

Mid-Hudson Library System Board Meeting Director's Report December 2007

Construction Project: The original design of the bathroom renovations has been changed. Originally we planned to have a larger women's room and a handicapped accessible unisex room. We have been told this would open us up to a possible discrimination suit, so we will have to make both the men's and women's room accessible. To do this we will need to move the back wall a little. We still hope to have this work finished by the end of January 2008.

Technology: The Teleforms phone call system finally seems to be running without a hitch. Previously, we had to restart it at least once a day. That glitch has been fixed. We have upgraded SAM and are waiting on a Millennium upgrade the major benefit of this will be more flexibility in printing notices and receipts. We have turned on the Reading History function in the catalog. Patrons can log into their record and turn on the history that will keep track of items they have checked out. They can delete items from this history if they wish. Any items left in the history would be obtainable by law enforcement officials with a subpoena. We have sent out printed material that explains this.

Votes: One of our major goals is to have all libraries have their budget voted on by the public. This year three more libraries: Red Hook, Tivoli and Northeast Millerton were added to this list with victories at the polls. This brings the number to 53 of our 66 libraries that have their budgets voted on. Patterson tried for their third vote and lost by about 20 votes.

Senator Larkin: Senator William Larkin obtained a legislative grant for \$13,500 to help us pay for our digital press. We sent him a certificate printed on the press to thank him and to demonstrate our increased printing capabilities.

Marketing: Through the LSTA project, *Building Your Base*, we have been targeting firefighters as a group to build alliances with. Kirsten Litwin has met with fire chiefs from around the region and is developing ideas for libraries to collaborate with fire companies.

Continuing Education: As usual, fall is a busy time for Continuing Education. We had a complete range of workshops including special programs on Marketing, Budgeting, Legal Issues as well as our ongoing sessions on Millennium, reference (through the Central library program), and new staff orientations. Margaret Keefe worked with other Systems in the region to present *Fall Into Books* and Rebekkah Smith Adlrich organized a special program on Endowment.

Cold Spring: The Cold Spring Board and the Town Supervisor have agreed to begin the voted upon amount of funding for the library in 2008. Although the library did not receive the voted on amount in 2007, the Board decided to accept this rather than deal with another appeal which would have cost them a significant amount of money and not have a resolution for months to come. They also felt this ongoing battle was dividing the community and it was time to end it. While we wish we could have had a complete victory, the two judicial opinions from this case both reinforced the 414 law.

The list below includes documents & information that are to be placed in the permanent record. Board members may request copies of documents by contacting Peggy on ext. 16 pwinn@midhudson.org.

Member Memos

- #06-21: Rotating Large Print Collections
- #07-13: Bulk Order of Delivery Slips
- #07-14: Member Info Contact Information Update

Correspondence Received:

- Thank you note to Josh Cohen and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Mahopac trustee, Alice Walsh, for conducting a trustee training session to help the library's 414 effort.
- Thank you letter to Josh Cohen from Philip Ritter, Executive Director Upper Hudson Library System, for his presentations at the UHLS Trustee Workshop in Albany, NY on September 20.
- Thank you note to Margaret Keefe from Randy Enos, Youth Services Coordinator at Ramapo Catskill Library System, for talking to teen librarians in Haverstraw, about the "Battle of the Books" program.
- Thank you note to Josh Cohen and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Timothy Burke, Interim Director of the Albany Public Library, and trustee, Dennis Gaffney, for hosting their visit to the System and sharing ideas and information about the services the System provides for its member libraries.
- Email correspondence between Board President, Marie Smith, and former MHLS Director, Frank Van Zanten re: Retirement Benefits.
- October edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's monthly feature "*On the Shelves*" contributed by Anne Jordan, director of the Staatsburg Library.
- Article from the Poughkeepsie Journal on the 2007 "Battle of the Books" event written by Margaret Keefe, Coordinator of Youth Services.
- Article from the Millbrook Roundtable on the "Battle of the Books" event held at Millbrook High School.
- Thank you note to MHLS Staff and Board from Margaret Feldman for the gift she was presented for 10 years of service on the System's Board.
- Articles from the Putnam County News and Recorder and the Poughkeepsie Journal re: the new Kid's Online Public Access Catalog.
- Thank you letter to Josh Cohen from State Librarian, Janet Welch, for his continued advocacy efforts on behalf of funding increases for libraries.
- Article from "Library Hotline" re: the System's newly designed Kids online catalog.
- Thank you note from Annual Meeting guest speaker, Marilyn Johnson, for allowing her to share in the day's program.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Greta Boeringer, Director Hudson Area Association Library, for meeting with the library's Finance Committee to help them plan how to invest library funds.
- November edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's monthly feature "*On the Shelves*" contributed by Margaret Quick, Director of the NorthEast Millerton Library.

Other Reports:

- Staff Library Visits Report