



PLS System Meeting – Summary
January 17, 2014
@ Pioneer Library System

Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, **AVO**; Laurie Newell, **BLO**; Diana Thorn, **BRI**; Mary Ferris, **CAN**; Melissa Correia, **CS**; Erin Robinson, **CAS**; Teresa Dearing, **DAN**; Beth Horn, Tanya Thompson, Chris Finger, Kelsy Hibbard-Baker, **GPL**; Tracy Whitney, **MAR**; Blanche Warner, **NAP**; Krystina Hardter, **NEW**; Anne Rehor, **ONT**; Patricia Baynes, **PAL**; Leah Hamilton, **PHE**; Stacey Wicksall, Amy Aderman, **RJ**; Donna Norris, **ROS**; Angel Wright-Sackett, **SS**; Elly Dawson, Lynne Madden, **VIC**; Sarah Matthews, **WADS**; Jeff Davignon, **WAL**; Lisa Gricius, Mary Conable, **WAR**; Dottie Patt, **WOL**; Cassie Guthrie, Lauren Moore, Cindy Gardner, Pat Finnerty, Ron Kirsop, Bob Wicksall, Aaron Zsembery, Adam Keuer, Lindsay Stratton, Jeanne Hayes, **PLS**.

Birds of a Feather: Effective Meetings – Ron Kirsop; 7 attendees

Twiki: <http://plum.pls-net.org/twiki/bin/viewauth/Members/Meetings/SystemMeeting20140117>

Announcements

Cassie (PLS):

- NYLA Advocacy Day date change from Thurs, Feb 27 to Wednesday, Feb 26. Scheduling conflict with PLA, scheduling the Well area for rally, and Senate only session 2/27 (no Assembly in Albany)—all reasons that led to date change.
- Please complete the [NYLA Tech survey](#). It is important, results will be used to help develop the talking points for Advocacy Day.

Ron (PLS):

- Library Vision Focus Group dates are scheduled and on the CE calendar. There is one focus group scheduled in each county and we would like to see one representative from each library attend a group.
- Reminder: Continuing Education (CE) grant application submission deadline is February 14; please send to Ron Kirsop. (information published in 1/6/14 PLS notes)

Pat (PLS):

- Take Your Child to the Library Day is a country-wide initiative. Let Pat know if you are planning an event. So far 10 libraries are participating.
- YSAC meeting is after the system meeting today.

Lindsay (PLS):

- OWWLAC scheduled for Jan 28. New list of OWWLAC representatives on PLUM. This year the committee is focusing on reviewing OWWL policies, updating for the Evergreen environment. See the OWWLAC index. Talk to your [OWWLAC representative](#) or Lindsay.
- OWWLUG Jan 31 – Discussion of ILL. Contact Lindsay with other topic ideas about day-to-day operation.

Bob (PLS): Zimbra upgrade Sunday, 1/19— will help resolve issues when using IE 11, and Bob will also enact some improvements to Ad Hoc Reports, such as: unhide 6 reports (previously hidden for testing purposes), addition of calendar pop-up, *helpful tip* notes to aid filling in certain fields, etc.

Lindsay (PLS): These changes are all a result of discussion and feedback from OWWLAC.

Aaron (PLS): Computer purchasing changes. Libraries can now order Dell computers through PLS starting in Feb. PLS will install the “normal programs”, setup Staff or Patron user accounts, etc. Libraries will just need to set their passwords and install Office (if needed). For boards (and others) who ask “what is the difference between buying computers from Dell vs. Walmart/Staples?” The Dell computers available through PLS are business class machines, so they are better built. They also have a 5yr next business-day onsite warranty. If anything breaks, Dell will send out a tech person to replace parts the next business day. For laptops, this warranty also covers damage from patron spills, dropping them, etc. [Prices, specifications, and an order form are on the TWiki: <http://plum.pls-net.org/twiki/bin/view/Members/PLSMediatedComputerPurchasing>]

Sharing

Wendy (HPL): Honeoye now has a meeting room for programs such as OWWL2go classes. Chris & Wendy from Geneva came out and worked with 14 people who were very happy about this service. Some of the attendees were not regular library users and they have since come back into the library! Wendy recommends other libraries take advantage of this opportunity, and it is great PR.

Patricia (PAL): Had one-on-one OWWL2go sessions.

Amy (RJ): Amy is the Youth Services Librarian at Red Jacket and has recently self-published a novel The Way to Winter, based on the Scandinavian folktale "*The Snow Queen*". Amy's book can be purchased via Amazon (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, December 22, 2013) as paperback ISBN 978-1493571727 or Kindle e-book. Congratulations Amy!

Wendy (PLS) expressed thanks for PLS and Adam Keuer and for taking care of the library's hub issue. Wendy stated "If we had to hire someone, it would have been a nightmare", and believes that PLS is going in the right direction.

Cassie (PLS): Part of Cassie's Senate testimonial in 2011 addressed technology cost issues for 42 public libraries individually vs cost

Lisa (WAR) announced the Tale of Three Counties reading pick The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker, and brought brochures for distribution.

Chris (GPL-Central Library): Emerging Trends meeting Feb 11, 7pm at Ontario Public Library. This is an opportunity to network and/or collaborate with other library staff. Contact Chris if you plan to attend.

Angel (SS): Gainesville is working on their Long Range Plan w/ PLS and there are 6 teens who'd like to be involved.

Rebecca (AVO): Avon library was filled with good food and good friends on Jan 12 from 2-4pm for a retirement reception for outgoing director Jeanna Ruter.

Mary (CAN): Canandaigua is planning a soft-opening of their new addition the end of January and then plans to hold a Grand Opening during Love Your Library Week.

Building Community Partnerships for Small and Rural Libraries

Facilitators: Lauren Moore, Pat Finnerty and Ron Kirsop

Guest speaker: Hope Decker, Director of Cohocton Public Library

Panelists: Melissa Correia (CS), Patricia Baynes (PAL), Wendy Krause (HPL), and Hope Decker (Cohocton)

Highlights:

Speaker – Hope Decker, Director of Cohocton Public Library

- Cohocton Library started as a very small library - in a garage, and now 6,000sq ft. in store-front building
- Everyone is a potential partner; Don't miss an opportunity
- Be enthusiastic, be part of every discussion
- Even if don't join civic/orgs; these groups look for speakers
- Library started online calendar of community & library events; with links to businesses & organizations
- Club/organization may not live in your town/village, but their services may cover your area
- Partnerships:
 - Historical society - fashion show.
 - Growing Writers' Night
 - Community Expo involving library & community groups/orgs
 - provided storage space for Hi school Grad Bash stuff @ the library
 - Biggest partnership is w/ elementary school – they distribute flyers, bring kids to library for field trip, invites librarian at school to talk about public library. Summer reading program conflicted with School's Enrichment Program, so library partnered with school for kids to hold a session at the library

- Try different programs. Some will work and some won't. Move on if you find something doesn't work.
- Investments in community partnerships pay off in good will for your library
- When Cohocton moved to new building, they involved elementary kids who helped move books by forming a chain and passing books one at a time from old building to new
- Develop relationships over time – talking with people, and finding needs that mesh with library
- Sends thank you notes – the little things build partnerships
- Hope encouraged libraries to consider getting involved with Association for Rural & Small Libraries. Has annual dues based on salary level. Hope pays \$19/year. Conference is wonderful and she doesn't have to explain her library's challenges, because everyone there has similar challenges. Join their email listserv, good resource of questions & answers
- A major key to success is having a supportive Board of Trustees (Cohocton has 7). Library is open 28 hours/wk; have total of 3 staff.

Panelists shared successful programs:

Clifton Springs - Melissa:

- Float in local parade
- Set up table during local festival & have raffle. This is about exposure, not necessarily about making money.
- Mother-daughter book club - hosted at the public library, a school/library partnership
- Melissa participated as a judge for school's short stories program
- Join local groups (ELKS, Rotary, etc.) as schedule allows; you will pick up ideas and hear about opportunities

Palmyra - Patricia:

- Partnered with Catholic Charities for a *remember to play* day, library's display illustrating value of play, created a resource guide
- Community Center & School Summer programs partnerships
- Literacy night – popular addition was kids using the Ellison Machine to make bookmarks
- Town/village economic development partnership
- Haunted library (had 400 people) and collected food for local food pantry
- Children's librarian was part of Fire Dept. program and promoted library
- Library provides display area to showcase 1st & 2nd graders artwork and holds reception for parents & public
- Sponsored a CSA (Community Sustainable Agriculture) fair and local farms set up tables and showcased their produce

Honeoye - Wendy:

- Library collected items for local food pantry
- Partnered with Rotary during Holiday Christmas Bazaar and provided inexpensive items for kids to buy as gifts for parents
- Hosted an artist in residence through grant. Visitors came to library to watch artist and got to know their library
- During the summer, visitor population increases and library provided fishing poles in partnership with Fish & Game club
- Budding Readers program for new parents
- Local garden club partnership that helps beautify library grounds
- Popular Gazebo Musical Performances and partners with local government
- Be open to ideas that are presented to you and don't automatically say 'no'; work out details afterward

Cohocton – Hope:

- Any difficulties with partnerships? One example: Library had to pull out of a partnership with an organization that a staff member was involved in, because organization was getting too political.

- Be sure to keep track and be clear as to who is doing what in a partnership, especially when many groups are involved, so that jobs aren't dropped and tasks left incomplete or unfinished.

What is your dream partnership (if time, money, and staffing were not concerns)

Clifton – Service to Seniors: programs, classes, materials collections

Honeoye – have a dedicated programming person

Audience breakout sessions: partnership successes and ideas

- If there's a local wine walk event, open your library's doors and serve something, even if it's not wine.
- Ask your local historical society for advice about collection conservation and preservation.
- Door to door library card signup.
- Send a letter to local teachers and nonprofit groups to introduce yourself and explain the ways you can support their good work.
- Take your computer instruction and e-reader support on the road. Set up laptops with wireless in non-traditional places (local businesses, community events, senior centers, or the park) and offer your assistance.
- Bring your research expertise to Town Board meetings and serve as a neutral fact-checker.
- Circulate museum passes to your patrons.
- Try hosting library programs at sites outside the library. A cooking class at a local restaurant, or a book discussion at a local pub, can be fun and attract new audiences.
- Ask community members to share their expertise through programming. Ask your local bike shop owner to talk about bicycle maintenance, a car salesperson to offer advice about purchasing a used car, or plumber or carpenter to talk about home improvement.
- Invite your community's garden club to design and maintain your landscaping.
- Ask a local expert or professor to help with collection development in his/her area of expertise.
- Host storytime events with therapy pets.
- Provide internship opportunities to college students. They can serve as tutors, provide programs, help with marketing, or lend a new perspective.
- Become a host site for your area's Senior Employment or Youth Employment programs.
- Create a community-wide contest and invite local stakeholders to serve as judges.
- Host a local author book fair. Support local authors by buying their books and featuring them in your collection.
- Partnerships with local societies can reveal interesting programs, such as a period fashion show sponsored by the Jane Austen Society of America.
- Offer a "Food for Fines" period, and grant patrons fine amnesty in exchange for donations to the local food pantry.
- Be a school lunch site in the summer.
- Offer to be a donation drop-off site for local organizations, like the humane society, battered women's shelter, or food pantry.
- Set up a digital story time to allow grandparents to read stories to their grandchildren via Skype.
- Partner with your local historical society or college to record the oral histories of your community members.
- Create a community calendar of events on your website. Use your library's Facebook page to publicize other organizations' events.
- Write a library column for your local paper.
- Include library events in your local paper.
- Create a Teen Advisory Board so that teens can earn community service hours while guiding library services for teens.
- Partner with a local health organization and sponsor a walking, cycling, or exercise group.