

NEW YORK LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL! Library Systems Connect Our Libraries!

Thank you, Assemblyman Reilly, for allowing us the opportunity to address the Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education. We will touch on the impact the 2012-2013 State Budget has had on the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) and the thirty-four public libraries in Hamilton, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties. We also will address the important roles the public libraries and SALS play for the residents of our region. We are Alex Gutelius, Director of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library, Kathy Naftaly, Acting Director of the Crandall Public Library and Sara Dallas, Director of the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS).

SALS does not directly serve the public. SALS provides services to its thirty-four member libraries to help them best serve their communities. SALS receives approximately 95% of its revenue from NY State through funding formulas. We thank you, the Senate and the Governor for recognizing the important role libraries play for New Yorkers by our increasing library funding in 2012. We are ever hopeful to see a 20.4 million dollar increase in library funding in FY 2013.

Serving as a model of cooperation, the Southern Adirondack Library System and the Mohawk Valley Library System collaborate in providing a shared network, catalog, resources, circulation system, computer support, hardware and software that allows all residents in eight counties to borrow books, DVDs, CDs, locally and/or regionally. There are delivery vans that move these items from library to library, saving gas and time for the public. In 2011, this courier service moved almost 3 million items throughout the eight counties.

In the SALS region, population of 330,359 (Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties) our public libraries are being used more now than ever before:

2.3 million people visited a public library in our region
475,393 people used a public computer workstation to access the internet
Approximately 226.8 FTEs are employed by libraries in the SALS system

I have attached a chart depicting the distribution of the 2012-2013 NY State Construction funds. Unfortunately, the money was not able to fully fund the projects submitted.

As Central Library for SALS Crandall Public Library positions itself as a bridge between the system and the other libraries; we speak many languages, that of technology/logistics and customer service. Crandall Public Library is the community's incubator for lifelong education, quality of life, and economic development.

Portions of Central Library programs and services are composed of state (CLDA and CBA) and local funds. High-points include:

- Central Library Interlibrary Loan provided 38,933 items in 2011. This averages about 115 items loaned for every day we were open! We are on pace to eclipse this figure in 2012.
- CLDA funds are for the improvement of the Central Library's function as a major reference, information, interlibrary loan and electronic resource in the system. With CBA funds, Crandall Public Library continued to purchase print non-fiction books as well as the evolving realm of digital materials (both audio and ebooks) and a portion of the database itself for the OverDrive "virtual branch." In 2011 there were 21,749 check-outs of electronic materials a 26.17% increase over the number of checkouts in 2010.
- Continued to add to Crandall's in-depth adult, non-fiction collections to supplement services to the 31.56% Crandall cardholders who are Central Library patrons. Central library staff is always willing to share their expertise with member libraries and provide training in special collections and resources such as health, self-check technology, employment preparation, and genealogy.

For the past 3 years Southern Adirondack Library System libraries and customers have access to job skills and job readiness training through our Public Computer Center funded through the New York State Library as a conduit for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). One Central Library customer stated:

The Library resources and events provides me with inspiration and insights to help guide my professional and personal goals

Central libraries and systems honor their accountability to the citizens of New York State. With this partnership every local public library no matter what their size can be confident that the resources and services funded by the State will be there to fulfill user demands beyond those afforded by local tax dollars.

Why and how are people using the library? Here are some examples from the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library:

In 2006 the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library opened its new branch - and that year our library loaned about 475,000 items. Our projection for 2012 is that the library will loan over 900,000 items this year – an increase of nearly 90% in 6 years.

During that same time period, our library has doubled the number of programs we offer each year – and attendance at those programs has increased from 9,000 people in 2006 – to nearly 24,000 in 2012. Our library welcomes between 1,000 and 1,500 people through the doors every day.

Libraries are more than the number of items we have loaned – we are about people and providing valued and essential services to the people of our communities. For example, last year the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library held a Senior Expo – which was a day-long event that brought together over 40 local not-for-profit organizations offering services to seniors together with the seniors and their families. The Expo included 12 programs and over 250 people attended.

Previously the library has held volunteer fairs for adults and teens – with a similar focus – to connect people in the community with organizations that need their help.

The library actively participates in community events – from the July 4th Parade – to fall festivals and many school events. Our Library is an integral part of the community – and the members of our community have come to expect the library's participation.

The library is providing job search assistance in a way that meets the needs of our community members. Librarians continue to provide support for individuals submitting online job applications, but we have also added our "Monday Morning Job Club". Led by a local career professional unemployed professionals meet each week to network and discuss topics relevant to their job search. The people who attend don't necessarily need resume writing support, or help in applying for jobs – but rather require the networking connections and support received from professionals in similar situations.

Work closely with local literacy agencies:

- 3 ESOL classes at the Library each week
- Specially designated study room for Literacy/ESOL tutoring

These are just a few examples of what the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library is doing for the community every day.

Part of the reason we continue to be able to provide this level of service is the support we receive at the system level (SALS).

As the Library Board faces the challenge of meeting the demand for more services and collections while minimizing tax rate increases – the need for cooperative services such as those provided by SALS becomes even more critical.

Earlier Sara mentioned the sharing of materials between SALS libraries and MVLS libraries. For our patrons, this is a seamless service – that utilizes not only the cooperative delivery service – but also the cooperative ILS system. Patrons don't care where the book comes from, but they reap the benefits of these shared services if provided by each individual library would cost local taxpayers significantly more. To put a dollar value on this service – in 2011 our library borrowed 45,424 items from other libraries for our patrons. If we had to purchase all of those items – the cost would likely be over \$500,000.

Continued funding for library systems and libraries in New York State is essential. The support provided to by library systems through cooperative and shared services, continuing education and technical support is crucial for the continued success of our local libraries and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your time.

Alex Gutelius
David Golden
Kathleen U. Naftaly
Sara Dallas

Director
Trustee
Acting Director
Director

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
Crandall Public Library
Southern Adirondack Library System

2013 Construction Grant Applications					
Library	Project	Total Project Cost Amount Requested		Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
Town of Ballston Community Library	Replace cracking and heaving sidewalks to improve accessibility and replace two signs with one combination library name and electronic sign.	\$75,570.00		\$ 56,677.00	27,973
Greenwich Free Library	There will be significant renovation of the building to improve patron access to library, as well as improving safety and functionality.	\$51,681.00		\$ 38,760.00	38,760
Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library	A new library extension, planned in stages, will provide more space, flexibility, openness, latest technology and work space for the future library.	\$113,600.00		\$ 85,200.00	85,200
Mechanicville District Public Library	Construction of an addition and renovation of existing library building to expand the resources offered to better serve the needs of the community.	\$1,409,520.00		\$ 215,480.00	90,168
Richards Library	This construction project will complete Phase 3 of an ongoing building addition in the library to provide access and programming.	\$195,035.00		\$ 195,035.00	95,168
Saratoga Springs Public Library	Renovation of ground floor, focusing on service improvements and expansion of Children's Room space devoted to brain development and early literacy.	\$415,495.00		\$ 207,747.00	40,978

Capital Region Library Use Statistics - 2011

Line(s) on public
libraries' annual
reports - 2011

	MVLS	UHLS	SALS	Total	
Circulation of library materials	1,722,988	4,923,558	3,483,015	10,129,561	4.11
Materials owned by libraries	850,954	2,009,696	1,490,320	4,350,970	2.26
Public Internet Computers	177	376	340	893	9.25
Computer Use	233,147	515,898	475,393	1,224,438	5.60
Program Attendance	60,845	175,815	146,416	383,076	3.10
Library Visits	1,637,430	2,906,945	2,361,822	6,906,197	3.49
Questions answered by library staff	137,466	445,759	459,040	1,042,265	4.13
Population Served (2010 census)	293,226	430,027	330,359	1,053,612	1.21
Delivery stops	5,460	10,660	7,592	23,712	
Delivery volume	1.8 million items	3 million items	920,750	5,784,848	
Materials shared regionally by libraries	244,103	1,171,821	460,347	1,769,174	4.14 + 4.15
Minimum hours open to the public	903	1,540	1,276	3,719	8.90
Borrowers (people with library cards)	137,079	275,384	209,767	622,230	3.50
Staff employed (FTE) by libraries	117.23	321	226.8	665	6.12
Counties Represented	Fulton Montgomery Schoharie Schenectady	Albany Rensselaer	Hamilton Saratoga Warren Washington		