

STATE ADVOCACY

We meet the Saturday following Advocacy Day in Albany on Tuesday, March 5, but we'll need to continue to advocate on behalf of library services until the state budget is adopted.

We're asking for 100% full funding, \$102 million.

And as leaders of a public library system, we need to be ready to explain why we need this increase.

What justifies a complete turn around in library funding? Funding for education has continued to increase--the Governor is proposing 4.4% this year--but funding for library services is still at 80% of what it was in 2008.

We know what public libraries provide.

- They provide access to a national culture of popular reading and viewing, and life-long learning
- They provide programs to children and families that focus on literacy and social growth.
- They provide access to digital literacy and a national culture of free broadband and WiFi, and the resources that supports economic and workforce development.
- They provide us stories of ourselves in print and video that challenge and enrich us.
- A super majority of adult Americans consistently recognize in poll after poll the value libraries provide their communities.

But what do systems provide?

- At Mid-Hudson, we facilitate universal access to the collections of 66 public libraries in five counties
- We make it possible for our member libraries to share their collections, and make these collections available to 7 correctional facilities.
- We ensure that residents in small communities have the same access to library resources that residents have in large communities.
- We minimize the costs of sharing by leveraging economies of scale and move 1 million items

from library to library and back again for approximately 48-cents per item.

- We help our libraries identify and implement best practices in a range of service areas that include funding and governance, construction and facility development, automation and technology, marketing and youth services.
- We offered 70+ continuing education workshops in 2012 and had 1,110 directors, trustees, staff and others attend.
- We provide consulting and support to our member libraries on request and responded to an estimated 15,000 requests by phone and email in 2012, as well making 250 library and community visits.
- We know Mid-Hudson has one of the smallest staffs of the 23 public library systems in the state relative to the number of libraries-served.
- And we know that in New York State, systems form the backbone of a statewide culture of popular reading and viewing that is part of a rich national tradition of free public library service.
- And don't forget to say thank you when talking to our representatives! Links to their contact information on the [Mid-Hudson website](#).

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Also contact our federal legislators, Senators and Members of Congress. They need to hear about libraries as well. Consider sharing any workforce development partnerships between libraries and other job and adult ed professionals. The Workforce Development Local Libraries legislation would give public libraries more opportunities to strengthen these types of partnerships. Also remind our representative of the importance of LSTA funding and BTOP.

Mike Nyerges. Report by the Executive Director to the Mid-Hudson Library System Board of Trustees, for its meeting on March 9, 2013. 2013-03-01

Executive Director's Monthly Report

GAS UPDATE

We're back on track with plans for purchasing gasoline on state contract from the county. Had we been purchasing gas since July 2012 when our current contract with Hudson River Transport began, we estimate our savings would have been about \$9,000.

Bryan Duroy of Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle in Hopewell Junction has completed his legal review of the county's contract, which the county has modified. We're meeting the Dutchess Department of Public Works on February 8, and plan to sign the contract after finalizing procedures for the drivers to access the gas at that meeting. We've already met with Alex Ibara to plan the divers' switch-over, which we hope will be March 30.

MHLS TRUSTEES ORIENTATION

We had an excellent meeting of the Trustees Services Committee on February 19. My notes are in your board packet.

Please mark your calendars for a review of MHLS Board essentials following the July 10th board meeting. Plan for lunch with staff. Think about possible topics to review in an afternoon session. An outline is included in your packet to help you to think about possible topics.

Regarding the committee's recommendation to the board requiring members to attend a library trustee essentials workshop within three years of their being elected or within their first year serving as trustee, this should be referred to the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures Committee. Any change in the Bylaws needs to be reviewed by the Board in May and presented to our members at the annual meeting in 18.

FACILITY UPDATES

The Facility Committee meets March 11 at 10 AM for its annual facility walk-through and to review the planned building projects for 2013. The Auditorium facade is slated for a refurbishing this spring. Chris Herron and I have begun to sketch out plans for the asbestos-removal project in the auditorium basement. We're talking with QUEST of Wappingers to do the drawings and bid specifications. Our targets include having the work under contract by August/September and work to be scheduled in September/October.

FIRST RESTORERS?

I've been using the phrase "first restorer" as a role public libraries responding to community emergencies or disasters. I first heard the phrase used by George Needham at his NYLA Conference presentation when he stressed the important services libraries provide after disasters like Hurricane Sandy. Even FEMA, he

said, recognized the importance of libraries in these situations. Although they may not be "first responders," he said, FEMA recognizes libraries as "first restorers." The phrase resonated. But I couldn't find a FEMA reference to the phrase anywhere. When I (finally) asked Needham about it, he pointed to legislation that resulted from the disastrous flooding in 2008 in Iowa and other states. FEMA initially denied temporary relocation funding to Cedar Rapids Public Library, which had been devastated. FEMA eventually reversed its decision on that library, but libraries generally were still not identified in the law as essential community services. Passage of federal legislation in 2010 added libraries to health, police, fire protection, and emergency services and allowed libraries to be designated as temporary relocation facilities. So FEMA does recognize libraries as essential community services, it just doesn't use the phrase "first restorers." But it's a useful phrase to use.

POLICIES

Action on the Children's Internet Protection Act policy is on the agenda. We need to adopt a CIPA policy if we want to recover costs for broadband and network equipment under the e-rate program, or purchase computers to access the Internet using LSTA funds. Annual reimbursement on broadband is about \$18,000. We will also need to update our building-use policy to ensure that there is compliance by others when using our facilities. Because we limit use to member libraries, this would primarily affect the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, but the library is already CIPA compliant.

CIPA requires a public hearing to be held before the adoption of the policy. If a member library were to consider such a policy, a public hearing would need to be held for its residents. The same is true for a public school. But a private school would hold a public hearing for its "constituents," the families of the students attending the school. Our "constituents" are our member libraries, so I have notified the directors and suggest that we plan on beginning our meeting at 10 AM by providing an opportunity to any members who show up to address the board's consideration of the policy.

OTHER: At the meeting, we will also share information on annual reports and the year in review