

Executive Director's Report to the MHLS Board | January 2020

1. Albany Update

- a. The Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology held a hearing on December 13th, 2019 at which I was invited to testify at. You can [view my testimony online](#), it is indexed so you can jump right to my part if you'd like to:



- b. I have been appointed as a Member-at-Large to the New York Library Association's Legislative Committee by NYLA President Dr. Jennifer Cannell.
 - i. The Legislative Committee serves to represent each of NYLA's constituent groups for the research, monitoring and support or opposition to state legislative and funding issues that impact New York's library community.
- c. The Governor's State of the State address did not mention libraries but did [prioritize net neutrality](#), something closely aligned with the interests of our libraries. To brush up on this issue check out the American Library Association's briefing on the topic: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/net-neutrality>
- d. Emerging Legislation
 - i. Senator Rachel May and Assemblyman Sean Ryan have introduced bill S7098/A9048 to prohibit the State from entering into contracts with publishers who are deemed to have discriminatory practices. We understand from NYLA that this bill has some issues that NYLA is working to help educate the sponsors on, for example, the legislation, in its

current form, place the onus on the entity purchasing the content/titles which would forbid libraries from entering into contract with publishers they may want to work with. This legislation is modeled on [a bill from Connecticut](#)

- ii. The NYLA Legislative Committee is advancing legislation to mandate annual trustee education (2 hours a year) for public library trustees. This legislative has been drafted and is awaiting sponsors. This is a topic that is familiar to us all as we previously advocated for this at the legislative level, then were working with the State Library to embed it in regulation. The regulatory push has stalled out due to a moratorium on regulation amendments while the search for a new Education Commissioner commences. The library community feels we have waited long enough for this statute and are once again pursuing it via legislative means.

- e. NYLA Library Advocacy Day: Tuesday, February 25th, 2020 We will once again coordinate transportation to Albany with help from our friends at the Ramapo Catskill Library System.

2. 2020 Action Plan

- a. The annual Action Plan is a detailed look at how MHLS staff will carry out the goals and objectives stated in our [Plan of Service](#) for the coming year.
- b. The proposed [2020 Action Plan](#) is based on feedback from MHLS member libraries and MHLS Staff. Highlights include:
 - 1. Integrated Library System & Cataloging Services (Service Priority 2 & 3)
 - i. Development of a new ILS Road Map (version 2.0)
 - ii. Fine-tuning of the newly introduced Sierra Users Group and Core Competency curriculum
 - 2. Professional Development and Training (Service Priority 5)
 - a. Trustee Education Program
 - i. Development of a new Advanced Trustee Workshop: "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Boards"
 - b. Community Engagement/Project Outcome Program for Library Directors & Staff
 - i. Extension of Project Outcome support through 2020
 - 3. Consulting and Development Services (Service Priority 6)
 - a. Community Based Planning Project
 - i. Extension of the Turning Outwards program through 2021 in support of the new minimum standards which require libraries to engage in community-based planning practices
 - b. New Director Orientation & Support
 - i. Continue fine-tuning of new director onboarding through 2020
 - c. 2020 Lab Project: Increasing Yes Votes
 - d. Sustainable Thinking in Practice
 - i. Pursuit of NYLA Sustainable Library Certification Program for MHLS
 - ii. Planning a Sustainable Thinking mini-conference
 - e. Technical Assistance Related to the New Minimum Standards for Public Libraries
 - i. Development of support webinars for the new standards
 - 4. Digital Collection Access (Service Priority 8)

- a. Development of a Catalog Road Map in collaboration with member libraries
5. Awareness and Advocacy (Service Priority 9)
 - a. Support for the 2020 Census
6. Communications Among Member Libraries (Service Priority 12)
 - a. Roundtables: due to popular demand, extension of the social media roundtable for 2019
3. **FirstBook-OMG Award Received**
 - a. MHLS has received a First Book – OMG (Offering More Great) Books Award on behalf of our member libraries. The award is made possible thanks to an initiative between First Book and Too Small to Fail/Talking is Teaching.
 - b. The award provides \$3,000 worth of books to distribute to families with young children ages birth to 5 in high needs or underserved or under-resourced areas. These books will be offered to twenty-eight (28) MHLS member libraries that serve communities with a child poverty rate of 15% or higher according to data from [Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles](#).
4. **Town of Union Vale Contract Update**
 - a. As of the writing of this report there is no contract in place with the Town of Union Vale. Talks are still ongoing with a meeting scheduled between the impacted libraries and town supervisor at the end of the month. Should the matter be unresolved at the time of the February Directors Association the steps outlined at our December meeting will be carried out. *For more detailed information about this situation please see these [answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#) provided to Union Vale cardholders in September.*
5. I have been reappointed to the Advisory Group of the American Library Association's [Center for the Future of Libraries](#) for another two-year term.
6. **Board-to-Board Visits & Talking Points**
 - a. Thank you to all MHLS trustees who have let me know you are visiting member library boards, this is helpful so we can brief you on any local issues before you get there and to ask for your help with getting the word out about initiatives and opportunities at MHLS. We are now formally tracking board-to-board visits so appreciate the head's up and completion reports.
 - b. For the next few months we are asking for your help to promote three things:
 - i. Ebook Pricing & Libraries
 1. ALA Briefing: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/e-books>
 2. Macmillan embargo and what it means for the future of ebook pricing for libraries: <https://ebooksforall.org/>
 - ii. To attend NYLA Library Advocacy Day 2020 on Tuesday, February 25th in Albany

- iii. To understand the important role libraries can play for Census 2020, both to promote that it is happening and preparation to assist residents to fill out the Census online.

7. Executive Director's Event Participation: December-January

- a. Advocates & Ambassadors Workshop (presenter), Kingston Library
- b. Public Library System Directors Organization of New York State Monthly Update
- c. Division of Library Development Monthly Update
- d. Green County Library Association, Greenville
- e. NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology Hearing, Albany, NY
- f. MHLS Personnel & Planning Committee
- g. North Chatham Free Library (consultation)
- h. NYLA Legislative Committee meeting
- i. New Director Orientation, Christa Cerul, Stanford Free Library
- j. Claverack Library (consultation)
- k. Dutchess County Directors, Starr Library (Rhinebeck)
- l. Bob Dandrew, [Local Economies Project](#)
- m. Public Library System Directors Organization of New York State Monthly Update
- n. Division of Library Development Monthly Update