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## Update on MLS Financial Position

There are three important pieces of information regarding **MLS's financial situation** which members should be aware of:

- › MLS received approval of our revised FY2010 Area and Per Capita grant from the Illinois State Library. This means that our revised plan of service and budget cuts from this fall have been approved.
- › We also received notification verifying for bank purposes that we are to receive our \$2.6 million dollars approved by the Secretary of State and the Governor.
- › We had a final meeting with Hinsdale Bank and Trust January 5, 2010 approving our request for a line of credit under favorable terms. The MLS board will be asked to pass a resolution accepting these terms at the January 11, 2010 board meeting.

We still expect to receive our first payment in January, and we are confident that these funds plus our current reserves will last us through April 1, 2010. After our reserves are depleted, and if no additional payments have been received, the line of credit would be accessed to finish the fiscal year. Since we have received the certification of funds letter from the Illinois State Library, we believe the funds will be received; it is just a matter of when.

What does this mean for our staff and members? We continue to watch our expenses closely, including, but not limited to, reducing our heating and electricity costs, examining all contracts for cost savings, and reducing travel expenditures. We will do our best to continue services as governed by our current plan of service, found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/ServicePlanFinal.pdf>.

Because our situation continues to be uncertain, our plans could change once new information is received. We begin FY2011 budget planning shortly, and will be evaluating all options for the sustainability of the organization. Questions should be direct to Executive Director Alice Calabrese at [calabresea@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:calabresea@mls.lib.il.us).

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## MLS Links

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## Announcements

On Monday, January 11, 2010 the **Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Library System**, and the **Board of LIMRiCC** will meet. The LIMRiCC meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m., the MLS Board meeting immediately following. Meeting agendas can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>. Both meetings will be held at the MLS Chicago office located at 224 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, Illinois.

In a continuing effort to reduce expenditures, MLS has **canceled our toll-free telephone number** effective January 1, 2010. Please direct all phone calls to our main number, (630) 734-5000 or see the MLS staff directory to find direct phone numbers for all staff at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/staff>.

According to the Illinois Attorney General's web site **All Freedom of Information Act Officers (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) Designees** must complete the on-line training by June 30, 2010. Free training will be available on January 15, 2010 for FOIA, and February 1, 2010 for OMA at [http://www.ag.state.il.us/government/electronic\\_foia\\_training.html](http://www.ag.state.il.us/government/electronic_foia_training.html).

The **Chicago Bulls Library Appreciation Nights** continue in 2010. Two more nights have been dedicated with specially priced tickets for all library staff, trustees, and their families and friends. Friday, February 16, 2010 vs. New York, and Friday, February 26, 2010 vs. Portland. This offer is extended to academic, public, school, and special libraries. Both games are at 7:00 p.m. at the United Center. Complete details can be found on the order form at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/BullsLibraryAppreciationNightFeb2010.pdf>. The form needs to be completed and received with payment no later than two weeks before the first game ordered. The form can be faxed to (312) 455-4191 or mailed to Chicago Bulls, 1901 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60612-2459, Attn: Library Nights! Questions contact [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us).

Two new timely courses have been added to the **WebJunction Illinois Course Catalog** *Financial Management in Tough Times* and *Supervision without Micromanagement*. Remember, these courses are available anytime, anywhere and are free to registered users of WJIL. Enroll by visiting the WJIL Course Catalog at <http://il.webjunction.org/catalog> and clicking on LE@D as the Featured Course Provider.  
[\[Permalink\]](#)

## MLS Year 2009 in Review

The year 2009 saw many accomplishments both at MLS and throughout its membership. This article reviews the year and recognizes those success.  
[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04\\_01/yearinreview2009.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04_01/yearinreview2009.asp)

## Continuing Education Events

*A reminder to MLS library staff to login with your L2 account when viewing the L2 calendar. Some events and workshops are limited to MLS members only and can only be viewed when you are logged in. Be sure your L2 account is updated and has been approved by your library director. For assistance contact CE Manger Yvonne Riley at [RileyY@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:RileyY@mls.lib.il.us).*

[Merging Library Service Desks](#), Joyce Meldrem, Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Weeding for a 21st Century Library](#), Dr. Kathryn Miller, Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Serving the Homeless: The Broad Picture & Local Resources](#), Leslie and Glen Holt, Friday, February 5, 2010, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Fundamentals of Event & Meeting Planning](#), Nancy Moran, Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

For more information and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.librarylearning.info/?LibSys=MLS>.  
[Permalink]

## Grants & Awards

The Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) announces its **National Leadership Grants** which support projects that have the potential to elevate museum and library practice. The Institute seeks to advance the ability of museums and libraries to preserve culture, heritage and knowledge while enhancing learning. IMLS welcomes proposals that promote the skills necessary to develop 21st century communities, citizens, and workers. The deadline is February 1, 2010 with \$50,000–\$1,000,000 of grant funds available. For complete details and to apply visit <http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/nationalleadership.shtm>.  
[Permalink]

## Member Spotlight: Lisle School District 202

The Reading Scores for Lisle District 202's Third Grade students placed in the top 5 in DuPage County. Read how the school library staff lay a foundation through library programming and services in the early grades to enhance reading for the students. Also highlighted is their partnership with the Lisle Public Library at a recent school board presentation.  
[Permalink]

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04\\_01/lisledistrict202readingscores.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04_01/lisledistrict202readingscores.asp)

## Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear January 20, 2010. [Permalink]

## MLS Year 2009 in Review

### by Christina Stoll, MLS

Despite the realities of budget cuts from the Illinois State Library, MLS continues to provide member service to the best of its abilities. The MLS staff, along with feedback from a system wide-survey and member focus groups, were able to create a new **MLS Plan of Service** (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/ServicePlanFinal.pdf>), outlining how MLS will continue to provide service to its member with a reduced budget and staff.

The year still saw many accomplishments both at the system and throughout its membership that should be recognized.

### MLS welcomed the following new member libraries in 2009:

- Berkeley School District #87
- Chicago Center for Green Technology
- Casa Italia Roselli Library
- Hales Franciscan School
- Instituto Cervantes of Chicago
- Lincoln College of Technology
- South Holland School District 150

### Services

MLS launched the *Macy's Museum Adventure Pass Program* (<http://www.museumadventure.org>) on the first of September, taking place in 164 libraries within MLS, DLS, and NSLS and 17 Chicago suburban area museums. The program is going strong with close to 12,000 visitors having taken advantage of the pass program since its launch.

The *MLS Member Directory* was moved to L2, the state-wide CE calendar for library systems. The new directory can be found at <http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/system.aspx?LibSys=MLS>

The L2 membership directory allows each library staff member the ability to create their own account. Your account allows you to register for system meetings and workshops. Library Directors can update their library and staff information through L2, as well as see reports such as how many events their library staff have attended.

A system map of members can still be found on our web site at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/maps.asp>.

The *new ILLINET Resource Sharing Policy Directory* (<http://www.librarylearning.info/rsdirectory/Default.aspx>) was also added to L2. This directory includes Interlibrary Loan, Photocopy, and Reciprocal Borrowing policies from libraries across the state. As an added feature, in order to assist libraries in meeting the ILLINET ILL Code, libraries will have the capability to upload their written ILL Borrowing and ILL Lending policies to the directory. All libraries are encouraged to add their data.

*Within SWAN* several exciting achievements occurred this year:

- Bridgeview Public Library officially joined SWAN in April.
- The Oak Park Public Library was approved for full participate in SWAN by the membership.
- The Research Pro Group Purchase brought over 30 databases to 63 participating libraries.
- SWAN won the ILA Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award at this year's ILA conference, for its value of "collaboration, cooperation, commitment, innovation and reliability".

### Networking Groups

- *Two School Networking Groups* were launched in the fall by the MLS School Advisory group. The goal is that these groups will provide an informal opportunity for school library staff within MLS to meet each other, share what's happening in their schools, ask questions, and seek advice. Another pair of meetings will be scheduled for spring 2010.

## Delivery Statistics

For calendar year 2009 the MLS Delivery vans drove for a total number of 91,615 miles with 23,312 total stops being made. 18,590 ILDS bags were handled, and 128,497 ILSS items were handled.

MLS remains on track for an 8,000,000 total items handled this year.

## Events & Opportunities

MLS held its second *Legislative Breakfast* on Monday, February 16 with an attendance of over 60 including 10 legislators, representing approximately 35 communities. A recap of the entire day can be found at [http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03\\_05/legislatorsbfast09.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_05/legislatorsbfast09.asp). MLS looks forward to the 2010 Legislative Breakfast taking place at its Burr Ridge office on President's Day, Monday February 15. Registration is open at <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=9241>.

The *MLS Annual Meeting and Awards* took place at the Tinley Park Public Library on October 21. Eleven awards were handed out to MLS staff, member libraries, government officials, all who did.... In the year and were recognized for their efforts. See all of the winners and their accomplishments at [http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03\\_21/annualmeetingawardwinners.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_21/annualmeetingawardwinners.asp).

On November 6, MLS played host to the joint event between DLS, NSLS, and the Illinois Chapter of SLA with its *Innovate, Create, and Succeed, One day Conference for Special Librarians* (<https://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5671>). The event included a keynote by SLA President Elect Anne Caputo along with presentations on topics ranging from facilitating and incorporating creativity into your work, creative marketing, and use of tools and resources.

The *MLS Annual School Holiday Program* brought together School Librarians and Public Library Youth Service Librarians for a dialogue around the value of partnerships. Three library districts Lisle, Homewood-Flossmoor, and New Lenox, shared insight to the success of their on-going partnerships.

## System-Wide Achievements

The MLS group *Reference Association of the South Suburbs (RASSL)* was this year's winner of the *ILA's Reference Services Award*, for their Guadalajara International Book Fair Sponsorship.

MLS member library Member *Moraine Valley Community College*, won an *ACRL award* recognizing them for "creating an environment that fosters numerous relationships with partners outside those traditionally associated with libraries."

## **Member Spotlight: Lisle Elementary School District 202**

**by Judy Bauman, LRC Director Tate Woods Elementary School**

At the December 4, 2009 MLS School Librarians' Holiday Program, the theme focused on partnerships between School and Public Library Youth Service departments. One of the district partnership highlighted was from the Lisle School District 202 (<http://www.lisle202.org>), lead by LRC Director Judy Bauman at Tate Woods Elementary School.

The following article highlights Judy and her school library staffs' efforts on how they "toot their own horn" through a press release from their recent school board presentation (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/lisledistrict202pressrelease.pdf>) and a write-up on the district's recent publicity placing 3rd in DuPage county for their 3rd grad reading scores. (<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=332757> Daily Herald, October 30, 2009)

Note not only did the school board presentation include the school library staff: Judy Bauman, Tate Woods; Sue Jakalski, Schiesher; Rich Marx, Lisle Junior High; and Laura Conroy, Lisle Senior High, but Lindsey Dorfman, Youth Services Director from the Lisle Public Library.

Judy shares how her Library Resource Center programs and services lay the foundation in the early grades to enhance reading for the students in Lisle District #202.

The library at Tate Woods Elementary offers an open and flexible schedule, encouraging students to visit the library daily and to check out at least 2 books. The library staff promotes a PTO sponsored Used Book Exchange where students bring 5 books from their homes and get to take 4 books from the library. Even preschoolers participate in weekly story time and book check out.

Yearly circulation has increased from 19,992 in the year 2000 to 42,006 items in 2008.

Several school wide activities and events support the library including PTO sponsored book fairs, faculty and student book talks, a teacher book club, and student participation in state-wide reading programs such as Monarch Award voting and the Reading Makes Cents Program. Yearly author visit are also held and there is active cooperation between the schools and the local public library.

The administration supports the library with an increased book budget within the past four years, a large library support staff made up of one clerical, one tech support, one computer instructor, and 30 parent volunteers, and an LRC Director who attends conferences so that the highest quality titles are chosen. The LRC Director also collaborate through curricular "Connections" thematic units that stress genres and location in library with students. She also meets with the other school library directors to coordinate district wide goals and programs.

Assessments such as STAR and MAP are conducted so that student reading levels are known, and student's ability to locate print materials independently is periodically assessed. The school also support an active Accelerated Reader program.

Questions about this article can be emailed to the MLS Consultants at [constulants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:constulants@mls.lib.il.us).