

Mid-Hudson Library System Board Meeting Director's Report December 2008

Funding: The Legislature delayed action of the Governor's unfair 20% cut of libraries. On December 16 the Governor will propose his 2009 budget and raise again the potential cuts for this year. Notice, we will be three weeks away from the end of our budget year. We can expect the Governor's 2009 proposal to also unfairly impact libraries and will need to be ready for a strong advocacy effort.

Marketing: Rebekkah and I met with John Nelson of the Poughkeepsie Journal, the new editor of the Books Page, to talk about the "On The Shelves" column. He was receptive to opening it to more writers and willing to add some more information about libraries.

Continuing Education: Our fall programs have been well attended and well received. These included our annual *Friends Matter* event, *Advanced Trustee Training*, the Central Library program *Mastering the Online Catalog* and our collaborative program with the schools and Ramapo-Catskill Library System, *Fall Into Books*.

Technology: We expect to upgrade to Millennium 2007 on November 25. This upgrade has several enhancements, but the most important is the ability to control the format of notices.

Task Force on System Funding: We had our first meeting to discuss member contributions to the System. We talked about creating a formula that would be fair, but also that would not penalize libraries that lend. We could look at using items borrowed, number of delivery boxes in, circulation etc. With the state of economy, we are anticipating fees from members to be instituted in 2010.

NYLA: Having taken over the reigns of power at NYLA, I led the November 18 rally against cuts in library funding. Thanks to Jean Ehnebuske for speaking at the rally. At the NYLA conference there was a discussion of the recent 414 ruling in Broome County that implied that there needs to be a mechanism to enable reduction in funding. There was also a discussion of requiring elected boards as part of 414. The new State Librarian, Bernie Margolis, was introduced. He will start in January.

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.

Correspondence Received:

- September edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's monthly feature "On the Shelves" contributed by Frank Rees, Director Kent Public Library.
- Article from the Putnam County News and Recorder dated July 30 re: the Desmond Fish Library's Teen Intern Program.
- Thank you note to Merribeth Advocate, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Josh Cohen for presenting the *Essential Trustee Duties & Responsibilities* session at the Patterson Library.
- Thank you note to the MHLS Board and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich for their assistance, expertise, advice and encouragement with the submission of the library's Construction Grant Application.
- Note of praise and appreciation from Alison Rooney, Copy Editor of the Putnam County News & Recorder and parent of a participant in the *Battle of the Books* contest, to Margaret Keefe and Kerstin Cruger, for organizing the event.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Hyde Park Friends Group for attending and helping to facilitate their Annual Meeting and her ongoing commitment and assistance.
- Thank you letter to Josh Cohen from Philip Ritter, Executive Director of the Upper Hudson Library System, for his presentation at the UHLS Trustee Workshop on September 25.
- Article from the Poughkeepsie Journal dated September 30 re: Battle of the Books competition.
- October edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's monthly feature "On the Shelves" contributed by Josh Cohen, Executive Director.

- Article from the Poughkeepsie Journal's *GoodLife* column re: 2008 County Trustee Success Story Awards.
- Congratulatory letter to Josh Cohen from the staff and board of the Patterson Library on his election as NYLA President.
- November edition of the Poughkeepsie Journal's monthly feature "*On the Shelves*" contributed by Joanne Meyer, Director of the Morton Memorial Library.

Other Reports:

- Staff Library Visits Report