

## **Executive Director's Report May 2017**

### ***Net Neutrality***

On May 18, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted two to one to start the process of eliminating net neutrality rules and the classification of home and mobile Internet service providers (ISPs) as common carriers under Title II of the Communications Act. Net neutrality is often described as the equivalent of the First Amendment for the Internet, and the phrase is often misunderstood and elicits widely divergent reactions. Without net neutrality, ISPs could establish a system of paid prioritization for the processing of data conveyed via the Internet. This approach would likely discriminate against libraries, schools, not-for-profits, and small- and medium-sized businesses which are unable to pay for "priority access." It could also negatively impact individuals who would be unable to pay the premium for this enhanced access.

In response to the FCC vote, American Library Association (ALA) President Julie Todaro responded: "Absent enforceable net neutrality rules, commercial internet service providers have financial incentives to prioritize transmission of content from the highest bidder, and libraries and other not-for-profit institutions do not have the deep financial pockets to pay for priority access. We are at risk of maximizing profits for commercial ISPs and large content providers, while degrading internet access and choice for libraries and ultimately all consumers."

The FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking—WC Docket No. 17-108 can be downloaded or read as a PDF copy at: [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-344614A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-344614A1.pdf). Comments on the Proposed Rulemaking can be submitted by using the online form at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>. Insert Docket Number 17-108 in the first field—Proceeding(s)—when using the online form. WLS is formulating a response and will continue to monitor this issue.

### ***New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries***

The New York State Library is seeking nominations for four positions on the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries. The Regents Advisory Council on Libraries advises the New York State Board of Regents regarding the New York State Library, library development programs, library aid programs and other matters related to the operations of libraries and library systems in New York. The Council works with the officers of the State Education Department in developing a comprehensive statewide library and information plan and makes recommendations to the Regents concerning the implementation of the program of library service. For more information, see: [www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html).

Three of the positions will serve five-year terms (10/1/2017-9/30/2022). One position will be appointed for two years to fill an unexpired term but will be eligible for an additional five-year term. The Council meets a minimum of four times a year: January (by conference call), April (Board of Regents meeting in Albany), September (by conference call) and December (in person).

Nominations and self-nominations for the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries should include a resume and be sent to by July 1<sup>st</sup> to: Paula Paolucci, Office of the State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, New York State Library, 10C34 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230; e-mail to Paula.Paolucci@nysed.gov.

### **Joseph F. Schubert Library Excellence Award**

The New York State Regents Advisory Council is seeking applications for the Joseph F. Schubert Excellence Award, which recognizes a New York State library or library consortium that has taken significant steps to improve the quality of library service to its users. An award of \$1,000, donated by the Friends of the New York State Library, will be given to the winner along with a plaque at the annual New York Library Association conference in the Fall.

The 2016 Joseph F. Schubert Library Excellence Award was awarded to the Hendrick Hudson Free Library for being the first library in Westchester County to be certified as a Green Business.

Nominations for this Award should document a project or achievement that occurred within the last two years and include the measurable progress in identifying user needs, the steps taken to meet those needs, and evaluation of the results. All types of libraries are eligible to apply (academic, public, school and special). Previous applicants may apply again; and previous winners of the Award may apply after 3 years.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/adviscns/rac/award/index.html>. Applications are due on August 1, 2017.

### **Member Library and Other Public Library System Visits**

Along with WLS Trustees Cathy Draper (President) and Dave Donelson, I attended the Mount Vernon Public Library's Open House on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The event served as a public welcome and introduction to the library's newly appointed Interim Director, Evania Thompson. The library board highlighted the many new activities and enhancements that had taken place and what efforts are underway to make the library even stronger going forward. The event showcased local musical talent and the library created a very warm, welcoming and fun environment for all who attended.

I was invited to speak at the Southern Adirondack Library System's Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> on the topic of avoiding trustee burnout. Considering the many different roles that library board members take on, it is no surprise that burnout occurs. In my presentation, I explored strategies that individual board members and boards as a whole could use to reduce stress points and maximize happiness.

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, I attended the Eastchester Public Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The community celebration showcased the library's recent upgrades and renovations both inside and outside the

library. From the new parking lot to the new roof, the library has made improvements to make the library more efficient, easier to access and more flexible to meet the community's changing needs. The beautiful weather provided a perfect opportunity for the library to utilize their new patio as the venue to host the event's musical performers. In addition to highlighting the recent improvements, the library board expressed their appreciation for the funding from the NYS Public Library Construction Aid that helped to make the library's improvements possible.

### WLS Trustee Institutes

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Elise Burke, WLS Executive Assistant, led a discussion on best practices for board meeting minutes. Topics included what should and should not be included in the minutes; the timeframe for completion; and ideas for accessing, sharing and retaining minutes. The discussion also explored how minutes fit into the overall picture of NYS Open Meetings Law and the impact of minutes on a library's historical record. Information from the presentation can be found on the WLS website.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer, will present a review of financial statements, their importance and how to better understand them. Library trustees will be encouraged to share their experience and questions. The evening's discussion and networking opportunities will provide opportunities for individual trustees to learn more about their fiscal management role and to learn about fiscal reporting strategies used at other member libraries. The event will be held at the John C. Hart Memorial Library's Community Room, 1133 Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 with a light dinner beginning at 6 p.m. and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Register for the event at <http://evanced.westchesterlibraries.org>.

### Future Events

- May 31-June 2 BookExpo – Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York, NY
- June 7 WLS Trustee Institute: Financial Statements – John C. Hart Memorial Library, Shrub Oak, NY
- June 22-27 American Library Association (ALA) Conference – McCormick Place, Chicago, IL
- October 21 WLS Battle of the Books – Location TBD
- November 17 WLS Annual Meeting – Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,



Terry L. Kirchner  
Executive Director

# LIST OF VISITS AND MEETINGS ATTENDED

April 17 – May 24, 2017

## APRIL

- 17 Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director, New York Library Association (NYLA)  
Elise Burke, Executive Assistant  
NonProfit Westchester (NPW) Conference Call re Business Model/Fundraising Discussion
- 18 Rob Caluori, Director of Information Technology (IT)  
Webinar: *Gale Courses*
- 19 Long Island University (LIU) Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Class  
LIS702: *Human Resources Administration in the Public Library*  
Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
New Yorkers for Better Libraries Conference Call  
WLS Staff
- 20 Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Finance Committee  
Edris Scherer, WLS Treasurer & Library Trustees Association (LTA) of New York State, Martha  
Anderson, LTA Trustee; Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Webinar: *How the Most Savvy Nonprofits Handle Credit Card Expense Processing and Workflow*  
NPW Voter Registration Working Group Conference Call  
Mount Vernon Public Library Open House
- 21-24 Vacation
- 25 Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Scarsdale Rotary  
WLS Board
- 26 Long Island University (LIU) Palmer School Public Library Administration Certificate Program Class  
LIS702: *Human Resources Administration in the Public Library*  
NPW Voter Registration Working Group Conference Call
- 27-5/9 Vacation

## MAY

- 10 Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing  
cloudLibrary Follow-up
- 11 PLDA Central Library/e-Content Committee  
SirsiDynix Operations Conference Call  
Douglas Wray, Manager, Cataloging Services  
Rob Caluori, Director of IT  
Elena Falcone, Director, Public Innovation & Engagement (PIE)
- 12 Families Task Force  
Brian Medeiros, President, All Island Courier, Inc.; Fran Feuerman, WLS Chief Financial Officer  
Paramount Hudson Valley, Peekskill
- 15 Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) Presentation
- 16 Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) Minimum Standards Meeting, Upper  
Hudson Library System, Albany, NY
- 17 Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
WLS Staff
- 18 PLDA General Membership Meeting  
PLDA Central Library Study Committee  
SirsiDynix BLUECloud Mobile discussion; Rob Caluori, Director of IT
- 19 Childcare Council of Westchester Annual Breakfast, Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown  
TotalBoox Call
- 21 Eastchester Public Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event
- 22 Rob Caluori, Director of IT

*MAY (continued)*

- 23 WLS Administrative Staff re Strategic Initiatives and Existing Benchmark Statistics  
Evania Thompson, Director, Mount Vernon Public Library
- 24 NPW Board, Child Care Council of Westchester, Scarsdale  
Pat Brigham, Director of Development  
James Alperin, Brian P. Scanlon, Morgan Stanley; Fran Feuerman, Dorilynn Ferrara, Pat Brigham  
re Benefits  
Hui Sheng, Manager, eContent & Resource Sharing