

## **DIRECTOR REPORT**

### **Jan –Feb 2024**

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Library Advocacy Day is on February 7, 2024. Virtual appointments with our Assembly and Senate members are scheduled over the week. Zoom links and dates have been shared with the SALS Board of Trustees and member library directors. SALS staff decided to schedule the virtual visits again this year for several reasons, including being better able to showcase the work being done in the region and giving us more time to tell our stories.

The Governor's Executive budget was released on January 16, 2024. It includes Library Aid at \$102.1 M – a \$3.5 M increase from last year's enacted budget. Library Construction Aid is the same as last year. There is \$3M in the budget to fund NOVELny. We will ask for \$147.1 M in operating aid and \$69.4 M in library construction aid.

I attended the ALA (American Library Association) 2024 LibLearnX conference and all ALA governance meetings. I was co-chair of the ALA Core Values Task Force for the past two years. The task force brought the revised values to the ALA Council for approval. They were approved just short of unanimously. The co-chair and I received a standing ovation after the council vote.

I have been named to the ALA Executive Director Search Committee. Most of the work will be done virtually.

I have been invited to attend the national advocacy fly-in event, March 5-8, 2024, in Washington, DC.

Every year, SALS and its member libraries must complete the previous year's Annual Report. SALS hosted the Annual Report Party on Feb 2, 2024. SALS staff assisted member library staff in completing the report and answering questions. The completed reports are due Feb 16, 2024, and will be submitted to the Division of Library Development by March 1, 2024. This is two weeks earlier than last year. Failure to complete the reports could result in the Division of Library Development withholding state aid.

Pamela Delsignore sent all member libraries the JA (Joint Automation) Agreements. Library boards are asked to sign the agreements and to review the JA policies annually. Signed copies are slowly coming back to SALS.

Pamela ordered the 2024 SWANK movie licenses.

The SALS Construction Grant applications must be submitted by April 1, 2024. The Board must review and approve the successful grants at the April board meeting.

The NYS Library Construction project, replacing the Meraki routers, has been completed. Paperwork will be filed to receive the last 10% of the funding.

Consortium purchasing of e-content invoices (Overdrive) will be sent to the member libraries.

Colleen Smith has updated all salary and benefits with Paychex for the 2024 payroll. She is completing the annual workers' compensation audit.

Colleen Smith prepared and participated in the annual audit. The auditors were on site for two days. The lead auditor met with Colleen, Bob Jeffords, and me. We typically receive a draft report from them by the end of February and will schedule them to offer a full report at the June meeting, as is our practice.

The Hannaford Store Leadership team (95 Weibel Ave, Saratoga Springs) selected SALS as the March 24 Nonprofit Partner for the Bloomin' 4 Good Program.

For every specially marked Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold at this location during March 2024, Hannaford will donate \$1 to SALS.

The Hannaford Store Leaders are grateful for the difference SALS makes in our community and want to help further our impact.

Hannaford will provide everything needed to maximize this partnership, including a step-by-step guide.

### **CATALOGING/TRAINING:**

Jill Ryder assisted The CVW Long Lake Library with setting up their Hoopla subscription. Hoopla is a digital streaming service that provides eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, and video. Currently, 17 member libraries offer this service to their patrons. Hoopla is an excellent supplement to the shared OverDrive collection, adding streaming music and video.

Jill has been working with several member libraries to set up their new fiscal year in Polaris Acquisitions. Many member libraries have also requested customized reports for their new year projects.

As part of her day-to-day work, Jill assists library staff with running reports, changing Polaris system administration settings, bulk changing library items in the catalog, database cleanup, and answering any Polaris questions that arise.

SALS catalogers (Jill Ryder and Johanna Hall) modified 4,705 bibliographic records in the catalog during January 2024. 3,282 new bibliographic records and 11,419 new item records were added to the database during the same month. This work is done by cataloging and technical processing staff at the System offices and the 61-member libraries. Bib records represent the individual works (a book or a DVD, etc.) and items records represent each library's copy of that work.

Jill oversees purchasing eBooks and eAudiobooks for the shared OverDrive collection; 268 titles were purchased in January 2024. Popular titles purchased include the fast-paced thriller *First Lie Wins* by Ashely Elston, Rachel Hawkins gothic suspense novel *The Heiress* and Alex Michaelides murder thriller *The Fury*.

**OUTREACH:**

Erica Freudenberger continues to meet with member library staff, trustees, and friends as needed to answer questions and provide support & resources.

She and Jack Scott created a slide deck/PowerPoint for Advocacy Day 2024 meetings. We Met with Kerrie Burch & Amy Carpenter to collaborate on strategy for Advocacy Day 2024.

Erica shared information about supporting the Affordable Connectivity Program on social media.

You may have noticed the positive media attention SALS received regarding the Naloxbox placement in the libraries. Erica provided a quote and boilerplate language for the shared press release with the Saratoga County Health Department.

The SALS Facebook presence remains steady, with 30K followers. In 2023, Meta invited us to participate in creator compensation beginning in August. We earned \$782 in 2023.

SALS will get a \$154.69 payment for January 2024.

We are seeing a continued solid organic reach, as seen in the graphic below:

## Reach

Facebook reach ⓘ

1.2M ↑ 27.6%

In:

1



SALS partnered with UHLS & MVLS to bring a virtual workshop with Planned Parenthood about creating welcoming, inclusive spaces for the LGBTQIA+ community to our member libraries.

Working in collaboration with five systems (UHLS, MVLS, CEFLS, NCLS, MYLS, & SALS), information was shared about food programming.

Also, working in collaboration with UHLS, MVLS, FLS, CCLS, CEFLS, NCLS & MHLS, work was done on prioritizing equity and social justice with the Path to Belonging. This is a framework for creating welcoming small & rural libraries.

SALS, through the work being done by Erica, is collaborating with Adirondack Health Institute and Saratoga County Department of Health on addressing the opioid epidemic in our region, and with Comfort Food Community & Capital Roots Squash Hunger on Farm-2-Library and Tri-County Literacy Center to address ongoing adult literacy needs in Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties.

## **TECHNOLOGY and YOUTH SERVICES**

Jack Scott continues to help member libraries update their websites. Currently, he is working with library staff at Hudson Falls, Argyle, Lake George, Greenwich, and Pember. Jesse Jensen helped update the Polaris book carousel for member library websites. The carousel previously had issues correctly displaying each library's new titles. Jesse updated the carousel to correctly display each member library's latest items automatically and update weekly. The carousel was updated on 16-member library websites.

In 2023, the SALS Website had 16k web visits. The most visited pages were the Jobs page, the Directory, and the About Us page.

In 2023, the staff viewed 1,335 classes in Niche Academy. Microsoft Excel, the Central Library, and computer basics were the most popular categories and lessons.

In 2023, there were 305,959 items downloaded by 16,608 users, with 107,753 holds placed in Overdrive. This is an increase of 15% from 2022.



There were 16k retrievals, 19K Sessions, and 17K Searches of Gale databases in 2023.

In 2023, there were 18,649 Searches in Ancestry.

Jack is partnering with MVLS & UHLS to launch a Summer Reading Nuts & Bolts webinar on February 29th. This will focus on how to start hosting a summer reading and creating a less stressful one for everyone.

Our Children's Summer Reading Programs Collaboration is scheduled for February 15. SALS has partnered with 14 other library systems including the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, Finger Lakes Library System, Four County Library System, Mid-Hudson Library

System, Mid York Library System, Mohawk Valley Library System, Nassau Library System, North Country Library System, Onondaga County Library System, Ramapo Catskill Library System, Southern Tier Library System, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Upper Hudson Library System, and the Westchester Library System

SALS has joined the Smokey the Bear Reading Challenge and will receive incentive kits for interested member libraries in February. He believes these will be stickers & promotional materials.

### **MEETINGS**

January 17, 2024      Freedom to Read Board Meeting  
January 18-23, 2024 LibLearn X Baltimore, Md  
January 25, 2024, [OBJ]Schenectady County Public Library  
January 26, 2024, [OBJ]ALA Core Values Update  
January 31, 2024      ALA Executive Director Search Meeting  
February 2, 2024      Advocacy Day walk-through  
                                 ALA Finance and Audit Committee  
February 5, 2024, [OBJ]Climate Summit  
February 6, 2024, [OBJ]PULISDO and Advocacy  
February 7-9, 2024    : Virtual Visits with Legislators  
February 7, 2024,      Intellectual Freedom Summit  
February 15, 2024,    ALA Executive Board Meeting  
February 16, 2024,    CDLC Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Dallas

February 5, 2024