

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
March - April 2016

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid, FY2015-16: State Aid checks were issued in March and April for the first half payments to libraries.

State Aid, FY2016-17: So far, the budget that has been proposed by the Governor matches last year's and neither House or Senate has made any changes. Renaissance Zone reimbursements are also at the same levels.

Cooperative Services:

Programming: We have now booked 553 programs. That is a record number for MMLC. We have also added a few more libraries from other cooperatives who have not booked through us before. The change in Northland Cooperative membership (see Cooperative Administration) will most certainly increase our numbers for next year.

hoopla digital: The hoopla contract was signed and the onboarding process has started.

3D Printer Project: Several libraries have shared stories about how the 3D printers are being used for open houses and programming. A new resource for documents, sample policies, idea sharing and posting pictures/videos has been developed on the MMLC website: <http://www.mmlc.info/PrinterProject.html> A conference call for members to share ideas will take place in May.

MAME Workshop: MMLC had conversations with Kathy Lester, Past MAME President, to brainstorm about the MAME reading workshop that was held on April 23, 2016. We suggested meeting topics and possible speakers.

MMLC Advocacy:

NLLD Grant: April has been a gear-up month for NLLD event preparation. Two conference calls focused on items of interest and importance for new attendees. A third took place a few days before travel to Washington D.C. That meeting offered an opportunity to review the actual 2016 Issue Briefs. Attendees for 2016 are: Debora Bloomquist (Capital Area District Library/MMLC Boards), Cheryl Cole (Vernon District Public Library), David Conklin (Genesee District Library), Charles Hanson (Kettering University Library/MMLC Board), Ruth Helwig (Chippewa River District Library/MMLC Boards), Karen Hornus (Community District Library/MMLC Boards), Melissa Malcolm (Lapeer District Library), Maria McCarville (Public Libraries of Saginaw), and Denise Hooks. A report on the trip will be made at the Annual May meeting.

Tax Tribunal Committee Appointment/Dark Store Legislation: Please contact your Michigan Senator to advocate against Senate approval of Governor Snyder's appointment of Marcus Abood to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Talking points: Mr. Abood is not qualified to serve on the tribunal, as he lacks the commercial assessment experience needed to make such determinations. Decisions he is making have proven to be detrimental to funding for libraries and communities. Many examples can be found throughout the state and, so far, especially in the Upper Peninsula.

Collaborating Organizations:

Cooperative Director's Association (CDA): The CDA met in April at the United Way building in Gaylord. The first half of the day focused on Partner reports from Randy Riley (Library of Michigan),

Gail Madziar (Michigan Library Association), and Randy Dykhuis (Midwest Collaborative for Library Services). The group also held a business meeting to consider sponsorship at the MLA Fall conference and discussion of the work that The Library Network does to negotiate e-resources contracts on behalf of all Michigan Cooperatives and libraries. A product of the latter resulted in a new document that details what libraries can use when considering new additions to their collection content. This link will take you to the page and can also be accessed using the Co-op Discounts tab on the TLN home page: <http://tln.lib.mi.us/discounts/files/EResources.pdf>. There is a coordinated effort not to duplicate the services provided by MCLS and databases provided by LM through MeL.org. The afternoon meeting was a Visioning Session on Cooperatives facilitated by Pan Godchaux.

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS): Randy Dykhuis made the following report:

- RIDES renewal emails went out April 5. The companies are ProMed in the Lower Peninsula and Waltco in the Upper Peninsula. Thresholds have been added so that the number of delivery days will be increased when circulation (books moved) goes above the contracted formula number for the year.
- The Harwood third round of training will be offered in October 2016. Libraries have been fully engaged with the training and are showing a commitment to following through in their communities. Libraries who have previously applied and not been chosen are strongly encouraged to apply again.

Library of Michigan (LM): Randy Riley made the following report:

- Consumers Energy is the new sponsor for the Michigan Reads program which has been moved from Fall to the Spring of 2017.
- The new Youth Services Consultant is Cathy Lancaster. Cathy previously worked at the Flint Public Library and at the Traverse Area District Library. Cathy begins work officially on April 25.
- The new Library Law Specialist has also been selected and will begin work on April 25.
- Over 100 people have registered for the Beginning Workshop.
- Encouraged libraries to apply for CE money from the Library of Michigan.
- Announced that there will be a new MeL Business portal which will be unveiled over the Summer.

Michigan Library Association (MLA): Gail Madziar made the following report:

- The tax capture bills introduced last Fall passed the Senate 36-2 and are now in the tax policy committee in the House. They are not expected to be taken up until early Fall.
- PA 269 (SB 571) legislation was halted due to a lawsuit and resulting temporary. It appears that the temporary injunction will be made permanent and the new legislation will no longer be an issue.
- Rep. David Maturen introduced legislation to ensure that equitable determinations are made when the entire Michigan Tax Tribunal hears an assessment dispute. House Bill 5578 would require the entire Michigan Tax Tribunal to make its own, independent determination of the highest and best use of the property that is the subject of the appeal and insure that the comparable properties have the same highest and best use.

Collaborating Partners – CDA, LM, MiALA, MLA, and MCLS:

- The workshop planned by the Collaborating Partners with Dr. Maryanne Wolf will also feature Natalie Phillips from MSU. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch. The event will be held at the Lansing Community College West Campus. Registration for the September 30 event is now posted on the MCLS website at: http://www.mcls.org/training-events/training-events-list/training-event/?ref_cID=198&bID=0&dd_asId=4172

MMLC Administration:

- The MMLC Board lost a longtime, valued member with the passing of Lucille Cronin. Lucille was an active Board Member who participated on several committees and travelled to the NLLD event in 2014.
- Friends of Michigan Libraries/Trustee Alliance: I will not be serving as an active FOML Board Member and have assumed an Advisor role with the organization.
- Last Fall, I notified the Advisory Council and MMLC Board that I had been asked to speak with two libraries who were planning to leave Mid-Michigan Library League and were looking for a new cooperative to join. They were also speaking with Northland Library Cooperative Director, Roger Mendel. They decided to join Northland in large part due to geographic location and the ability to collaborate easily with other Northland libraries as well as the opportunity to participate in the development and future planning for that cooperative.
- Irene and I met with the North Branch Township Library Board to assist them in understanding the benefit of using QuickBooks software for budgeting and reporting. The Board has decided to move forward and Irene will assist them through the process of adoption.
- The new E-rate EPC filing system has provided extreme challenges for most E-rate filers and has resulted in a deadline extension of May 26 for filing a Form 471.
- I attended the Public Libraries Association Conference in Denver, Colorado during the first week of April. Notes from sessions will be posted on the website in May.
- I represented the Cooperative Directors Association as the April Library of Michigan Board meeting.
- The invitation to the MMLC Annual Dinner meeting at Brick Street Restaurant, Grand Blanc, Michigan. All MMLC Board members, our Library Directors (or designees), and their Board members are invited. Please RSVP to Irene at ibancroft@mmlc.info. Dinner begins at 5 pm.

Denise Hooks
MMLC Director