![Pioneer Library System logo]

Executive Director's Report
Wednesday, July 14, 2021

General System Update

System Response to Executive Order Updates

In mid-June, Governor Cuomo announced that all restrictions have been lifted from NY Forward (social gathering limits, capacity restrictions, social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, health screening, and contact information for tracing). Consistent with the State's implementation of the recent CDC guidance, masks are still required for unvaccinated individuals.

At System Headquarters, we have responded by lifting mask mandates (except for those who have not been vaccinated), opened our meeting rooms for in-person gatherings, and authorized staff to visit libraries (following local mask rules/guidance).

Plan of Service 2022-2026

The Director Comment period has closed; the next phase will be adjusting the Draft Plan of Service based on their feedback.

I plan to have the final draft ready for approval by the September Board Meeting along with the Free Direct Access Plan and Central Library Plan of Service.

Division of Library Development Updates

State Aid Assurances

Included in the board packet (Doc 2107-8a and Doc 2107-8b) are the State Aid Assurances and State Aid figures for FY 2021-2022. Both have been send to DLD in order to request our funding. At the time of this report, the request has not yet been approved.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is federal funding aimed at addressing relief efforts of the continued impact of COVID-19. There are a few possibilities for libraries in this program and it has

been determined that funding will funnel through Regional Library Councils. I have been asked to serve on a statewide committee to advise how these funds can best impact libraries in our area.

<u>Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Federal Funding</u>

The Emergency Connectivity Fund is federal funding aimed at supporting schools and their purchase of equipment for students. Libraries were retroactively added to the list of eligible entities, however, after reviewing program guidelines I have opted not to pursue this funding. The long-term maintenance, extensive reporting, and the small impact on our communities makes this less of an opportunity for us.

There may be future rounds of this program and if appropriate amendments were made, I would consider an application at that time.

Trustee Support Update

<u>Trustee Workshops</u>

2021 Trustee Workshops

- ✓ Office Hours for Trustees - Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 PM
- ✓ Roles & Responsibilities for New Library Trustees - Thursday, February 18 at 6:00 PM
- ✓ Developing Library Policies - Tuesday, March 16 at 6:00 PM
- ✓ Key Laws & Regulations for Libraries - Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 PM
- ✓ Office Hours for Trustees - Tuesday, May 18 at 5:00 PM
- ✓ Financial Oversight - Thursday, June 10 at 6:00 PM
- Differences in Library Types - Tuesday, August 10 at 5:00 PM
- Key Laws & Regulations for Libraries - Wednesday, September 15 at 5:00 PM
- How to Evaluate Your Director - Monday, November 8 at 5:00 PM
- Facility Planning for your Library - Monday, December 6, at 5:00 PM

2022 Trustee Workshops

- ✓ System Orientation for New Trustees - Monday, February 7, at 5:00 PM

<u>Trustee Book Club with Jerry Nichols and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich</u>

I have been asked to work on a statewide Trustee Education program with Jerry Nichols and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (authors of the Trustee Handbook). The goal is to reach as many trustees across New York as possible to discuss the Trustee Handbook in detail. I am very excited to be moderating this program. Below is the preliminary schedule. The goal is to start promoting to libraries next month.

Preliminary Schedule/Chapters of Focus

- **October 2021:** Duties & Responsibilities – State Librarian (intro); Ron (moderator) on Tuesday, October 19

- **November 2021**: Library Board Meetings – Ron (moderator) on Tuesday, November 16
- **December 2021**: Personnel – Brian (moderator) on Tuesday, December 14
- **January 2022**: Budgets & Finance – Ron (moderator)
- **February 2022**: Facilities – Brian (moderator)
- **March 2022**: Policies & Risk Management – Brian (moderator)
- **May 2022**: Ethics & Conflicts of Interest and Intellectual Freedom, Censorship and Privacy – Ron (moderator)
- **June 2022**: Planning & Evaluation – Ron (moderator)
- **July 2022**: PR & Advocacy – Brian (moderator)

System Staff update

Walk to Your Library Campaign

The OWWL Libraries Walk to Your Library Campaign launched on June 28, 2021 and received a fantastic amount of recognition in the first week. The Livingston County News released an article on July 2, 2021 titled "'Walk to Your Library' campaign seeks to foster public health." Suzanne came up with the idea and did all the work to make it happen.

Social Media for Small Libraries

After her ALA talk on Social Media, American Libraries wrote a piece about Suzanne's presentation titled "Social Media for Small Libraries." The full article can be read here - https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/social-media-for-small-libraries/

Current Director Searches

Our System is experiencing a high turnover of directors. I have been asked to sit on a majority of the search committees. Here is a list of current director searches.

1. Geneva Public Library – Open Civil Service Exam
2. Lyons Public Library – Interviewing Candidates
3. Red Jacket Community Library – Open Civil Service Exam; Hired Interim
4. Dansville Public Library – Collecting Applications
5. Red Creek Library – Accepting Applications
6. Mt. Morris Library – Hired a Director!
7. Naples Library – Hired a Director!

Spectrum Upgrades in Libraries

The CANS department has been working diligently on upgrading network equipment in libraries. This is an update project that happens once every three years. It requires a staff member to go out to each library and work with Spectrum to replace and configure modems. It is a tedious process that has been hindered by scheduling complications with Spectrum. The team has been doing a great job rising to the occasion and completing the work.

Legislative Updates

Streamline & Modernize Library Program Requirements

S6511 (Ryan) / A7021 (Jean-Pierre). Status: Passed Senate & Assembly. Awaiting delivery to Governor.

These technical amendments replace outdated provisions with new language to consolidate and modernize programs and, streamline planning and reporting requirements to improve efficiency.

Training for Library Trustees

S4435B (May) / A6121B (Jean-Pierre) Status: Passed Senate & Assembly. Awaiting delivery to Governor.

If enacted, this bill would ensure that those choosing to serve their libraries as a trustee have comprehensive training, reflective of their communities, each year.

Increased Access to the Library Construction Program

S5753A (Ryan) / A7060A (Jean-Pierre) Status: Passed Senate & Assembly. Awaiting delivery to Governor.

If signed by the Governor, this bill would allow library systems, who are responsible for distributing the Program funds to their libraries, greater flexibility.

Access to E-Books

S2890B (May) / A5837B (Jean-Pierre) Status: Passed Senate & Assembly. Awaiting delivery to Governor.

This bill would require that publishers who offer electronic books to the private market, also extend licenses to libraries within the State, without discrimination.