

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative**  
**Director's Report**  
**December 2008**

**Northland Interim Director:** The NLC Board and Advisory Council have formed a committee to discuss the future of the cooperative. The meeting is set for December 4 and I will have a report of their progress at our meeting.

**Talking Book Center:** I talked with the director of the Library of Michigan Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and she reported that the transition of our service to GDL was the smoothest she has seen. She also indicated that the library for the blind in Ann Arbor has been dissolved and that the program in Macomb is being transferred.

**Library of Michigan:** The public hearings on the new rules for PA 89 of 1977 were held on November 14 and 24. I attended the hearing in Lansing on the 24<sup>th</sup>. About 50 people attended and there was much discussion about non-resident fees and services, certification and continuing education. There was also some testimony requesting that the full time director requirement for a Cooperative be relaxed since Northland has proved to be a stellar example of how in certain circumstances a cooperative can be run by a part-time director. The next step is for the LM staff to take these comments and make changes in the rules. Hopefully a revised set of rules may be out sometime in December or January.

**MLA:** The Directors' Summit program was a great success. Over 75 directors from around the state attended.

**MLC:** I serve on the Michigan Library Consortium Board. The MLC Board had a retreat in November and much discussion was had regarding the future of MLC.

**Workshops:** Since we last met we held two workshops, the Showcase of Summer Performers and Serving the Invisible Users. Both were well attended. The Showcase had about 100 which included the performers and the Invisible Users had about 30 attending. Both workshops were offered to non-members of MMLC and we had a good number of librarians from neighboring coops attend.

**Summer Reading Performers scheduling:** Irene is doing her usual best in scheduling performers for next summer. She has booked 346 performances at libraries in MMLC and NLC. We have signed most of the contracts and she is now preparing the packets that go to the libraries and the performers.

**May Tour:** The tour this year features The Storytellers ([www.thestorytellers.org](http://www.thestorytellers.org)). We anticipate that 30 performances will be done during this tour. It's great to see the response to this program since the libraries have to pay this year as they did last year. Previous to this the Cooperative budget absorbed the cost but due to the 17% cut in funding we have had to change it to a cost share program.

**State Aid:** We have received the first half of our state aid for this fiscal year. With the economy sliding it would not surprise me if there is an executive order this spring cutting state aid. I hope I am wrong. Unfortunately we don't qualify for a bailout from the federal government.