



NCLS @ccess

North Country Library System - 22072 County Route 190 - Watertown, NY 13601 - www.ndsweb.org



July - August
2010

The only true equalisers in the world are books; the only treasure-house open to all comers is a library; the only wealth which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom. ~J.A. Langford

Public Library Districts

In the last issue of *NCLS @ccess*, school district and special legislative public library districts were explained along with some of the advantages of forming them. Now learn more about the process and issues to consider when moving forward with your own.

What does it take to create a public library district?

- Visionary library board with a good understand of the community's library needs and a commitment to service excellence
- Positive public perception of the library with a good track record of public service
- Good case for making the change - improve and stabilize funding, expand service area, seek equity in tax support, etc.
- 100% commitment to the process on the part of the library board and a willingness to work hard to achieve success
- Solid education and advocacy campaign to garner public support

How many libraries are choosing the district option?

Since 1999, thirty-nine libraries in New York State have established public library districts. Twenty have formed special legislative district public libraries while nineteen have opted to create school district public libraries. Two of those libraries choosing the school district route are NCLS member libraries. Oswego School District Public Library, originally an association library, was formed in 2000 and Potsdam Public Library went from a municipal, village library to a school library district in 2007.

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Outreach Mini-Grants Awarded

For the first time ever, the Outreach Advisory Council awarded Outreach Mini-Grants to four NCLS member libraries. The grants were in the amount of \$500 and awarded to libraries developing and expanding collections and programs aimed at those in the community requiring specialized materials and those unable to access traditional library service. Congratulations to Canton Free Library, Massena Public Library, Hay Memorial Library of Sackets Harbor and Flower Memorial Library of Watertown.

The grants will go toward the following programs and services:

- Canton Free Library (CAN) - expansion of large print non-fiction collection
- Massena Public Library (MAS) - DVD collections of variety, comedy, and musicals of the 1950's-1970's for programming at the local senior / nursing homes and for borrowing by OTR patrons
- Hay Memorial Library (SAH) - purchase of books on CD and CD players as well as instructional session on the CD players and the new digital players from the Talking Book and Braille Library of NYS
- Flower Memorial Library (WAT) - children's foreign language materials

Jefferson County Library Open Houses



Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library

The Jefferson County Library Committee decided to create an opportunity to thank the Jefferson County Legislature for their support by hosting a series of open houses. On May 24th, Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library of Black River held its open house followed by Hawn Memorial Library of Clayton on June 9th. Legislator Gino Zando attended the event in Black River while Michael Docteur was present in Clayton. Kitty White from Senator Darrel Aubertine's office paid a visit to Clayton as well. The events allowed our representatives to see all of the great work our libraries do for the community. Thank you to all who participated.



Hawn Memorial Library of Clayton



Library interior immersed in rich woodwork



The Thousand Island Park Library, opened in 1902, is situated in a lovely setting right in the center of the historic Thousand Island Park. The building, donated by Mrs. E. R. Holden, is nearly as charming as the woman who has been an integral part of the library since 1962, Library Director, Mamie Heath.



Library Director, Mamie Heath



Cozy window seat and notable dictionary stands

Mamie's elegant style and attention to detail are evident in every aspect of the library, from the beautifully maintained building with its gorgeous woodwork, to the library materials and services offered to the residents of Thousand Island Park.

While primarily a seasonal operation, the library is bustling with activity almost constantly. Families visit the library for their summer reading fun and children gather for the popular story hour sessions. In the off season, Mamie runs the library from her home so that year round residents always have access to the latest popular materials.



Children captivated by Andrea Walldroff's story hour



Library exterior, with golf carts (TI Park residents' preferred mode of transportation) parked out front

The library enjoys the benefit of a very active Board of Trustees as well as a Friends group. Both work tirelessly throughout the summer with fundraising activities. Each year, the library holds an annual book sale and pie sale. For those with a sweet tooth, it is imperative to arrive to the pie sale early. This year, the event, which begins promptly at 9:00 am sold out 116 pies within six minutes.

On August 4th, the library will be hosting a traditional Victorian Tea. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in person at the library. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot early.

When looking for an enjoyable summer excursion, consider a visit to the Thousand Island Park Library.



Stunning view of St. Lawrence River from the foot of library steps

Member Library News

Adams Center:

The Adams Center Free Library Annual book Sale will take place at Knapp's Hardware Store located at the corner of Route 11 and Route 17 on:

Friday and Saturday
August 6th and 7th
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

The bag sale will begin at noon on Saturday.

There is a wide selection of materials available this year including older and newer fiction and non-fiction in both hardcover and paperback, children's books, back issues of *National Geographic* and other magazines. For more information, contact the library at 583-5501.

Cape Vincent:

Cape Vincent Community Library is offering two *Speakers In the Humanities* events made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Programs offered are:

Hallie E. Bond Curator of the Adirondack Museum will present *Adirondack Quilts Tell Their Stories*

Tuesday, July 27th
4:00 pm

From Muscles to Motors on the Farm: Henry Ford and the Great American Tractor Wars, 1910 - 1930
An evening with Milson C. Sernett

Monday, August 23rd
6:00 pm

For more information, contact the library at 654-2132.

Chaumont:

Upcoming events include, a presentation and book signing by ornithologist, Gerry Smith, author of *Birding the Great Lakes Seaway Trail* on:

Saturday, July 24th
10:00 am

Chaumont continued -

Native Americans of the Chaumont Bay Region presented by Dr. Laurie Rush on:

Wednesday, July 28th
7:00 pm

South Lewis High School Auditorium:

Improv4Kids
Action-Packed Comedy Show!



Features 100% Audience Participation!

This free program is sponsored in part by Constableville Library, Lyons Falls Library, Martinsburg Library, Port Leyden Library and Turin Library.

South Lewis High School Auditorium
Monday, July 26th
2:00 pm

NCLS Calendar of Events

www.nclsweb.org/events



July

- 20th- Library Makeovers: Adding WOW to Your Library
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 21st- Library Makeovers: Adding WOW to Your Library
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Pulaski Public Library
- 22nd- NCLS Board of Trustees Meeting
10:00 am, NCLS Board Room
- 23rd- Library Makeovers: Adding WOW to Your Library
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Reading Room Association of Gouverneur
- 27th- The Road to Automation
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, NCLS Service Center
- 30th- The Road to Automation
9:30 am - 12:00 pm, WEBINAR

Public Library Districts -

What do those who have been through the process say?

When asked, both the Oswego and Potsdam libraries report that the decision to form a library district was not a difficult one to make. The primary factor influencing both libraries was the desire to create stability in funding. The possibility of cuts is always a concern and for Oswego, it was a certainty. The Oswego School District had for years provided the primary support for the library. Facing their own financial difficulties, the school district informed the library that they would need to find an alternative means of funding. For both Oswego and Potsdam, the school district boundaries most accurately reflected their patron base and both selected the school library district option.

Since forming districts, both libraries report that greatest benefit is the steady funding without fear of cuts. The stability allows for better planning and greater consistency in library services to the public. In addition, Potsdam explains that the stable budget has allowed them to increase hours and purchase more materials. Those changes have resulted in a marked increase in library visits and circulation. Another benefit is that the increased usage statistics make the Potsdam Public Library a very attractive candidate when considered for grant opportunities at all levels. Oswego mentioned that the transition to an elected board has been a bit of an adjustment in terms of finding trustees with a particular area of expertise. In response, they have found that an increased use of committees addresses the issue and allows them to more effectively serve the library.

Both the Oswego and Potsdam libraries offer tips to those considering forming a district.

- Don't dissolve your existing charter until the new one is in place.
- Do give yourself a lot of time for the process.
- Do consult a library that has been through the process and tap into that library's experience.
- Do toughen your skin. You are bound to face some criticism.
- Do develop a solid advocacy campaign.

The bottom line - both libraries are pleased with their decision to form a district and it was well worth the effort. The libraries function more efficiently and the communities they serve benefit from improved library resources and services. For more information on library districts, contact your NCLS consultant.

Many thanks to Carol Ferlito, Director of the Oswego School District Public Library, and Pat Musante, Director of the Potsdam Public Library, for their information, knowledge and wisdom.

If your library has newsworthy information to share in *NCLS Access*, please contact Joan Pellikka at NCLS: 782-5540 or jpellikka@ncls.org

Automation Update

Thirty-four NCLS member libraries are now fully automated and that number is growing!

Libraries currently barcoding their collections and preparing to automate using the SIRSI circulation system:

Central Square Library
Croghan Free Library
Harrisville Free Library
Phoenix Public Library
Williamstown Library



If your library is interested in automation, please contact your Consultant at NCLS.