

***CORRESPONDENCE RECOGNIZING STAFF
FOR MHLS BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2020***

CORRESPONDENCE

- Responses from Margie Menard, Director of the Kingston Library and 2020 Chair of the MHLS Directors Association; AnnaLee Dragon, Director, Kinderhook Library; and Stephen Cook, Director, Starr Library (Rhinebeck), in light of the announcement of the MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services.
- Thank you card from Wendy Tremper Wollerton, Director, Livingston Free Library, to all MHLS Staff, thank them for their “prompt and professional help.”
- Message to the full board from Kerry Weller, immediate past president of the Millbrook Library, commending Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director, for support over Ms. Weller’s tenure and her leadership during the Union Vale contract negotiations.
- Thank you note to Casey Conlin, Library Sustainability Coordinator, from Faith Benson, Board President of the Philmont Library.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director, from Carol Donick, Director, Kent Public Library, for her support during the library’s first 414 vote in 2019.
- Thank you note to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director, from Catherine Benson, Director of the Heermance Memorial Library in Coxsackie, for her testimony to the NYS Assembly standing committee on Libraries & Education Technology.
- Thank you note from Miguel Figueroa, Director of the American Library Association’s Center for the Future of Libraries, to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Executive Director for her presentation at the Symposium at the Future held at the ALA Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

From: Margie Menard <mmenard@kingstonlibrary.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich; C Fortier
Cc: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: [MHLS-Notice] Announcement: MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

Thank you, Rebekkah. You and the other MHLS staff have been providing amazing support and leadership this past week. I really appreciate it.

Margie

From: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com <mhls-notice@googlegroups.com> on behalf of Carol Fortier <cfortier@beekmanlibrary.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 8:25:40 AM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>
Cc: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com <mhls-notice@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [MHLS-Notice] Announcement: MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

Thanks Rebekkah. This will make the next week a little less crazy.

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 15, 2020, at 8:02 AM, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org> wrote:

MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

In the face of the unprecedented spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the corresponding action by federal, state, county, local and library officials in the past week, the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) will temporarily suspend holds and the delivery system this week.

This decision was developed in consultation with MHLS staff, the leadership of the MHLS Directors Association and the MHLS Board of Trustees. As you can imagine, this decision was not taken lightly. A combination of public health concerns as well as the logistic realities of our cooperative public library system call for this measure to support the majority of our libraries who have decided to suspend public services during this challenging time.

Suspension of Holds and Delivery Services to Member Libraries:

1. Holds will be suspended effective 3:00pm Monday, March 16, 2020 for all libraries.
2. Existing holds will also be suspended at this time, and will be unsuspending when delivery resumes.
3. For member libraries who have notified MHLS staff of their intent to close on or before Monday, March 16, 2020 delivery will be suspended on Monday, March 16, 2020.
4. Delivery will be suspended for all remaining member libraries effective Thursday, March 19, 2020. The last day of regular delivery will be Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

From: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com on behalf of annalee.dragon@kinderhooklibrary.org
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Cc: mhls-notice@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: [MHLS-Notice] Announcement: MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

Great work, MHLS! We know how tough these decisions are, but this is the right thing to do. Thanks for the update and for all you are doing to support us all.

AnnaLee

----- Original Message -----

From: "Stephen Cook" <starrdirector@icloud.com>
To: "Rebekkah Smith Aldrich" <rsmith@midhudson.org>
Cc: "mhls-notice@googlegroups.com" <mhls-notice@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Sun, 15 Mar 2020 09:12:19 -0400
Subject: Re: [MHLS-Notice] Announcement: MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

Thank you. Makes perfect sense.

Stephen

Starr Library Rhinebeck

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 15, 2020, at 08:02, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org> wrote:

MHLS Action Plan for Delivery Services

In the face of the unprecedented spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the corresponding action by federal, state, county, local and library officials in the past week, the Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) will temporarily suspend holds and the delivery system this week.

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[Suspension of Holds and Delivery Services to Member Libraries:](#)

To a Great Team,

**Message on cover
may appear smaller
than actual gratitude.**

Many thanks for your always prompt and professional help. It is not an easy task to be the "go to" resource for 66 libraries in 5 counties, but you do it with ease.

Your advice and assistance enables me to do my job.

Bon Appetite!

Wendy Trempur Wollerton
Livingston Free Library

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

From: MHLS Contact Form <noreply@midhudson.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 6:05 PM
To: MHLS Board
Subject: Board Contact from: Kerry Weller

I would like to contact:

Entire Mid-Hudson Library System Board

Name:

Kerry Weller

Library Affiliation

Millbrook Library

Email:

boardpresident@millbrooklibrary.org

Subject:

Executive Director Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Message:

I am writing to acknowledge the professionalism, intellect and integrity of our System's Executive Director, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich.

Tonight marks my last meeting as a member of the Millbrook Library Board of Trustees as I will have served the maximum number of terms permitted by our by-laws. Over the last nine years, I have interacted with Rebekkah on a number of different topics in varied settings: from trainings to workshops to guiding our Board through a successful 414 campaign, I have always found Rebekkah to be a great resource and sounding board with an encyclopedic knowledge of our system. When I assumed the Presidency of our Board in 2013, I relied heavily on the MHLS website and sought Rebekkah's advice and insight on several occasions throughout my five years as Board President. She was always responsive, forthcoming and on point in each interaction I had with her.

When our Board President unexpectedly resigned in November 2019, I became President again. Since assuming that post, I have been deeply involved with the Union Vale library funding issue. "Challenging" does not begin to capture this situation. Through the many months that we have worked to achieve a funding resolution, Rebekkah has consistently acted with grace and professionalism even in the face of what I consider to be personal attacks on her integrity by the Union Vale Town Supervisor. There have been countless conversations, meeting preparations, emails, etc. regarding this issue and each time I've been in touch with Rebekkah, I have found her to be knowledgeable, supportive, helpful, and patient. To be handling the stress of the Union Vale situation while simultaneously leading the System is truly remarkable and a testament to Rebekkah's work ethic and her integrity. I am profoundly grateful to have met and worked with her and consider myself fortunate that I live in a library system under the very capable leadership of Rebekkah Smith Aldrich.

From: Faith Benson <faithieben@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>
Subject: Re: Names of municipal libraries

Thank you, Casey. Your list enabled me to talk with directors personally, and added to the information that I put together in a report to my BOT.
As a new President, I can't tell you how much I appreciate your assistance!

Sincerely,
Faith

On Jan 29, 2020, at 12:52 PM, Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org> wrote:

You've got a deal, Faith!

I'm attaching a list of municipal libraries and contact info.
Let me know if you need anything else.

Casey Conlin
Library Sustainability Coordinator
Mid-Hudson Library System
103 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.6060 x260

From: Faith Benson <faithieben@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Casey Conlin <cconlin@midhudson.org>
Subject: Names of municipal libraries

Hi, Casey~

I didn't mean to ask *you* to do the checking about allowing artists to profit from exhibiting their work in libraries. I'd actually prefer to make the contacts myself. All I need is the names of the other *municipal* libraries in the MHLS. I can take it from there, and am happy to do so.

Thanks,
Faith

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

From: Carol Donick <cdonick@kentlibrary.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Subject: Re: New 414 Manual

You are most welcome. Thank you again for all of the good advice and encouragement you gave Kent when we were going through this process. We couldn't have done it without you. Carol

On Thu, Feb 20, 2020 at 5:32 PM Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org> wrote:

Carol!

Thank you so much! This is invaluable feedback. I also appreciate the YouTube link!

I will up the numbers for the additional signatures at your recommendation.

Rebekkah

From: Carol Donick <cdonick@kentlibrary.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org>
Subject: Re: New 414 Manual

Hi Rebekkah,

Thank you for asking me to read the new "inch by inch" manual. I was humming the song as I read it. You can listen to Pete Seeger singing "inch by inch, row by row" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u90qRE2F7CM>

The only place where I disagreed with you was that I would suggest libraries get 20% to 30% more signatures than needed on the petitions. Our local Democratic Committee chair suggested that we get 50% more than required! It would be heartbreaking to have a petition disallowed because it lacked just a couple of valid signatures. This year Putnam Valley had to have a lawyer contest some of the signatures which were ruled out - it would have been so much easier for them to have just gotten a few more signatures. A year or two ago Paul Denbaum from Kent collected petition signatures to get on the county ballot, but narrowly missed his chance because a few too many signatures on his petitions were deemed invalid. Town clerks can rule out signatures where they find them (and the address) unreadable, etc. The list of registered voters for Kent was several hundred pages, and our petition collectors found it impractical to carry it around with them, and check names while people were signing. Also, collecting signatures is a wonderful opportunity for library supporters to talk to voters one on one, answer questions, correct misperceptions, etc.

The petitions should be photocopied before the originals are given to the town clerk. Our Friends group used these copies to send postcards before the election to people who had signed the petition. Copies would also be required if we had had to challenge the Town Clerk's determination that too many signatures were invalid.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

From: Catherine Benson <director@heermancelibrary.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
Subject: Re: RSA Testimony

Hi Rebekkah,
I listened and watched your testimony. Great job! The assemblymen were impressed with the figures you shared, as it caught their attention. Thank you for speaking on our behalf to keep our representatives thinking of libraries when it comes to financial support and grant money for the future.

Sincerely,

Catherine

Catherine Benson, Director
Heermance Memorial Library
1 Ely Street
Coxsackie, NY 12051
518-731-8084
www.heermancelibrary.org

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 11:34 AM Rebekkah Smith Aldrich <rsmith@midhudson.org> wrote:

Good morning!

It was nice to see many of you at the meeting in Athens yesterday.

As (begrudgingly) promised, here is a link to the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology hearing from December 13th, 2019 at which I was invited to testify at. You can [view my testimony online](#), it is

Rebekkah!

My favorite! Thank you so much for taking on this important conversation at Midwinter. As always, I admire your passion, insights, and leadership. We are so lucky to have you here!

-Megill Ryznar