

MHLS Directors Association | Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024 | MHLS Auditorium

Columbia County			Dutchess County			Greene County			Putnam County			Ulster County		
	Chatham	Merk	X	Amenia	Herow		Athens	Benjamin	X	Brewster	Loprinzo	X	Esopus	Chance
X	Claverack	Schoep		Beacon	Murphy	X	Cairo	Tatavitto	X	Carmel	Perolli		Highland	Dempsey
	Germantown	Place	X	Beekman	Fortier		Catskill	Leary		Cold Spring	Reinhardt	X	Hurley	Powell
X	Hillsdale	Gaskell	X	Clinton	Bancroft	X	Coxsackie	Benson		Garrison	Farabaugh	X	Kingston	Menard
X	Hudson	Chameides	X	Dover	Smith		Greenville	Flach		Kent	Donick		Marlboro	Jennerich
X	Kinderhook	Pavloff		East Fishkill	Salerno	X	Haines Falls	Elmo-Emel	X	Mahopac	Capozzella		Milton	Fonfa
	Livingston	Stork		Fishkill	Spann		Hunter	Johnson	X	Patterson	Harrison		New Paltz	Middleton
	New Lebanon	Hoffman	X	Hyde Park	Palmer		Windham	Begley	X	Putnam Valley	Chaudhri		Olive	McHugh
	North Chatham	Wert	X	LaGrange	De Bellis								Phoenicia	Potter
X	Philmont	Whittaker	X	Millbrook	Tsahal								Pine Hill	Vella
	Valatie	Magner (interim)		NorthEast-Millerton	Leo-Jameson								Plattekill	Lansperg
			X	Pawling	Fisher								Rosendale	Scott-Childress
				Pine Plains	Campbell								Saugerties	Russell
			X	Pleasant Valley	Pulice								Stone Ridge	Ford
				Poughkeepsie	Lawrence							X	Ulster	Chenier (interim)
				Red Hook	Geller								West Hurley	Keene
				Rhinebeck	Savolaine								Woodstock	Gocker
				Rhinecliff	Bartlett									
				Staatsburg	Rothman									
			X	Stanford	Cerul							MHLS Staff		
			X	Tivoli	Farley							X	Rebekkah Smith Aldrich	
			X	Wappingers	Campbell							X	Laurie Shedrick	
												X	Laura Crisci	

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Mary De Bellis at 10:04 am.

A. Action Items

1. Approval of September 2024 minutes. **Motion made by Schoep, seconded by Fortier. Passed by unanimous consent.**
2. Approval of the slate for the 2025 DA/SSAC Officers put forth by the SSAC. **Motion made by Fortier, seconded by Smith. Passed by unanimous consent.**
3. The Central Library / Collection Development Advisory Committee recommends that member libraries allow MHLS staff to reach out to Midwest Tape on our behalf to inquire what their stance on complaints that the collection includes large quantities of self-published books and AI-generated content that are unvetted by libraries or reviewers, what their collection development policy is, and what they plan to do

in the future to address our concerns. **Motion made by Chance, seconded by Whittaker. Passed by unanimous consent.**

4. After reviewing the comments and concerns from the DA meeting of September 12, the RSAC recommends the revised version of the previously submitted revision to the courtesy notice with the revised text:

This is a reminder that you have/had items due back in three days. Please see the list below to see which ones were renewed and/or which are due back on the original date. If you have questions, please contact your library.

Motion made by Smith, seconded by Perolli. Passed by unanimous consent.

B. New/Proposed Business & Information
None.

C. Reports

a. Advisory Committee Reports

- i. System Services Advisory Committee – Met on October 22.

The final 10% of state funds for Mid-Hudson are now available, and all of the Central Library Program Aid has been received, a portion of which will go toward more purchases in Overdrive. MHLS has not received the final 10% of the Local Library Services Aid (LLSA)
The Road Trip Committee met and has been developing a plan for a road trip program in the summer of 2025.

- ii. Resource Sharing Advisory Committee – Met on October 17.

The courtesy notice wording was revised.
The length of time and process for book club books was discussed.
Laurie provided an LX Starter update.

- iii. Central Library/Collection Development Advisory Committee – Met on November 1.

State funding is expected to be flat for 2025.
Overdrive content will be purchased with Central Library money focusing on bestsellers with longer wait times. Funding will be divided by month.
Coursera as discussed as an alternative to Universal Class.
There was a reminder to weed e-book collections periodically.
Training ideas were discussed.
An action item regarding Hoopla content was drafted to be presented to the DA.

- iv. Ad Hoc Overdrive Committee – met on October 6.

The twelve-month purchasing reports were reviewed and some libraries are still not meeting their spending thresholds.
A survey to determine why the libraries are not spending will be sent to assist the committee in determining the next steps and what additional training may be necessary.

- v. Road Trip Committee – Met on October 17.

The program is scheduled to launch the first week of June 2025.
An RFP for a graphic designer has been issued.
Training for frontline staff will be available.
There will be prizes, including a platinum library card for those who visit all 66 libraries in the system.
An app called Story App is being researched to possibly use with the program.

b. MHLS

i. Staff Report

- Rebekkah recognized and congratulated all of the libraries that had budgets on the ballot.
- With winter approaching, Directors were reminded to clear the paths to their buildings so the delivery drivers can do their jobs safely.
- Laurie is working with Innovative to solve issues with Sierra being slow.
- It is helpful to include the login, time of the event and record numbers when putting in a ticket as these help identify common factors.
- Laurie is working with Innovative to fix a call number issue related to Create List.
- Mobile app rollout plan has been changed by Innovative, first a generic app will roll out for the "Mid-Hudson Library System," Laurie will be in touch with all directors to help a custom interface for each library to be created under the umbrella of that app.
- WAM statistics will no longer be posted on the Mid-Hudson website after the end of the year. More accurate statistics can be gotten from the vendors.
- The cost of website management through Mid-Hudson will increase 2% for 2025. Mid-Hudson is conducting a review of the tech contract fees and anticipates these contract costs will go up in 2026.
- There is still time to apply for e-rate. A training series has been added to Training on Demand.
- There is an option to purchase extended security updates for Windows 10 for one year.
- Rebekkah reminded everyone that Trustee Education is required by the end of the year. There is also a Minimum Standard requirement that library staff receives annual technology training.
- Mid-Hudson is working on 30-minute Trustee Academy sessions as well as adding a quiz to the Trustee Essentials training.
- Mid-Hudson is transitioning to a new online calendar which will be available soon.
- The 2025 training focus will be on financial planning.
- MHLS is strongly advocating for all types of libraries to have an annual vote on their tax levy.
- The group purchase of Amazon Prime Business Accounts will proceed in 2025.
- Laura reported that 100% of Mid-Hudson libraries participated in the Great Giveback. Pictures or stories should be sent to Laura or Stephanie to share for advocacy.
- MHLS has to attest that system libraries are complying with the Essential Document Inventory.
- Rebekkah testified at the October 21st NYS Assembly standing Committee on Libraries & Education Technology hearing on strengthening and improving library services. During the hearing, a disagreement between a Mohawk Valley Library System member library and the MVLS was brought to light, with the member library suggesting all library systems statewide should be dismantled. MHLS member libraries in the districts of two legislators on this committee have been asked to reach out and share their opinion of being members of MHLS to provide a counter to this testimony.
- Laura updated the Directors about the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Capital Project Grants and the EDI Mini-Grants, as well as the opportunity to partner with Girls Who Code.
- Rebekkah provided an update regarding Union Vale.
- Rebekkah issued a public statement clarifying misinformation about the previous and current relationship between the Town of Union Vale and the Mid-Hudson Library System.

ii. Board Liaison Report

Matthew Pavloff, the Director of the Kinderhook Memorial Library, attended the MHLS Board meeting on September 27. The following were approved:

- Key policies
- The EDI working groups recommendation to evolve the EDI Working Group to a “Core Values Advisory Group”.
- The Incentives Committee’s recommendations for the State Aid for Library Construction Program award amounts provided in the board packet.

The Nominations & Elections Committee reported on current and planned vacancies on the MHLS Board of Trustees. The slate of officers for the MHLS Board will be voted on at the December Board Meeting. There were no nominations from the floor, therefore the slate will be presented as-in at the December meeting.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn at 11:37 am was made by Schoep, seconded by Tattavito and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Capozzella, Secretary

Next:

- DA Workshop: Library Finances, December 5, 2024, 10:00 am at the MHLS Auditorium
- DA Business Meeting: February 13, 2025, 10:00 am via Zoom