

Mike Nyerges, Executive Director Report

Welcome Eric McCarthy!

It's been great to see Eric engaged these first couple of weeks and get to know him, and watch him in action. No question Millennium continues to be in good hands! The only substantial Millennium issue that has come up that I am aware of is the requirement of entering DOBs when registering patrons. But I know Eric already has quite a few more things to share!

State Advocacy and Support

By the time we meet, we will know if the Assembly's version or the Senate's holds sway in Albany and whether it'll be \$1 million or \$3 million plus in the restoration of library aid. I called the offices of the Assembly members on Friday, March 23, and talked with aides. Only Joel Miller's office called back to affirm the Assembly member's support, but of the \$1 million. Oh, well. If that's where it lands, I guess we should be grateful. (Darn!)

I did also think to call the Senators and thank them as well.

And thank you and your trustees, staff, friends and family that helped advocate for state funding of library services this winter and spring!

2012 Budget Revision

The plan to consider a revision of Mid-Hudson's 2012 Budget continues, in part nudged along by the expected increase in state support. Meetings of the Mid-Hudson Planning and Personnel and Finance Committees will be scheduled no later than the last week of April. A draft of the plan would go to the Mid-Hudson Board in May and would be expected to include a reduction in members fees, showing the costs of a part-time 12-hour-a-week position at Mid-Hudson for cleaner, reviewing a proposal to make an existing technology part-time position full-time, and projecting costs based on the revised delivery contract. None of this expected to go into effect until July.

Revision of Delivery Contract

The target for signing a revised agreement with Hudson Rover Transport is April 12. Agreement between us Mid-Hudson and FRT is very close. Costs are expected to be lower by replacing a costly fuel surcharge schedule with a one-time adjustment and weekly fuel cost adjustments.

There will be a few adjustments to routes, which will affect a handful of libraries. These adjustments were recommended by Mid-Hudson delivery staff and were reviewed by the Ad Hoc Delivery Committee in December 2011. Word to individual libraries would go out after signing the agreement but nothing would go into effect until July.

2012–2017 System Plan and Central Library Plan of Service

We received word that Mid-Hudson's 2012–2017 System Plan of Service and Central Library Plan of Service has been approved. And our 2011 Annual report as well. Yea! Advisory committees should periodically look at the plans of service and understand the means of evaluation that they may be tasked using.

At the March Mid-Hudson Board meeting, we also reviewed Mid-Hudson's annual report and activities in 2011, which was the final year of the five-year, 2007–2011, Plan of Service. Please let me know if you're interested in seeing the report or presentation.

2011 Member Statistics

I shared some early 2011 member library statistics with the Mid-Hudson Board at its March meeting. System-wide circulation seems to have slipped by about 3%. Registrations seemed to have increased. Overdrive circulation would be ranked 37th if its circulation was ranked along with Mid-Hudson members.

Once DLD approves the 2011 reports, I'll be getting all your annual report data back in the form of Excel files. The files are pretty raw and need time to tame. Pulling together a statistical overview of Mid-Hudson members would probably be finished in May. It may not be as polished as it use to be and no promises on that score.

2020 Plan of the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries

The New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries announced that it adopted the final version of its 2020 plan for libraries on March 13 and plans to present it to the Regents in April. It's not a bad job looking over the horizon, and while it isn't quite a road map, it's worth reviewing.

The Council's plan continues to emphasize the role of public libraries as providing free and equal access to information, technology and the Internet, community outreach services, and support for community discourse, local history preservation, early childhood education and digital literacy.

I do see something of weakness in that the plan doesn't seem to have a strong answer to how public libraries can plan to build connections to a growing population of readers in an increasingly digital age. But then you can draw your own conclusions at <http://tiny.cc/7r7tbw>

Although there are 34 words in the title of the Regents Advisory Council 2020 plan for libraries and 60 recommendations, a library need answer only one question: "Does it help move the library into the future?"

"Books in a Digital Age" from the Desmond–Fish Library in Garrison

Kudos to Carol Donick and the staff and trustees of Desmond–Fish for sponsoring the discussion on reading and writing in the digital age, which was streamed live from the library in Garrison on Sunday, March 24. It's now on Youtube and available at <http://tiny.cc/h68tbw>.

Jacob Weisberg, Editor in Chief of the Slate Group, began the discussion by asking a panel of three writers and editors if they agreed that after some 500 years of marriage, printing and writing were finally going through a divorce. The panelists seemed to agree and were Kathryn Schulz, critic for New York Magazine and author of Being Wrong, Dwight Garner, critic for the New York Times, and Chris Hughes, co-founder of Facebook and new owner and Editor in Chief of the New Republic.

Chris Hughes thought that the printed book might become a luxury item in the next 10–15 years. Kathryn Schulz was more skeptical and thought it may be a generation, or maybe two, before the divorce was final.

Definitely worth watching!