

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
March – April 2017

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid, FY2016-17: State Aid checks were issued in March and April for the first half payments to libraries. Seven MMLC libraries have received payments.

State Aid, FY2017-18: The budget that has been proposed by the Governor matches last year. The House and Senate budget committees have not yet proposed their versions. Renaissance Zone reimbursements have been reduced by \$2 million dollars and are expected to trail off over the next few years. Personal Property Tax payments are difficult to track and are also expected to fade away in an estimated 4 years. It is MLA's intent to ask for \$1 million in additional State Aid. Be sure that your legislators know what your libraries do, the specifics of why library services are important to the community, and do not miss a chance to thank them for their ongoing support.

Cooperative Services:

Programming: Irene has booked a record-breaking 564 programs so far this year. The performer school visits have started as well as our next fiscal year programming process. Irene sent out performer emails so that they will have their information submitted to the Cooperative by July 28, 2017 before the Programming Team meets on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

3D Printer Project: The pilot project year ended at the end of March with a member evaluation survey and resulting final report published at: <http://bit.ly/2p5hTTB> All 3D printers, laptops, scanners and supplies were decommissioned and responsibility was assumed by each region. Libraries will continue to share the 3D printer set-ups on a rotational basis.

MMLC Advocacy:

NLLD Grant: Preparation for NLLD continued through April. Advocacy has reached new levels due to President Trump's plan to eliminate the Institute for Museum and Library Services and funding for the Library Services and Technology Act. Loss of that funding will result in severely limited database access through MeL.org, the loss of statewide resource sharing MeLCat system, LSTA grants to libraries, and support for continuing education/professional development. Net neutrality, Privacy and Surveillance, and Access to Broadband are among the other issues that the Michigan advocacy group will be discussing with legislators. A record 37 participants will attend from Michigan this year. This will be Deb Renee Biggs last year as the State Coordinator for NLLD as Clare Membiela is taking over that role with NLLD 2018. A report on the trip will be made at the Annual May meeting.

Dark Store Legislation: Rep. David Maturen reintroduced HB 4397 at the end of March. There is a bipartisan group of 54 House members backing this legislation. It would require the Michigan Tax Tribunal to "hear challenges to local property tax assessments by applying standard appraisal procedures when reaching their decisions that are based on fact finding and conclusions of law in larger tax property cases." Last year, libraries were forced to repay tax money they had already received in previous years. The Senate did not hold a hearing on the issue and so the bill died in the House in 2016. This year, however, cities and townships are uniting behind the bill and with, aggressive advocacy on the part of the library community and municipalities, the hope is that the Senate will be forced to address the legislation this time around.

Cooperative Director's Association (CDA): The CDA met in April at the Library of Michigan. We voted to sponsor the mobile charging stations at the MLA Fall conference. Three more free webinars have been scheduled and registration is now open at: <http://mml.org/workshops.html>

May 16, 11 am

Brian Mitchell – National Insurance Services

May 23, 11 am	Anne Seuryneck – Parliamentary Procedure, Open Meetings Act, Robert’s Rules of Order
June 8, 10 am	Brian Mortimore – Wage Assessment, Hiring Tools, Performance Management
June 13, 11 am	Anne Seuryneck – ADA and Reasonable Accommodation

The group also had a briefing from Anne Seuryneck on the technical bills on tax capture.

Collaborating Organizations:

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

- The workshop for this year will feature library safety and libraries as unifying, safe places. There are two days with different agendas. The first is Wednesday, September 6, 2017 and features Dr. Steve Albrecht at the University Center in Gaylord. The next day, Thursday, September 7, 2017 will be at the Dearborn Public Library and again features Dr. Albrecht. Added to that agenda are Jodie Layne, Winnipeg Safer Places creator, and Eva Davis, Canton Public Library Director. Registration will be managed by MCLS and will be advertised in May.

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

- A RIDES study, including equity considerations between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas, will be completed this summer.
- The MeLCat records in BIBFRAME format (from MARC) has been published to the web as part of the Zepheira project implementation process. The Linked Data workshop was attended by over 100 people in two locations.

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

- The fact sheets on LSTA allowed LM to fully inform the library community about what that funding provides for libraries. They will be used in National Library Legislative Day meetings in Washington, D.C.
- LM awarded four large multi-year grants to: Dearborn Public Library, Jackson District Library, Wayne State University, and Ypsilanti District Library. Smaller grants will be available in May. Grants of \$500 - \$2,000 will be focused on Literacy, Children & Teen Programs, and Technology. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2017.
- Beginning workshop is scheduled for May 17-19, 2017 at Shanty Creek in Bellaire. Anyone new to the profession or just hired at a library is welcome to attend. Beginning workshop is required for staff members seeking their initial Level 3 or 4 certificates.
- 2018 Small & Rural Libraries Conference will be April 30 – May 2, 2018 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan.

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

- The tax capture technical bills S305-10 will be introduced early in May. See MLA advocacy post: <http://www.milibraries.org/mla-advocacy---april-27-2017/>. The intent of the ‘clean-up’ bills are to clarify all language (related to opt-outs and fraud prevention) to avoid any potential problems in the future. MLA will send out a Call to Action when it will be important for everyone to contact their Senators.
- Interest groups have been formed and information on how to form a group are available on the website at: <http://www.milibraries.org/membership/interest-groups/>.
- Starting in the summer of 2017, MLA will be offering a fee-based strategic planning service to member libraries.

- The Executive Summit is scheduled on June 2, 2017 at the Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch. The topic will be census data and changing demographics in our communities.

MMLC Administration:

- The website redesign is going very well and will hopefully be ready to 'unveil' at the Annual Meeting on May 18.
- The MMLC Board approved a proposal for MMLC to act as fiscal agent for the Friends of Michigan Libraries. I have moved from Advisory to Emeritus member of the Board due to the new responsibility. We have begun the work needed to make that transition.
- Maureen Hirten, Capital Area District Library Director, will retire on May 12. Her retirement reception is May 3, 5-7 pm at the Lansing Main Branch. The branch recently reopened after a beautiful renovation to the first and second floors of the library. Maureen will be missed!
- Scott Duimstra has been named new Director of the Capital Area District Library. We welcome Scott to his new role at CADL.
- Irene upgraded our QuickBooks software to the 2017 version.
- I submitted a proposal to present at the MLA fall conference on the 3D Printing Project. The proposal was accepted and the program has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 1:30-2:30 pm. Panelists will be: Jessica Bostian, Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library; Dena Moscheck, Lapeer District Library; Amy Comber-Gross, Coleman Area Library; and Jason Bias, Genesee District Library. It is my hope that MMLC library directors attend also to lend insights on the project from the audience.
- I attended the FOML and Trustee workshops in March.

Denise Hooks, Director
MMLC