



Executive Director's Report

Kim Bolan, Executive Director
April 2026

Executive Director Highlights

Over the past month, SALS made significant strides across operations and member support. Key highlights included the successful soft rollout of Vega Discover, the Farm-2-Library program launch at three member libraries (with a visit by Senator Tedisco at the Malta Branch), the completion of SALS's first payroll with Paychex, and ongoing onboarding with the Bonadio Group for financial services, including Bill.com training.

The SALS team supported libraries on a wide range of topics, including personnel matters, funding, strategic planning, and the NYS Annual Report transition to the new Counting Opinions platform. Together the JA and SALS staff answered 746 support questions.

On the advocacy front, both the Senate and Assembly budgets included meaningful increases for library operating, construction, and materials aid — a positive outlook heading into budget finalization. Across the system, member libraries celebrated community milestones with creative programming, from genealogy days and seed libraries to toy swaps, candlelight concerts, and poetry month activities. And the Bolton Landing Public Library completed its director search with the selection of Christiann Gibeau.

Member Support

In addition to 250 individual member questions answered by me and the SALS' staff, I assisted with several larger projects including work on employee handbooks and personnel policies, staff recruitment, long range / strategic planning, budgeting and a variety of tasks related to Rockwell Fall's upcoming vote in May. I continued helping the Bolton Landing's Board of Trustees with their new director search and am pleased to announce they have selected Christiann Gibeau. She comes to them from the Troy Public Library and Cohoes Public Library prior to that. I completed the first part of Christiann's new director training with her in Bolton Landing on April 6. Last but not least, I visited Whitehall Free Library on March 30.

SALS and JA staff continued to support members with the NYS Annual Report. On March 9, DLD provided the URL for the new platform called Counting Opinions. At that time, the reports were visible, but not open. DLD opened the reports on April 2. Counting Opinions conducted a training webinar on the new software for libraries on April 9. Based on this additional delay and the timing of the training, I asked DLD for a deadline extension to give our members time to attend the training and submit their reports to SALS. The new deadline for members to submit their reports to SALS is April 14.

Collection Services/Polaris/Vega

The new Vega Discover catalog was soft launched on March 16 and a link to the new catalog was placed on the existing "classic" catalog page. Jill Ryder and Sharon O'Brien (MVLS) did a live walk-through of the catalog for library staff on March 24. Patrons now have the option of searching either catalog.

Jill continued to assist member libraries with their annual report questions relating to collections and circulation. She also provided support to members in establishing electronic ordering and invoicing with

Ingram. The rollout has slowly progressed due to the high demand for Ingram's services since Baker & Taylor's 2025 closure.

Service to Special Client Groups

Adult Literacy, Youth Services & Early Literacy, Coordinated Outreach, Correctional Facilities

Farm-2-Library: We successfully launched the Farm-2-Library program at three member libraries – Saratoga Springs (March 17), the Round Lake Library - Malta Branch (March 24), and Ballston Spa (March 31).

On April 3, SALS held its Annual Farm-2-Library Meeting. Participating libraries shared positive feedback and noted how much their patrons enjoy the program. The only major change is that Comfort Food Community updated their data collection method. Usage data is now self-reported by patrons and includes age ranges for those served. This data range is more aligned with what they have to report to NYS.



Talking Book and Braille Library: On March 26, SALS hosted a webinar in conjunction with the Talking Book & Braille Library. Topics covered included patron eligibility, how to apply, and available services.

Teen Programs Summer Reading Workshop: On March 11, SALS collaborated with ten other NYS library systems to present the 2026 Summer Reading Program workshop focusing on teen programs. 224 people attended the session and evaluations were very positive.

Know Your Rights Cards: The cards requested by member libraries arrived and were distributed. The cards are in multiple languages.

Jack Scott, Lisa Christopher, Beth Rienti (Public Services Consultant, MVLS), Mary Fellow (Manager of Youth & Family Services, UHLS) met on March 27 to discuss future youth services collaborations, including Read It Forward (RIF) and Greatest of All Time Teen Services Meetup (GOAT). The next GOAT Meetup will be on Tuesday October 20, 2026.

On March 25, Jack met with the Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council (COSAC). They discussed potential additions to the group and shared information about Skidmore's Library of Things, SUNY Adirondack's Adult Continuing Education. Jack shared some recent SALS programs and future ideas.

The Joint Automation Project

I attended the JA Council Meeting, hosted at SALS on March 11.

The final 2025 group computer equipment order started to arrive over the past several weeks and the equipment is being configured. The first 2026 group order was sent out and has a deadline of May 1.

Over the course of March, the JA staff handled 496 support tickets for MVLS and SALS libraries. Sample topics included assistance with spam, missing emails, user accounts, and passwords issues. A few member library projects consisted of self-check troubleshooting and configuration, working with MidTel to help get

better network pricing for several members, assisting Saratoga with Envisionware and Blackstone publishing RFID tag questions and implementation, visit to Whitehall and Salem to work on their routers, and replacing Greenwich's public network switch.

Jason Thomson assisted with the Vega launch helping answer questions, address bugs, etc. He also worked with Jill Ryder to rerun library statistics needed for the newly configured NYS Annual Report. Website migrations from the old Godaddy server to new Godaddy server continued.

Chris Mundell worked on getting a quote for replacing the network monitoring software which expires in June. He also assisted me in getting quotes for Technology Errors and Omissions / Cybersecurity Insurance and managed and completed the latest KnowBe4 training.

Work continued on the configuration and deployment of the forty new routers for various member libraries. Other ongoing activities included increasing MS365 security, working with Barracuda and Microsoft to restore ability to deliver past messages, and conducting library network audits to ensure accurate documentation.

The team also worked with me to address some facility issues, including a broken AC screen in the computer room and Chris and Dave upgraded SALS' wireless hardware and installed a camera doorbell as part of the SALS reorg plan.

Advocacy & Engagement

I attended a PULISDO meeting on March 10. It was reported that the house budgets were released, and both include increases for libraries. To recap:

Senate:

- Library Operating Aid: \$114.67 million (+\$10 million from the Executive Budget)
- Library Construction Aid: \$54 million (+\$20 million from the Executive Budget)
- Library Materials Aid: \$11.33/pupil (+\$5.08/pupil from current law)
- NOVELny: \$3.1 million (+\$100,000 from the Executive Budget)
- Office of Cultural Education Stabilization: \$12 million (Retains the new funding included in the Executive Budget)

Assembly:

- Library Operating Aid: \$109.3 million (+\$4.63 million from the Executive Budget)
- Library Construction Aid: \$70 million (+\$36 million from the Executive Budget)
- Library Materials Aid: \$6.25/pupil (No change to the \$6.25 library materials factor currently set in law.)
- NOVELny: \$3.0 million (Even with the Executive Budget)
- Office of Cultural Education Stabilization: \$12 million (Retains the new funding included in the Executive Budget)

Other news included there will be a new law taking place in April requiring school district public libraries to report election results. School district libraries who conduct their own vote will be required to report and school district libraries who use the school to conduct their vote are not required to report. The

school is required to report the library's election results on the library's behalf. DLD will send out more information to the system directors when it is available.

Changes to the System for Award Management (SAM) portal have been proposed. This has potential impact on funding for E-Rate, IMLS, LSTA, etc. The proposed changes to SAM registration would require registrants to comply with anti-DEI executive orders and more. More information will be available within the coming months.

I continued planning the Malcolm Hill Lecture with the Mid York Library System and UHLS.

I attended the Public Library Services (PLS) meeting with DLD on March 19.

I attended the CDLD Nominating Committee Meeting on March 31 and the CDLC System Directors meeting on April 2.

Operations

The staff and I continued the transitioning to the new reorganization plan. The team was (and continues to be) very supportive of one another and actively worked together to get up to speed on their duties and train each another.

Capital One+ worked with me and Jill Ryder to complete a personnel file audit. They also assisted with offboarding Michele Largeteau and provided guidance on numerous human resources issues.

Pamela DeSignore, Jill Ryder, and I attended our first Bill.com training with Kyle Nichols from Bonadio on March 30. In addition, Kyle and I had several other meetings throughout the month to discuss future processes and practices with invoicing, bill paying, accounting, the 2025 audit, etc.

I completed writing the RFP for a three-year contract for delivery services for SALS. Our current contract expired last year, but a one-year contract extension was signed to get us through the end of June 2026. The proposal deadline is May 8.

We successfully completed our first payroll with Paychex on April 8.

I began exploring options to comprehensively assess SALS' building needs.

Member Library Spotlight

Celebrating the successes of our 34 member libraries.

Bancroft Public Library

Poet-Tree for Poetry Month – The library gathered branches from a Pussywillow tree and placed them in a front window. Then, using Shel Silverstein's Poetry Month leaves (found on his website), we are allowing patrons to come and write a small poem or draw a picture and place their leaf on the branches. This is a nice passive program.



Corinth Free Library

At the beginning of March, we installed an alarm system to make the library more secure. At the end of March, we set up a Seed Library thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library



On Saturday March 14, CPH celebrated National Genealogy Day with an all-day showcase of genealogy based organizations, and different programs throughout the day. In the morning, there were programs on Ancestry Tips and Tricks and Make AI Your Personal Genealogy Assistant. Over the lunch period, hands on help was provided by librarians and genealogist, and in the afternoon there was an Ancestry Family Tree Workshop, a program on New York State Library Resources and Resources at the hart Cluett Museum. Several hundred people attended the Genealogy Day. This is the second year the Library has offered a day of programming to celebrate National Genealogy Day.

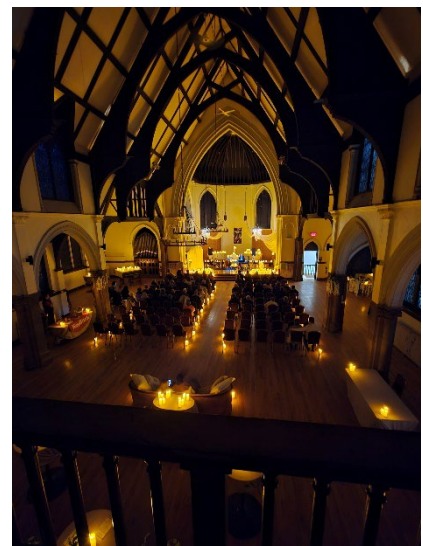
In addition, the Library held a Bridgerton Tea Party in March, with a Bridgerton quiz, and refreshments. Many participants attended in costume.

Fort Edward Free Library

Fort Edward Free Library found a way to repurpose their old library card catalog cards. They are writing thank you notes to patrons, donors, and more. A community member donated the envelopes.

Mechanicville District Public Library

The Mechanicville District Public Library, in partnership with the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, proudly hosted a Candlelight Concert on March 5, 2026, marking a meaningful kickoff to Women's History Month. Held at the Arts Center, the evening brought together more than 75 community members for a memorable celebration of women's contributions to the local community and beyond. The venue was beautifully transformed with candlelight, creating an intimate and reflective atmosphere that enhanced the evening's significance. The event honored two outstanding pillars of the community: the Junior Dante Club and Megan Quillinan. Both were recognized for their dedication, leadership, and lasting impact in Mechanicville, exemplifying the spirit of Women's History Month. Providing the evening's entertainment, the Christine Spero Group delivered a powerful performance featuring music by the Women of Rock. Their dynamic set paid tribute to influential female artists, resonating deeply with the audience and reinforcing the evening's theme of empowerment and recognition.





Round Lake Library – Malta Branch

The Round Lake Library Malta Branch held the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Farm-2-Library program on Tuesday, March 24th. After three weeks of deliveries, the program has been well received and the library is very excited to be a part of such an important community program.

Schuylerville Public Library

We held our first Toy Swap on March 21 and it was a big success! We had over 50 people attend and had about 100 toys taken to new homes instead of ending up in the trash. We have also hosted kids clothing swaps, craft supply swaps and puzzle swaps in the past.

Stillwater Public Library

We have installed two "stained glass" window clings honoring our past. The public has been very receptive and some new faces are coming in to see them!



Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library

We had the Jane Austen Society of North America come to our library and give a program on the day-to-day lives of women in Jane Austen's era. We called it a 'Jane Austen Fashion Show', as the presenters brought a number of dresses and costumes to show, and let participants try on. It was very well attended, and folks loved being able to have hands on access to the materials. We served tea and snacks as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Bolan, Executive Director