public library system (currently there is no provision for this). The bill passed the Assembly on June 4th and passed the Senate on June 13th.

A07568 / S5603: Sponsored by Senator Shelley Mayer, this bill extends certain provisions relating to the public library construction grant program to 2023 (currently this program was slated to end 3/31/2020). The bill passed the Assembly on June 3rd and the Senate on June 6th.

WLS Trustee Institutes

Guest Speaker Robert J. Freeman, Executive Director of New York State Committee on Open Government, engaged all who attended by answering questions on Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) on June 12th. We thank the Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose for hosting the event.

This summer WLS is organizing local visits with our NYS Legislators during the weeks of July 8th and July 15th. These visits are geared toward a less formal atmosphere than Library Advocacy Day in Albany to share with our State representatives the stories and impact of the innovative programs taking place all over the County. All Legislator offices have been contacted, and the schedule of visits will be distributed once completed. Contact Elise Burke if you are interested in participating.

The WLS 60th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, from 8:30-10:30 am; and the final confirmation is anticipated shortly for the event's location. The guest speaker will be Rich Harwood, President and Founder of The Harwood Institute. Too often leaders and organizations are turned inward, focused—often unintentionally—on themselves and their organizations at the expense of their communities. Mr. Harwood will highlight the importance of his organization's philosophy of Civic Faith and Turning Outward to help communities solve shared problems and create more relevance and impact—especially for libraries.

Census 2020

The report *Achieving a Complete 2020 Census Count in New York* was released by the Rockefeller Institute of Government earlier this month. This report notes that NYS has the second highest percentage (22%) of foreign-born residents in the country, with California as the lead at 27%. In Westchester County it is estimated that 25% of the population is foreign born, which is the 5th highest percent in NYS by County. The highest four positions are held by the New York City counties of Queens (48%), Kings (37%), Bronx (35%) and New York (29%). There is great concern that the discussion around the citizenship question on the census survey will depress the response rate of many foreign-born populations.

The use of a primarily online survey form is also seen as a potential challenge due to lack of Internet access, low digital literacy skills and privacy fears concerning the information that is provided. One recommended strategy for increasing individuals comfort level in completing the census survey is to recruit enumerators who are trusted individuals in their communities. The Census Bureau has reported to the NYS Complete Count Commission that they are having difficulty filling the enumerator jobs. If this is the case, then it is even more important for local governments, nonprofits, religious organizations, volunteers and others to promote the reasons why it is so important for every community, but especially the Hard-To-Count communities, to complete the census survey.

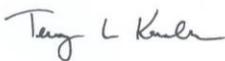
The next Westchester County Complete Count Committee meeting will be held on June 27th, where this report as well as other relevant reports and data sources will be discussed.

Future Events

June 20-25 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference – Washington, DC

November 21 WLS 60th Annual Meeting – Place to be finalized – 8:30-10:30 AM
Guest Speaker: Rich Harwood, President & Founder of The Harwood Institute

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director