

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative

Director's Report

January - February 2015

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid, FY2014-15: All MMLC libraries submitted and certified Annual Reports by the February 2014 deadline. LM has started to send out the first half State Aid payments.

Governor's Budget Recommendation Includes Increases for Libraries:

- \$1 million increase in State Aid to Libraries for fiscal year 2015/16
- an additional \$600,000 for Renaissance Zone Reimbursements and
- \$2.2 million for MPSERS (retirement funding for participating libraries)

Senator Jim Stamas (R-Midland), a strong library supporter, was instrumental in facilitating the increases.

Cooperative Services:

Programming: We have successfully completed the scheduling of over 475 programs. Libraries are beginning to prepare marketing pieces, while performers are putting the finishing touches on their shows. We are looking forward to hearing rave reviews from the more than 10,000 attendees who we anticipate will participate in this year's events.

Workshops: *Reaching the Reluctant Reader Workshop* was held on Tuesday, February 24 at the Genesee Intermediate School District, Weekdays restaurant. This collaborative effort between REMC 14, Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative and the Library of Michigan was attended by almost 70 librarians, teachers, board members, and administrators. Thank you to speakers Michael Sullivan, Deb Biggs-Thomas, Karren Reish, and Lynn Rutan for a great day!

MMLC Advocacy:

Advocacy Plan: The Advocacy Plan revision was approved by the MMLC Board in January. The Board also approved the process for selecting National Library Legislative Day participants and the newly created application/information document. The application timeline ended on February 10, 2015 and seven individuals were chosen to attend the event. Attendees in May 2015 will be: Cheryl Cole, Vernon District Library; David Conklin, Genesee District Library; Lucille Cronin, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library; Don Davenport, Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library; Charles Hanson, Kettering University Library; Karen Hornus, Community District Library; and Melissa Malcolm, Lapeer District Library.

Michigan Library Association (MLA):

The February 26, 2015 Advocacy report: <http://www.milibraries.org/advocacy/key-issues/>

- MLA has made efforts to resolve library problems related to IRS tax forms through Senator Gary Peters' office.
- Planning for an April workshop on FOIA changes; Co-sponsored by the CDA.
- Efforts to have a librarian placed on the Governor's Commission to improve 3rd grade reading levels.
- Other actions include:
 - District Establishment Library Act amendment work.
 - Legislation to add libraries to gun free zone legislation.
- Work is also continuing on: Libraries and MI Works; Tax Captures.

Collaborating Organizations:

Cooperative Director's Association (CDA):

- Approved issuing a *Statement in Support of School Libraries and Librarians*.

- Sent a communication to the Institute of Museum and Library Services thanking that organization for support of MeL.org and MeLCat through LSTA funding.
- Voted to support the MAP program (as managed by The Library Network) expansion to include Department of Natural Resources venues.
- Requested that The Library Network continue to negotiate statewide discounts for those products and services not covered by MCLS.

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS): David Votta represented MCLS and made the following report:

- Presenting a *Media Coaching for Librarians* workshop on March 6, 2015 in Indiana.
- New Assistant Manager for Member Services is Nancy Kirkpatrick. Nancy is the former Director of Hackelmeier Memorial Library at Marian University in Indianapolis, IN.

Library of Michigan (LM): Shannon White represented LM and made the following report:

- Shared information about utilizing the existing E-rate consulting contract with E-rate Central who is under contract to provide support for schools and libraries; Linda Shatz will still be available until the end of March.
- MeLCat RFP process is going well with lots of input from libraries and they will be posting a FAQ on the LM site.
- Announced that MLA and the CDA are working together on the NLLD scholarship that Gale awards.

Collaborating Partners – CDA, LM, MiALA, and MCLS: Two new groups have joined the table to discuss ways to collaborate: MLA and MAME (Michigan Association for Media Educators). The group is working on development of a workshop in Bay City on November 11, 2015.

Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)/Trustee Alliance:

Registration is now open for the Spring FOML and Trustee workshops on April 23 and 24, 2015. Topics are: *Community Engagement* for the Friends <http://foml.org/eventsconferences/2015-spring-workshop/> Trustee - *Strategic Thinking, Strategic Planning* <http://fomltrustealliance.org/2015-spring-workshop/>.

MMLC Administration:

MMLC Audit: The MMLC Board approved the audit during the January Board meeting. Irene Bancroft was lauded by all for her continued work excellence and for submitting the cooperative's audit electronically.

Advisory Council: The February meeting was cancelled due to a weather emergency early in February. The meeting obligation and topics were covered partially in February and have been scheduled in March using a conference call option. Agenda items included: Advocacy Plan and NLLD grants; Technology Plan, Equipment purchases, and Makerspace; and Strategic Planning.

Board Orientations: I provided a board education session for Diane Lehmann, new Community District Library Board Chair, in January. In February, I also provided a Board Orientation for Goodland Township Library Board and Irene presented on the fiduciary responsibilities of the Board and the use of QuickBooks for budgeting purposes. We will be working with the Director and Board on completing that process.

OverDrive: The Collection Development Team led a conference call to discuss a process for bibliographic records and resolved an issue with holds on expired materials.

Denise Hooks
MMLC Director