

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative**  
**Director's Report**  
**May - June 2017**

**State Budget/State Aid:**

**State Aid, FY2016-17:** All of the MMLC libraries received their 1st half payments by the end of June.

**State Aid, FY2017-18:** We are still waiting for Governor Snyder to sign the budget for 2017-18. All indications include a large increase to State Aid that is expected to bring the per capita amount to around \$ .36. Information will be sent to members as soon as notification is received from Kathy Webb.

**Cooperative Services:**

**Programming:** Summer reading programming is well under way. MMLC continues to book additional programs and is also accepting requests for fall programming.

**OverDrive Consortia:** The MMLC OverDrive consortia met by conference call to discuss collection development strategies and ways to maximize the collection budget. In addition, a new Cost per Circulation payment method was introduced as an option.

**Document Review Committee:** The Document Review Committee met by conference call to review and edit MMLC Board Bylaws. The revision will be presented for approval at the September Board meeting. Thanks to Trish Burns, Steve Flayer, Deb Bloomquist, Jill Sodt, and Charles Hanson for their careful consideration of the document.

**MMLC Advocacy:**

**National Library Legislation Day:** MMLC sponsored the attendance of directors and board members for the May event in Washington D.C. Attendees had the opportunity to spend a full day of orientation, attend a reception at the Hart Senate Building, and meet with legislators and/or their staffs on Capitol Hill. We were warmly greeted by both Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters in their offices. Both Senators and several House members are strongly in support of libraries and federal funding for libraries. Attendees included: Deb Bloomquist, Cheryl Cole, David Conklin, Charles Hanson, Karen Hornus, Melissa Malcolm, Jill Sodt, and Denise Hooks.

**Net Neutrality:** The remarks in brackets below were published last year in the Director's Report. Unfortunately, net neutrality is again under fire with a change in the Federal Communications Commission leadership. The threats are to: an open internet without additional fees; continued access to the bandwidth needed in libraries to provide services to patrons; and a disregard for privacy without tracking of citizen use of the internet.

[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. Sandra Wilson, Lakeland Library Cooperative Director, announced her retirement as of August 31, 2017. The Lakeland board will be conducting a national search. The Visioning Committee has not met, but a discussion on the topic gave the group a direction for the group. The CDA sponsored webinars have been very popular. New topics will be advertised as the additional webinars are scheduled. Archived recordings are available at: <http://mml.org/workshops.html>

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

- RIDES contracts and processing are done. Library of Michigan will be funding a study of statewide delivery. MCLS is convening a task force of representatives from around the state and

is asking for two representatives from the MCDA. They will review the goals of the study and send out a RFQ to consultants by the end of August.

- New MCLS Services for their members: strategic planning (public library focus), community engagement services and meeting facilitation (academic library focus). They are in the soft launch phase; no major marketing yet, but the CDA can refer libraries to them.

**Michigan Library Association (MLA):** Gail Madziar made the following report on behalf of MLA:

- Personal Property Tax: There is cautious optimism that district libraries will see a second round of reimbursements. The guaranteed reimbursements will eventually fade away. Treasury does not know when, but the current estimate is within four years.
- MLA has worked to educate legislators on the importance of State Aid to Libraries and included a \$1 million requested increase which was added to the proposed budget.
- MLA's Executive Summit (slides are on MLA's web page). Great presentations on demographic trends and economic forecasting.

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

- No new action on LSTA/IMLS funding. Several legislators in the House have not signed on to support funding, so everyone can reach out, both in Washington, DC and in Lansing.
- Larger LSTA collaborative grants have been announced. It is expected that all 68 applicants for the smaller grants (\$500 to \$2000) will be funded.
- LM receives many staffing waiver requests and those will only be granted if there is significant evidence that the library is making progress toward achieving the certification needed. Cooperatives should encourage library boards to hire directors with the required levels of experience.
- Michigan has two national *Letters about Literature* winners – both in TLN libraries.
- Beginning Workshop had 120 attendees. Cooperatives need to remind members that attendance is compulsory for smaller libraries and that networking is vital.
- National Library Legislative Day was a big success, with 38 librarians and library supporters in Michigan's contingent. Clare Membiela will be taking over coordination next year. We had corporate representation from Gale Cengage and ProQuest.
- The National Genealogical Society's 2018 annual conference will be in Grand Rapids. This will be a great opportunity for those libraries with family history collections.
- MI-ALA Conference was held May 18-19 at Grand Valley State University. It went well, with over 200 in attendance. Academic librarians are seeing the need for MI-ALA.

**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 link: <https://www.mcls.org/training-events/events/michigan-library-safety-programs/>

**MMLC Administration:**

- The website redesign is going very well. Attendees of the May Annual Meeting were given a "sneak peek". Janet Newell, web developer, was in attendance.
- MMLC has started the work of transitioning the Friends of Michigan Libraries fiscal agency to MMLC responsibility.
- I attended the MLA Executive Summit in May at the Ann Arbor District Library.

- Irene met with Holly Township Library to go over processes in advance of their move to QuickBooks.
- Irene has been asked to manage registration during the Rural Libraries Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort from April 30 – May 2, 2018.
- I participated in the Friends of Michigan Library Board/Trustee Alliance strategic planning session in June at Kettering University.
- I attended the American Library Association Annual conference during June in Chicago.
- The biennial Millage Nuts & Bolts workshop has been scheduled for February 28, 2018.

Denise Hooks  
MMLC Director