

- i. System Services Advisory Committee – next meeting 5/3/2023
 - ii. Resource Sharing Advisory Committee – next meeting 5/4/2023
 - iii. Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee – next meeting 4/24/2023
 - iv. Ad Hoc OverDrive Committee – next meeting 5/16/2023
- b. MHLS
 - i. Staff Report

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich:

- MHLS is reviewing delivery stops by circulation volume, which had been suspended for a few years with the pandemic, based on the members' three-year average circulation numbers. SSAC will review the report in May.
- MHLS Training on Demand has 59 libraries enrolled. Please forward any user feedback – it's important and appreciated.
- In light of the current climate, emergency preparedness in our libraries is a priority. OSHA requires an employer to have an emergency action plan. Please use the resources provided by MHLS to create or revise your action plans. Make sure your staff are familiar with these policies, receive training, and practice emergency procedures periodically.
- MHLS and ALA have several helpful resources to prepare for possible book challenges. Prepare your Board on how to handle these challenges by ensuring that they understand your collection development and challenged materials policies. Jennifer Russell from Saugerties recommended the ALA resources for dealing with program challenges that can happen as well.
- The state budget has still not been finalized, being held up by bail reform and housing bills. Many thanks to everyone for their support and advocacy during a rough year of so many new legislators and proposed budget cuts. Check out the Howland Library's Instagram for some creative advocacy inspiration! Legislative season ends June 9.
- The SSAC is working on a third draft of the Memo of Understanding, with attorney Ellen Bach reviewing the grievance section.
- Thank you to all who are providing feedback through the county director meeting discussions to help with the MHLS website redesign project. A system-wide survey is forthcoming for input from directors, staff, and trustees.

Laurie Shedrick:

- Demonstrated new features and developments with Vega which allow each library to fully customize their OPACs with a carousel of information, curated collections, and other information they wish to highlight about their library. This customization is optional and libraries can opt to have the generic OPAC search screen. ReciteMe can be worked into the catalog and many languages are included. It was noted that the mobile app does not have the reading history – Laurie will follow-up on a fix. Rebekkah reiterated that Vega is a pilot project that has not gone live yet. The 5 pilot libraries are reminded not to share the URL. There is no definite date for Vega rollout yet.
- Rebekkah recognized Laurie for her leadership and advocacy with the Vega project; Laurie applauded Nina and Kerri for their efforts and assistance.
- **Sierra:** patron names, phone numbers, addresses, and emails are restricted from API extracts. This information will be masked to vendors. Version 5.6 was installed on March 28. Repeat entries in the high demand holds report and the ability to delete items by barcode will be fixed before installation of version 6.0.
- **Sierra User Group** meeting is scheduled for 5/24/2023. Laurie & Kathryn will share information about a big release and the Vega LX starter. Please encourage staff to attend as this group does not meet often.
- MHLS now has RLAs with Southern Adirondack and Mohawk Valley Library Systems, as well as the Upper Hudson Library System, giving patrons access to a much broader collection of e-books. Monthly library specific activity

statistics will be provided. Please let Laurie know if you have any comments or enhancements as to how this information is presented.

Laura Crisci:

- If you are interested in learning more about **Artificial Intelligence**, there is a webinar on May 18 which will be recorded.
 - The **EDI in Libraries Series** is having a **Pronoun Workshop** on May 8 – live only, will not be recorded.
 - A **Friends Group** meeting is being scheduled for July.
 - Please complete the MHLS action memo for state aid library construction *even if you are not applying*, by **May 24**. If you were unable to attend, the webinar on applying for state construction aid is recorded and available on Training on Demand. Laura will announce office hours for assistance with the application.
- ii. Board Liaison Report (*MHLS Board met 3/11/2023 – SSAC rep Thea Schoep, Claverack*)
- Discussed challenges faced by smaller libraries with OverDrive purchasing
 - The Incentives Committee prioritized the construction grant needs
 - Authenticated the Annual Reports to the State

Rebekkah reiterated that the MHLS trustees would very much like to attend one of their county libraries' Board meetings. They like to meet the trustees, learn about what's happening at their libraries, relay important issues at the system level, and offer support. Please do not be intimidated or hesitant to invite them.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 11:30 am was made by Gina L., seconded by Mary D., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Mary M. De Bellis, Secretary

Next:

- DA Business Meeting: June 13, 2023