

System Services Ad Hoc Committee
June 3, 2013
Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium

Staff Present:Linda Vittone, Mike Nyerges, Merribeth Advocate, Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich, Robert Drake

Directors Present: Erica Freudenberger (Red Hook), Tom Lawrence (PPLD), Julie Kelsall-Dempsey (Highland), Sally Alderdice (Claverack), Karen Garafalo (Philmont), Linda Deubert (Coxsackie), Carol Rodriguez (Beekman), Patti Haar (Patterson), Pat Kaufman (Mahopac), Frank Rees (Kent), Faith Johnson (Ulster)

Action Items:

1. For the fiscal year 2013, the surplus \$19,920 in the MHLS budget will be returned to member libraries to bring the total assessment to \$533,677.
2. For the fiscal year 2014, the base member assessment will be \$553,811. If there is additional money from the state, then additional funds may be refunded to member libraries.

Discussion Items:

Member Assessments:

- Central Library Aid will reduce member assessments to \$553,597 for 2014. The committee's intent is to make this reduction permanent, but is dependent on Central Library funding. Future increases in Central Library money may be used to offset member library fees.
- Erica Freudenberger suggested that as state funding for the System improves, the committee revisit the idea of permanently reducing the amount of member fees, since they were instituted to help meet the shortfall.
- Mike Nyerges responded that as an administrator, his concern is that adequate money be allotted to help stabilize MHLS and be used to help the organization and member libraries continue to grow and offer more services.
- Merribeth Advocate pointed out that Systems were still not fully funded. She suggested one way to reduce member fees was to consider reducing the contribution to the member's capital fund.
- Tom Lawrence suggested the funding solution presented above (see Action Items).
- Mike Nyerges brought up the regressive nature of the General Fees, which was echoed by Carol Rodriguez. Tom suggested that the \$19,920 be used to reduce the general fee and to institute a 5-tier system, capping the largest portion at \$2,000 (this part of the assessment is based on population).

Mileage Reimbursement Program:

- There was general discussion of the merits of the mileage reimbursement program. All agreed that Merribeth was correct in her categorizing it as an "equalizer" rather than an incentive.

- Linda Deubert indicated that for many small, distant libraries, mileage was a significant portion of their budget, and being reimbursed would help them afford to attend meetings and workshops.
- Karen Garafalo suggested that mileage be reimbursed after the first 20 miles one way.
- Mike & Merribeth agreed that MHLS would come up with two options on how to divide the money. As is currently proposed, there would be \$7,500 in reimbursements for 2013; \$15,000 in 2014.

Boopsie:

- Much discussion about the purpose of Boopsie and how it will be used. Many on the committee felt it an important tool to be able to offer patrons.
- Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich reminded the committee that the Marketing Advisory Committee thought Boopsie would be a good tool for member libraries.
- Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich is going to do some research about questions asked and report back to the committee.
- Tom Lawrence will take the member assessment chart and add the cost of Boopsie & Encore to it to see how that would impact member fees.

Respectfully submitted June 4, 2013 by Erica Freudenberger

The next System Services Ad Hoc Committee Meeting will take place in July, sometime before the DA meeting.