

MHLS REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 1, 2012
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Mike Nyerges

1. Tentative 2013 (2014) Member Assessment Schedule. The System Finding Task Force should meet before the DA meeting in December to review the 2013 (2014) tentative member assessment. A draft is included for discussion under new business for November's meeting.
 - The draft is based on the 2010 census and includes data from the most recent three years, 2009, 2010 and 2011.
 - The schedule does not include CLDA funds; \$40,000 is being applied to delivery costs in 2012.
 - The draft includes a Cloud Fee. This is an additional \$30,000. The percent a member library pays towards this new fee is the same percentage a member library pays on the total General Millennium Fee.
 - The draft excludes Overdrive data.
2. Annual Member Survey -- Action Memos were sent out Tuesday, 10/11, asking directors and board presidents to take the annual MHLS satisfaction survey.
 - This was divided into two separate surveys, one for directors at www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012MHLSdirectors and the other for board presidents at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012MHLSboardPres>.
 - . Both are brief, but the directors is briefest.
 - Response to the surveys are due by November 5, 2012.
 - More information is at <http://www.midhudson.org/review>, which includes the survey for board presidents that can be downloaded and printed.
3. Annual Meeting -- Some 100 people braved the awful weather on Friday, October 19, and attended the Systems 53rd Annual Meeting. It was a good turnout. Despite the rain, there was enough coffee, hot water and tea; the breakfast was good. It was a great opportunity for some regional networking. We had a number of guests from Ramapo Catskill Library System. The Center's Jeff Urban entertained with a couple of library jokes. I introduced Senator Stephen Saland and Assemblymember Didi Barrett. The panelists spoke about their roles and the involvement of the library community in the development of the report, as well as about some of its recommendations for libraries.

I thought there were a several take-away ideas.

- The future of libraries falls to all of us--state library, Regents, NYLA, state library community--but more importantly to the librarians, trustees and friends in the Mid-Hudson Library System region, to those of us in the room. We are the leaders.
- Libraries are more than just "books." Libraries are growing in ways that provide their communities new and important services such as digital access, digital literacy, workforce development, early childhood education, WiFi, Wi Max, maker spaces, community spaces.
- Libraries are service organizations; staffing should reflect this. A library limiting staffing to a fixed 60% of the budget is low and is probably underfunding its services, and possibly making it harder for staff.
- Providing the public free and equitable access to ebooks and other media will continue to be critical to the mission of public libraries.
- New skills for new services may require continuing education and collaboration with other community organizations; collaboration and partnering with others is a way of extending scarce resources. The report recommends mandatory trustee education and education requirements for annual library professional recertification.