

**Consultant Reports**  
**Directors Association Meeting - April 2011**

**Merribeth Advocate, Outreach & Education Coordinator**

**1. Summer Reading Program Mini-Grants:**

- For the 2011 New York State Library's Statewide Summer Reading Program (*One World, Many Stories* for children's services, and *You Are Here* for teen services) MHLS will soon be sending out mini-grant applications. MHLS is expecting to receive \$8,100 from NYS, which will be divided among member libraries with successful applications based on a standardized rubric. Each will receive \$300-\$500, favoring programs that target strategic audiences and non-traditional users, meet the changing needs of the community, enable partnerships and enhance literacy. The applications will be sent through the Directors list serv, and will be copied to the Youth Services list serv.

**2. 2012-2016 Plan of Service Focus Group Update:**

- By the time of the meeting, over 170 have participated in focus groups including Directors, Trustees, Friends, Millennium users and adult programming staff. Please encourage attendance from your staff at the upcoming focus group sessions that target other aspects of your library. All are linked to the MHLS online calendar at <http://calendar.midhudson.org/>
  - **Outreach / Public Relations Staff & Staff that Train Patrons, including Literacy Staff:** Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 11:30am @MHLS Auditorium
  - **Trustees (combined with the Advocacy Boot Camp):** This additional session has been scheduled by popular demand! Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm @MHLS Auditorium .
  - **Youth Services Staff (both sessions are combined with the Youth Services/Teen Outreach Roundtable topic: Impact of Reduced Funding for Schools on Public Libraries):** Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm @Saugerties Public Library OR Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm @MHLS Auditorium.
  - **Assistant Directors:** Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 11:30am @MHLS Auditorium.
  - **Reference / Adult Services Staff:** Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:00pm @ Adriance Memorial Library (Poughkeepsie) in the Charwat Room.

**3. MHLS Annual Meeting:**

- New date - please reserve Friday, October 28 for the 52<sup>nd</sup> MHLS Annual Meeting.

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**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Growth & Sustainability**

**1. Albany Update:**

- **Budget Deal Reached:** At the time of this report a budget deal has been reached.
  - By the time we meet we will know the fate of the 10% cut.
  - The Tax Cap was not included in the bill. However, negotiations surrounding the cap are expected to “dominate” the rest of the legislative season. NYLA has sent a letter asking the Governor and the heads of both houses asking for clarification on two main points: 1) that libraries are included in the bill and 2) that district libraries would be held to their own cap and not forced under the municipal or school district's cap.
- **Update: No More Paper Ballots?:** As discussed last month there is a chance that special district and school district public libraries who administer their own votes (i.e. your vote is held in your library) may not be allowed to use paper ballots any more. The NYS Assembly has stated they do not feel the federal HAVA law driving this applies to libraries but we do not have anything official that confirms this. NYLA is working to get a letter from the State Board of Elections that would clarify how libraries are impacted by this law.

**2. 2011-2012 Construction Grants:** MHLS Board priorities set: *“The MHLS Board will give highest priorities to projects that are part of an overall plan for building improvement. Although they did not rank priorities, they will*

look for applications that show energy savings (preferably in the context of a professional's recommendations), increased space, and accessibility improvements."

- Tentative 2011-2012 Timeline:
  - i. **April 16, 2010: Construction Needs Update Action Memo Due**
  - ii. April 21: Construction Grant workshop @MHLS (mandatory for those applying for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.)
  - iii. July 29 (tentative): Grant applications due to MHLS
  - iv. September 23 (tentative): MHLS submits award recommendations to NYS
  - v. March/April 2011: Awards announced by NYS
- Please talk to me as soon as you can about your project idea.

3. **Outreach to Local Officials:** As we all begin to strategize about life in a tax cap environment it couldn't hurt to be thinking about how to strengthen a positive relationship with local officials, specifically town officials and school district officials.

- Two reports were highlighted in a recent Bulletin, one of which would be a great conversation starter with your local government officials: "**Maximize the Potential of Your Public Library: A Report on the Innovative Ways Public Libraries are Addressing Community Priorities**" released by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).
- Regular attendance at town board meetings is advised as is regular reporting on the value of the library in the community.

4. **Meeting Space Policy Review:** In light of the push to get state legislators to have more face time with the community in our libraries (via town hall-style meetings or local office hours) it is important to be clear that the library is non-partisan. Public libraries are limited public forums and access to your meeting space may not be denied based on content (i.e. political view point). While it is fine to have elected officials in the library, if you are hosting officials during election season it must be very clear that you provide the same space under the same conditions to any political candidate or party.

5. **Libraries Now Eligible for FEMA Assistance:** Please note the item in the 3.29.11 MHLS Bulletin – "**Libraries are Essential – FEMA says so!**" The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now allows libraries to be designated as temporary relocation facilities during major disasters and emergencies on the FEMA Public Assistance Program. "It's the first time FEMA acknowledges that libraries are essential community organizations," said Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the ALA Washington Office, Evidently until now, the list of eligible facilities has been limited to police, fire protection/emergency services, medical care, education, and utilities. Section 403 of the Stafford Act provides for temporary facilities for schools and other "essential community services," when it is related to saving lives and preserving property of public health and safety. [Source: "Libraries Now Eligible for FEMA Assistance," *Library Hotline*, January 17, 2011"]

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#### **Laurie Shedrick: Automated Systems Manager**

1. **IUG 2011:** I will be away from my desk from Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup>-Friday through Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, attending the Innovative Users Group meeting in San Francisco. The rest of the tech team (Karen, Robert, Kit, Gerry and Isaac) will be here to assist you with any issues you may have. I will be able to monitor email, so if you need to reach me, that will be the best way.
2. **2d scanners group buy:** You will have received an order form, inviting you to participate in a group buy of 2 dimensional barcode scanners. These new scanners are able to scan barcodes stored on a smart phone or other handheld device as well as traditional codes.
3. **Innovative Visit:** Dave Hemmingway-Turner and Christopher Holly, of Innovative Interfaces paid a visit to MHLS on March 16<sup>th</sup>. System staff and attendees from Adriance, Beacon and Mahopac discussed the possibilities of additional products. A demonstration of patron images, reporter and self check were given.
4. **Millennium users:** Last month Millennium users got together to for hardy discussions of system services and Millennium in general. What I found to be really powerful was that the attendees really appreciate getting together to share their common experience. While libraries can be very different the sharing that takes place at these meetings really drives home how much alike we all really are.