

MHLS REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 7, 2012
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Mike Nyerges

1. MHLS 2012 Budget Revision was approved by the Mid-Hudson Board on July 15. This includes the one-time credit of \$116,000 towards the members assessment and the year-end transfer of \$30,000 to the members capital fund. The transfer is to cover the cost of running Millennium/Sierra in the Innovative Cloud in 2013.
2. The September/October and November/December member assessment billing will be combined into one bill and sent out to member libraries the first of October. The fees will be itemized, as usual, and totaled for both billing periods and reduced by the one-time credit. Member libraries that prepaid for the year will receive a refund. (A sample invoice is available from System Finance Manager, Linda Vittone.)
3. MHLS's 53rd Annual Meeting on October 19 features a "Library Futures" panel and will be held at the Visitor and Education Center of the FDR Library and Museum in Hyde Park. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, continues to noon and includes a buffet breakfast, opportunities to network and a chance to discuss and ask questions about the state's vision of public libraries in the future.

The panel includes three leading members of the Regents Advisory Committee--John Hammond, Gerald Nichols and Bridget Quinn-Carey--that developed the report and recommendations for libraries, *Creating the Future: a 2020 Vision Plan for Library Service in New York State*. The panelists will talk about what the report and recommendations mean for public libraries and participate in a discussion around the future of libraries that will be open to the member library staff, board members and other guests in attendance. Mike Nyerges, Mid-Hudson Director, will serve as the program moderator.

Bridget Quinn-Carey served as Chair of RAC (2010-2011) during the committee's development of the report and is Chief Operating Officer of the Queens Library.

Jerry Nichols was active in the development of the report and succeeded Ms. Quinn-Carey as Chair of RAC (2011-2012). He is the Director of the Palmer Institute for Public Library Organization and Management at Long Island University and is the editor of the *Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State*. He is also recipient of the New York Library Association's *Outstanding Service to Libraries Award* and the *Distinguished Service Award* from the Library Trustees' Association of New York.

John Hammond led the task force responsible for collecting and sorting through the ideas that went into the report and is Executive Director of the Northern New York Library Network.

- Plan to attend and learn what the state's view of the future means for your library!
- Register online at <http://calendar.midhudson.org> by October 8, 2012. Tickets are \$25.
- Read the Regents recommendations at <http://tiny.cc/7pfvjw>.

4. We received most of our state aid for 2012, including the Local Library Incentive Aid (LLSA) for member libraries. Checks will be sent out to the members for the full amount in delivery and everyone should have them Tuesday, September 4, the day after the Labor Day Weekend.

By statute, LLSA is based on the population of a member's chartered service area. According to statute, LLSA is 31-cents per capita with a minimum amount of \$1,500. Actual state aid, however, is 20% below aid specified by statute, so the minimum is just under \$1,200.

An important understanding in this year's LLSA is that New York State Library, Division of Library Development, (DLD) is using the 2010 Census to calculate the aid. The law specifies that that population to be used for LLSA is the population of a library's chartered service area

that is "on file with the commissioner on January first of the calendar year for which aid is payable." This confirms what we've been told by DLD that the 2010 Census will be used for state aid as well as this year's annual reports.

Member Libraries that would receive less LLSA with the 2010 Census are, however, held harmless and will not, by law, receive less than they received in 2001, which was based on the 1990 Census. For these libraries, an equity adjustment is calculated. If a member library is set to receive more than they did in 2001 based on the 2010 Census, then they receive it. A schedule of these payments is available on the DLD website at <http://tiny.cc/2sfvjw>.

If any member library continues to have questions about the 2010 Census numbers for their chartered service area, please let me know. A number of libraries did have questions last fall and we were able to change the numbers or clarify how the numbers were arrived at.

5. A draft of the 2013 Mid-Hudson database and ebook cost projections is included in the DA packet, along with member library annual costs for the past three years, 2012 and 2013. DLD's 2010 Census is used for the chartered service areas. It also assumes that we will receive the same amount of Central Library aid in 2013 that we received this year, which turned out to be \$12,096 more than we originally expected.
6. The Census 2010-based chartered service areas will also be applied to this year's annual maintenance charges for Teleforms. Participating member libraries are billed at the end of the year in early December.
7. The Ad Hoc System Services Committee, chaired by Frank Rees, will meet on September 14 at Mid-Hudson to discuss the annual member's evaluation of system services, which will be reviewed in the context of Mid-Hudson's new plan of service. Any recommendation that the committee makes will be considered by the Mid-Hudson Trustees Planning and Personnel Committee, which is chaired by John Bickford from Dutchess County. The Planning and Personnel Committee develops, conducts and reviews this online (Survey Monkey) annual assessment of system services, which is scheduled for October.

Other topics on the agenda include recommending a policy on how to share start-up costs for consortium-priced products and services that are incurred by a member library when other members opt to purchase the product or service at a later date and discussing the possibility of broadening the review begun by the Marketing Advisory Committee of possible services a mobile app could provide patrons of Mid-Hudson libraries.

8. Mid-Hudson is submitting a Public Library Construction Program grant to remove broken and cracked asbestos flooring from the basement of the auditorium. The condition of the flooring poses a potential health risk. Storage on the third floor can be moved to this space after the asbestos abatement and the third floor can be used for meetings and small group training.

The new roof for the Auditorium planned for this fall is proceeding according to plan, although we were very surprised by the bids coming in much higher than expected. Peter Hoffmann, Mid-Hudson's Board President, is serving as our architect. He developed the project specifications pro bono and is talking with the low bidder about possible ways to reduce costs.

9. I mentioned in July that we were working with the other member systems of Southeast NY Library Resources Council to develop an advocacy brochure for systems. We've met with Ramapo Catskill Library System and agreed on ways to estimate the state's return on investment for our two systems. Because this is a brochure, however, it's been a challenge. But we're working towards identifying the value of systems in three areas.

- Expanding access of library resources to state residents.
- Leveraging economies of scale that provide a positive return on the state's investment in library services.
- Supporting the success of member libraries.

10. The New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) state-wide annual retreat in August focused on ways to implement the 6 recommendations for library systems in the Regents plan, *Creating the Future: a 2020 Vision Plan for Library Service in New York State*. The recommendations include developing greater flexibility and more collaboration around the delivery of system services up to and including consolidation and public library districts as the model to achieve sustainable funding, and emphasizes innovation, training, professional development, outreach and marketing.

NYALS includes the directors and representatives of the state's 72 library systems, which include 23 public library systems, 42 school library systems and 9 regional resource councils.

Potential barriers and possible ways of overcoming barriers to implement the recommendations were identified and drafts of action steps were developed. I expect to receive these sometime in the next couple of weeks. More of this to come!

11. Westchester Library System is again offering the Public Library Administrators Certificate Program in Spring 2013 in partnership with the Palmer Institute of Public Library Organization and Management. The program is a five-course, graduate level management training program. Classes meet at the Westchester Library System headquarters in Tarrytown and begin in March. Costs average \$1,150 per course. Each course is equivalent to a three-credit hour graduate course at the Palmer Institute. This is a great deal that members of the Mid-hudson library community have participated in in the past. I'll have copies of the application and description of the program at the DA meeting.