

- Features updates on WMRLS Services and Programs
- Streamlined to 4 pages
- Now published quarterly
- One copy to each member library ~ PLEASE ROUTE TO ALL STAFF!

A New WRapper & Other Changes for WMRLS

With fewer WMRLS staff and State budget reductions expected for the fiscal year that starts July 1, WMRLS is taking some actions now to put us in a better position to confront tougher times ahead.

The first change is a complete revision of our **WRapper newsletter**. This publication will be much more concise, thus requiring less paper, staff time, and mailing costs. One copy of the print edition will be issued to each member library. **WRapper** will now be published on a quarterly basis.

WRapper will continue to be published online at www.wmrls.org/wrapper/. From now on, **WRapper** will highlight some key developments, but will always remind our readers that recent happenings at our member libraries can be found on the WMRLS-One-Blog: wmrls.blogspot.com

The WMRLS-One-Blog provides time-sensitive information that the print edition of **WRapper** cannot achieve. With a large number of our member libraries having gained better Internet access, the time seems right to pursue a more online approach to disseminating important information in a timely way.

Likely Suspension of Bookmobile Service. With yet another large budget cut looming, WMRLS will almost definitely have to suspend our beloved bookmobile service for FY10. This program has been bringing browsing collections to the shelves of small public libraries since the 1940s. The WMRLS materials budget has been inadequate, in some years non-existent, since the devastating 24% State budget cut of FY03.

The initial version of the FY10 budget brings us back down to that same funding level. At the same time, libraries and their users have been making breathtaking use of our delivery service, which has been transporting materials between libraries at all-time record levels. Even with a new way of counting delivery totals, we should surpass 2 million items delivered in FY09! This service, with the cost of gasoline fluctuating wildly, and the age of our trucks rising, is requiring more and more of our budget and staff resources.

A Proud Tradition of Service! Despite the need for retrenchment in some areas and possible layoffs, we at WMRLS will do everything we can to provide our member libraries with the excellent and responsive service they have come to expect of

us since 1961. We will keep offering important continuing education programs – some online – to keep you up to date on your skills and what is involved in running libraries today. We will give you plenty of opportunities to get together to talk about common interests and collaborations, to “keep the fire burning” in our hearts and minds. We will help you if you have a local issue that you are confronting. We will track down hard-to-find titles that you could not locate through the online catalogs of other Massachusetts libraries. In short, we will do everything we can to fulfill the WMRLS motto, “Libraries – Cooperating, Communicating, Sharing.”
~ John Ramsay, Regional Administrator, WMRLS

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WMRLS Continuing Education ~ One of the many benefits of regional library membership is free admission to WMRLS continuing education programs and workshops. Register online at www.wmrls.org/events/

Negotiating with Database Vendors ~ Wednesday, April 29 from 1 to 3, WMRLS Conference Room

ReadsinMA Roundtable & FREE SPREE! ~ Friday, May 1 from 10 to 1 at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield and repeated on Monday, May 4 from 10 to 1 at WMRLS

It's 10:P.M.! Do You Know Where Your Collections Are? Library And Archival Security ~ Tuesday, May 12 from 10 to noon at WMRLS

Puppetry ~ Tuesday, May 19 from 10 to 1 at WMRLS

Serials Support Group—EBSCONET ~ Wednesday, May 20 from 10 to noon at WMRLS

Weeding with the CREW Method ~ Thursday, May 21 from 10 to 3 at WMRLS

Collection Development Best Practices Roundtable ~ Thursday, May 28 from 10 to noon at WMRLS

Pain in the Brain: Teen Library Behavior ~ Wednesday, June 10 from 10 to 1 at WMRLS

Technology Programming for Teens ~ Wednesday, June 10 from 1:30 to 4:30 at WMRLS

Get Your Game On: Collection Development Roundtable ~ Thursday, June 11 from 10 to 12:30 at WMRLS

The Moon at Your Fingertips: Lunar Certification for your Library ~ Tuesday, June 16 from 10 to noon at WMRLS.

Online Resources: Finding Full-text Articles (and more!) for your patrons ~ Tuesday, June 23 from 10 to noon at WMRLS

PLUS ...

ILL Basics Workshops ~ numerous dates and locations this spring

Our WMRLS-One-Blog is for all WMRLS members to come together to communicate, cooperate, and share.

WMRLS-One-Blog ~ Many Voices ~ One Blog

Our very popular **WRapper** feature column on Member Library Updates continues through our online WMRLS-One-Blog: wmrls.blogspot.com

Our blog, which is updated daily, enables member libraries to post pictures, videos, and even radio broadcasts!

Recent postings include:

Regional Administrator, John Ramsay, overviews highlights of the successful April 2 Library Legislation Day. *Posted April 10*

A rare opportunity to watch the creative process taking place at the **Berkshire Athenaeum** this spring as Pittsfield artist Mar-

guerite Bride creates—and blogs - a watercolor portrait of the library. *Posted March 27*

Library Journal recognizes the **Lenox** and the **Stockbridge Library Associations** as two of America's Star Libraries. *Posted March 27*

Regional Administrator, John Ramsay, shares the complete PowerPoint that he developed to accompany discussion at the recent **WMRLS Continuing Education Program, Library Budget Roundtable**. *Posted March 27*

To complement her informative WMRLS Continuing Education Program presentation, **Train**

the Trainer: Library Lapsit Programs, Terri Mitus, **West Springfield Public Library** Youth Services Librarian, shares recommended readings, websites, and photos from the library's current exhibit that showcases its commitment to early literacy training. *Posted March 25*

ReadsinMA online reading program ~ An online slideshow that aims to introduce Massachusetts librarians to our state-wide online reading program. *Posted March 12*

Reaching WMRLS by Phone

Recently, our wonderful Technical Services Assistant /Receptionist, Sheila Savoie, departed her position. Sheila was a great asset to WMRLS and our member libraries. She will be missed by all of us. In anticipation of next year's budget cuts, her position will not be filled.

We are therefore in the process of retuning our old voice mail configuration so it can work more effectively for you. Most times you will get a voice mail greeting. For this reason, we are posting our WMRLS Staff Directory (including direct phone extension numbers) so that you will find it easy to reach the per-

son or department you need to contact.

WMRLS Staff Directory

413-665-9898 (Main Number) | 800-282-7755 (Toll-Free)
413-665-8877 (Fax)

Administration:

John Ramsay ~ x113
Regional Administrator

N. Janeen Resnick ~ x115
Assistant Regional Administrator

Bookmobile & Delivery Services:

Mary King ~ x117
Regional Librarian

Michael Azarowski ~ x118
Delivery Specialist

David Ferland ~ x118
Bookmobile/Delivery Specialist

Dan Jarvis ~ x118
Bookmobile/Delivery Specialist

Steve Lorenz ~ x118
Delivery Specialist

Brian Marchese ~ x118
Delivery Specialist

David Phelps ~ x118
Bookmobile/Delivery Specialist

Bo Trow ~ x118
Delivery Specialist

Andy Van Assche ~ x118
Delivery Specialist

Business Office & Technology:

Shirley MacLean ~ x130
Office Assistant

Wes Hamilton ~ x105
Technology Coordinator

Continuing Education | WMRLS Website | WRapper

Janet Eckert ~ x127
Library Consultant

Shirley MacLean ~ x130
Office Assistant

Interlibrary Loan

N. Janeen Resnick ~ x115
Assistant Regional Administrator

Shirley Keech ~ x125
Research & Database Specialist

Holly Attesi ~ x124
ILL Bibliographic Search Specialist

Alex Brown ~ x114
ILL Clerk

LSTA Together We Thrive Grant Project

Becky Marconi ~ x123
Thrive Project Coordinator

Youth Services

Janet Eckert ~ x127
Library Consultant

We are in the process of retuning our voice mail configuration so it can work more effectively for you.

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To: Library Director

Please route to all staff. Thank you.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WMRLS Services are provided through state funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Massachusetts Library Association in SPRINGFIELD!

MLA Annual Conference Program

MassMutual Center
Springfield, MA
May 5-8, 2009

The 2009 Massachusetts
Library Association
(MLA) Conference,
May 5-8, will be held at
the MassMutual Center in
Springfield.

Across the street from
historic Court Square, it
provides far more space

and services than a hotel.
The new light-filled
MassMutual Center has
elegant ballrooms, nu-
merous meeting rooms,
and 40,000 square feet of
exhibit space. On site
food service can offer
concession items as well
as complete meals for
conference attendees.
There are several parking
lots and garages nearby.

The MLA Conference
Committee has planned
three full days of pro-
grams and your favorite
events including: the
return of the book cart
drill team competition,

another action-packed
gaming night, and the
ever popular trivia & auc-
tion extravaganza.

The conference brochure
is available on MLA's
website:
www.masslib.org
~ Edited from *Bay State
Libraries, Winter 2009,*
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*A generous dona-
tion from the
Berkshire Legisla-
tive Breakfast
Committee has
enabled WMRLS
to offer a chance
for three staff peo-
ple at member li-
braries to attend
this year's MLA
Conference. De-
tails on the
WMRLS Home-
page:
www.wmrls.org*