

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
May - June 2016

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid, FY2015-16: Nearly all MMLC libraries have received their first half SA checks. Kathy Webb indicated that she would be starting the second half payment process shortly after July 1.

State Aid, FY2016-17: The budget presented by Governor Snyder went through both the House and Senate without any changes. It is the same as last year and includes the MeL.org and Renaissance Zone monies. Final budget numbers:

- State Aid \$9,876,000
- Renaissance Zone \$5,300,000
- MeL.org/LM \$1,752,300

Cooperative Services:

Programming: Summer Programs are well underway, with hosting sites providing glowing reviews. Performers have until August 1st to submit their information for the 2017 season.

hoopla digital: The hoopla implementation process hit a snag with a licensing issue for the libraries who belong to the Valley Library Consortium. All parties are working through the onboarding requirements and it should move forward rapidly once the vendor license issue is resolved.

3D Printer Project: Libraries met via conference call to share experiences and gain insight into what others are doing for programming. Members expressed excitement at how the project is progressing.

OverDrive: As a newly automated library, Goodland Township Library was able to become a member of the MMLC Digital Media Zone OverDrive consortia. Goodland is the 5th member of that group.

MMLC Advocacy:

NLLD Grant: As reported at the Annual Meeting, the NLLD trip did not happen for most of the group due to the weather in Flint and the Midwest. The airport in Chicago was closed due to fog and attempts to find later flights with other airlines (and at other airports) turned out to be cost prohibitive or would not have gotten the group to Washington D.C. in a timely way. Even an idea to drive was thwarted when the rental car companies were not open. Two of us did participate in virtual attendance at the orientation the next day. Fortunately, Charles Hanson was able to be there since his flight was out of Detroit. Charles shared his experiences when he returned.

Net Neutrality: In a stunning victory, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Federal Communications Commission's rules regarding a free and open Internet. Verizon and other Internet providers have vowed to take the case to the full appellate court or the Supreme Court with a goal of limiting the control of Congress to legislate this issue.

Collaborating Organizations:

Cooperative Director's Association (CDA): The CDA met in June at the Library of Michigan. Kate Pohjola Andrade provided a demo of the statewide cooperative continuing education program calendar that she created for the group.

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

- RIDES new contract year begins July 1. There was also a reminder that the delivery service is the system is only authorized for returnable items that are borrowed through MeLCat. Other items should not be sent through RIDES. MeLCat staff will contact libraries who send other items.
- The Harwood third round of training will be offered October 5-6, 2016.
- MCLS will also be hosting a series of five Community Conversation in August. An email invitation with dates includes:
 - August 16, 2016 from 10am-12pm (Eastern) Peter White Library, Marquette MI (Shiras Room), Marquette
 - August 17, 2016 from 10am-12pm (Eastern) Bayliss Library, Sault St. Marie
 - August 23, 2016 from 10am-12pm (Eastern) Traverse Area District Library Woodmere (main) branch, Traverse City
 - August 24, 2016 from 10am-12pm (Eastern) Fremont Area District Library, Fremont
 - August 25, 2016 from 10am-12pm (Eastern) Presque Isle District Library, Rogers City

Michigan Library Association (MLA): Jim Pletz made the following report on behalf of MLA:

- 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 was passed by the full House and it is hoped that the Senate will consider it after the summer break.
- It was reiterated that libraries are entitled to 100% reimbursement for lost millage dollars. District libraries will be reimbursed directly. City, village and township libraries will be reimbursed through the local municipality. If there is a question, libraries should refer their local governing authority to the Michigan Department of Treasury.
- Federal rules regarding overtime for exempt employees will be covered in an MLA webinar.
- A new program called Library Soup will debut at the fall conference. Libraries can compete for funding by presenting a new and innovative project for their library. The program will be on October 27, 2016 from 2-3:30 p.m.
- MLA will celebrate its 125th Anniversary during the conference.

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

- Cathy Lancaster, Youth Services Coordinator, and Claire Membiela, Library Law Consultant, were introduced as the newest LM employees. Cathy encouraged us to alert libraries to the Every Child Ready to Read Literacy Kit and asked anyone who did not already receive a kit to contact her. Claire explained her role at the library which includes interpreting what the law says, but does not constitute providing legal advice.
- Rural Libraries Conference was attended by well over 500 people. Irene ran registration with great success and finesse! I was a speaker with Jim Pletz on cooperatives.

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:

- We met with Holly Township Library Director, Kate Scheid, and the Board to finalize a timeline for the library's move to use of QuickBooks.

- The Annual Joint Meeting of the MMLC Board and Advisory Council was held on May 12th at Brick Street Grille. Unfortunately, the Board did not have a quorum and the business meeting was called to order and then adjourned.
- I attended the CALL meeting at the Dryden Township Library.
- Friends of Michigan Libraries/Trustee Alliance: I attended the June strategic planning session of the Board.
- I attended the MLA Executive Summit which featured a budgeting presentation and also one on trends and futuring.
- The new E-rate EPC filing system has provided extreme challenges for most E-rate filers and has resulted in a libraries and cooperatives deadline extension of July 26 for filing a Form 471.
- I attended the American Libraries Association Conference in Orlando, Florida during the last week of June. Notes from sessions will be posted on the website in July.

Denise Hooks
MMLC Director