westchester
LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Executive Director's Report
February 2020

NYS Budget Update

In January Governor Cuomo proposed a cut to Library Aid in his Executive Budget by $5 million from the approved FY2019-20 budget (from $96.5 million to $91.5 million). He also proposed a cut to Public Library Construction Aid by $20 Million from last year's approved budget (from $34 million to $14 million).

New York Library Association (NYLA) scheduled this year's Library Advocacy Day in Albany on Tuesday, February 25th—the same day as the WLS Board Meeting. WLS Trustees are strongly encouraged to support NYLA's online advocacy efforts to increase funding for Library Aid and Public Library Construction Aid. To participate in NYLA's online advocacy campaign, go to their website at https://www.nyla.org/contact-your-elected-officials/.

WLS will be sending information packets to each member of the Westchester Delegation to provide them with highlights of WLS and member library services and resources that are provided in their districts. On behalf of WLS, I also presented testimony at the NYS Assembly's budget hearing on January 31st and at the Senate's Budget Forum on February 18th. WLS will also be scheduling local visits with our State Legislators over the summer, similar to last year. Advocacy is a year round activity, and WLS Trustees can support advocacy efforts on a regular basis by sharing the good things happening at your libraries and at WLS with local legislators and by sharing the above link with colleagues and friends to have more voices heard.

PLDA IT Funding Model

As requested at last month's board meeting, a joint meeting of the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Finance Committee and the WLS Budget Committee was held on Monday, February 10th, to review proposed changes to the 2020 PLDA Information Technology (IT) Funding Model. The main focus of the meeting concerned the metrics to be used in the Network Connectivity column of the model. The consensus of the group was that the 2020 PLDA IT Funding Model would be presented to PLDA with the Network Connectivity column using three options for bandwidth capacity per 2019 network connection metrics (small-medium-large) versus only two options in the proposed 2020 metrics (small-large). This information has been shared with PLDA and will be discussed at their February 20th meeting, with a final vote on the revised 2020 PLDA IT Funding Model at their March 19th meeting. If the revised model is approved, any adjustments to the member libraries' January-June 2020 invoices would be included with their July-December 2020 invoices.

WLS staff will continue to work with the PLDA Finance Committee to move toward a funding model configuration that would allow for a blended technology environment—one that would support shared services while allowing for individually-supported options for interested libraries.

IT Audit Update

The Operation Services audit began on January 8th and is expected to conclude by March 13th. The firm performing the audit, CBIZ, has met with WLS staff to gain an understanding of the IT environment, new and ongoing IT initiatives, key data information flows, and the IT risk management infrastructure (policies, procedures, organization, etc.). Activities being performed in this audit include:

- Analyzing and evaluating the quality of processes, routines, and controls of the organization and management of IT operations, data center operations, and disaster recovery plan including data recovery, risk analysis and strategic plan.

- Identifying opportunities for practical and cost-effective recommendations for each opportunity identified in the review of functions.

- Providing a quantitative, metrics-based review of the identified operational functions.

- Performing a qualitative assessment and peer analysis of technology deployment, cyber attack communication and governance requirements.

- Providing a quantitative, metrics-based and qualitative review of selected IT staffing areas.

The Network Services and VDI audits are scheduled to begin on February 24th and are expected to conclude by March 31st. The audits will be conducted by Custom Computer Specialists. The Network Services audit will identify gaps and provide recommended solutions to improve processes related to the WLS network infrastructure, data center infrastructure, wide area network (WAN), wireless network and network security. The VDI audit will include a review of the current VDI management and structure, security and controls, system management and operating environment. This will include an analysis of the infrastructure and applications required to support the current and anticipated service requirements. In developing a conceptual design for the future, the audit will include the comparison of VDI with alternative solutions such as standard desktops and remote desktops.

Future Events

February 25-29   Public Library Association (PLA) Conference – Nashville, TN

April 17   *Celebrating Westchester Libraries Breakfast* – DoubleTree Hilton, Tarrytown

Respectfully submitted,
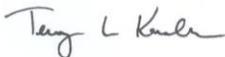
Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director