

MVLS/SALS Joint Automation Project
Joint Automation Council Meeting January 14, 2026, 9:30 am
Meeting at MVLS
Minutes

Present: Kim Bolan, Bill Bonner, Leah Fitzgerald, Guin Forshey, Alex Gutelius, Kari Kakeh, Michele Largeteau, Trevor Oakley, Tom Shaginaw, Eric Trahan, and Erica Wing.

Excused: Teresa Pavoldi.

Guests: Attending through Zoom: Diane Empie, Sharon O'Brien, and Kim Zimmer.

Outgoing Council Chair Erica Wing called the meeting to order at 9:33.

Election of 2026 Officers: SALS nominated Guin Forshey as Chair; MVLS nominated Leah Fitzgerald as Vice Chair. Erica Wing asked for further nominations. The 2026 officers were elected as nominated. Motion: Alex Gutelius : Second: Bill Bonner . Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Guin Forshey took the gavel as the new Council Chair.

The minutes for the November 12, 2025 JA Council meeting were approved. Motion: Tom Shaginaw: Second: Bill Bonner. Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Financial reports for November and December, 2025, were reviewed and received for audit. Motion: Eric Trahan; Second: Alex Gutelius. Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Payment Warrants for November and December, 2025, were reviewed and received for audit. Motion: Eric Trahan; Second: Bill Bonner. Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Project Managers Report - Michele reported:

PC Orders: The 2025 year-end order was placed in November. We are still waiting for delivery. Alex asked if JA is seeing price increases. JA works hard to keep prices down

Vega Discover status: JA staff continues to work with Clarivate on implementation. E-content is still a challenge. The only currently available option is to remove Overdrive content from Polaris; this is not acceptable for library staff. Implementation is on hold while Clarivate works on a solution. There is an April 24 deadline for having a web interface compliant with the ADA. JA may need to implement Vega without e-content if Clarivate fails to develop a solution before that deadline.

GoDaddy Server: Jason is moving member library websites to an updated server.

Other Projects: Routers are being updated and replaced in many libraries. In the most recent phishing testing, JA experienced a 1% failure rate – the best result yet. Training helps! There have been a couple of Polaris outages in December and January, due to issues at Clarivate.

Member Library Projects: Schuylerville is implementing Cassie Spot Global Print for wireless

printing. Northville and Lake George have ongoing renovations projects.

Committee Reports

Finance: The annual JA Fees meeting was held on Wednesday, December 10 at the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library for the purpose of discussing JA member fees for 2027. The meeting attendees are recommending a 5% increase in the member fees budget, to \$621,450, with the formula referencing 2025 holdings and circulation data. The Council voted to forward this recommendation to the SALS and MVLS boards for approval. Motion: Eric Trahan; Second: Bill Bonner. Ayes: All; Nays: None.

Policy: Kim is planning to get the committee together to review all policies, and potentially add new policies.

Operations: The committee met virtually on November 20. There will be additional meetings for Vega Discover and mobile app implementation.

Old Business

JA Agreements: The SALS legal review was slightly delayed due to the holidays, but it is underway.

JA Project Manager Search: We had eight applicants. Kim and Eric completed six initial interviews in December, and the Search Committee met on December 30 to discuss the process and schedule going forward. Interviews are scheduled with three finalists on January 21 and 22. Library directors are all invited to participate. A survey will go to all participants, with results available for the Search Committee. Communication with JA Council will be ongoing.

New Business

Kari Kakeh reported on the CDLC Regional Collections Grant, due on February 27. The film *The Librarians* will be at the NYS Writers Institute on February 20. An ESLN e-accessibility webinar with Cole Adams is scheduled for February 10 at 1 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31. Motion: Kari Kakeh; Second: Bill Bobber. Ayes: all; Nays: none.