

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
September - October 2018

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid Budget, FY2018-19: Libraries received the official notice that the Library of Michigan Annual report filing window opened October 1, 2018 and will close February 1, 2019. State Aid payments are processed by the date the report is locked/submitted.

Note: The total amount for State Aid is \$12,067,700. The per capita direct state aid \$.39689 and indirect \$.39689. Cooperatives will also receive \$.39689 for direct aid. Payments are generally made beginning in February and after July 1, 2019.

Cooperative Services:

Programming: Performers Showcase was held on September 18th, 2018 and was attended by over 130 library staff, administrators, and performers. As of October 31, 2018, Irene has scheduled 590 programs to be held this Fall through Summer Reading. We anticipate that the number of programs will be well over 600 at fiscal year-end.

MMLC Advocacy:

I participated in the Meet the Candidate sessions in districts that are shared with White Pine Library Cooperative. A few were very well attended. Two were cancelled when the legislative candidates could not attend or did not respond. Thank you to Steve Flayer and Corey Friedrich who scheduled meeting rooms for events that were later cancelled.

Cooperative Directors Association:

Cooperative Directors Association (CDA): The CDA met in October after the MLA Conference ended on Friday.

- Both Bryon Sitler, White Pine Library Cooperative, and John Mohny, Southwest Library Cooperative, plan to retire in 2019.
- The Penal Fines Task Force expects to have a toolkit ready by early next year that will educate libraries on the history and importance of penal fines to libraries. Materials may also be used to inform others of the importance of penal fines to libraries.
- The CDA table in the MLA exhibit area was a great way to inform attendees about cooperative services and to meet librarians from around Michigan.
- Six cooperatives (Northland, MMLC, MMLL, Superiorland, WPLC, and Woodlands) have committed to hosting a *Small Libraries. Big Impact.* mini-conference on April 29 and 30, 2019. Planning is underway for the event that will be held at Treetops Conference Center in Gaylord. A call for programs will go out soon.
- New Officers are: Kate Pohjola Andrade, President; John Mohny, Vice President; Carol Dawe, Secretary; and Bryon Sitler, Treasurer. The terms are two years.

CDA Webinars: All of the free webinars may be accessed at: <https://mml.ploud.net/workshops-webinars/webinars>. We are also seeking new webinar ideas for 2019. Please send me those that you think would benefit libraries in the state.

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

Registration was closed on October 31, 2018 for the fall workshop *Removing Barriers: a Library Accessibility Workshop* scheduled at Grand Valley State University's Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids on November 9, 2018. Nearly 90 attendees are registered from both public and academic libraries.

Collaborating Organizations:

Michigan Library Association (MLA): Report compiled from MLA newsletters/MLA annual meeting.

- Gail Madziar announced that her retirement date is March 30, 2019
- MLA is offering a *New Director Academy: Survive and Thrive as a Library Director*. Maxine Bleiweis, a former library director and now consultant/public speaker, will lead the five session program that will also include individual consultations. Deadline for registration is January 18, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2zq0FIW>
- Advocacy successes during the 2018-19 year included: State Aid, additional \$1 million; legislation on Narcan administration in libraries and other public locations; opposed reducing the number of times libraries could hold a millage election; other challenges to penal fine revenue diversion from public libraries.
- Membership totals during 2018-19 total 317 organizational members and 1,289 individual memberships from public, academic, cooperative, special, and K-12 libraries.
- National Insurance Services (NIS) has been able to secure pricing for the MLA group health/Rx, dental and vision insurance consortium.
- Professional development included education for 879 individuals including a partnership with the Cooperative Director's Association to offer the *ALA Bootcamp* and another with additional partners to offer workshops on library safety.

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

- The first search for a new Executive Director was not successful. The final candidate made the decision to stay with his current employer. Randy will stay until the end of March 2019.
- Nancy Fitzpatrick, Associate Director, announced that she was chosen as the new Executive Director of OhioNET and would be assuming her new position on January 3, 2019.
- The OverDrive consortium sharing pilot project between the MCLS OverDrive group and the Lakeland Library Cooperative OverDrive group (on behalf of the CDA) has just launched. If successful, other cooperative groups will be able to join.

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

- Bay County Library System was given the *State Librarian's Excellence Award* at the State Librarian's luncheon during the MLA conference. Congratulations to Trish Burns, the staff, and the board of BCLS!
- There were a few challenges during the rollout of the new MEL databases, but staff worked quickly to make corrections. A new RFP will be issued for an Early Literacy Product for public and school libraries.
- In cooperation with MCLS, two new MeL database trainers will be hired for group training for cooperatives or smaller groups. The trainers should be in place by the end of November.
- Libraries should not hesitate to contact Liz Breed for specific questions while the Help Desk will handle technical issues.
- The MeL website was redesigned to focus on assistance for librarians, but a new page for the public may also be added.

MMLC Administration:

- The MMLC Board met in mid-September to close the FY2017-18 budget and approve the budget for FY2018-19. Also approved was the FY2018-19 Work Plan. The board honored those leaving the board: Debora Bloomquist, Capital Area District Library; Anne Harris, Bay County Library System; Charles Hanson, Kettering University; and Terri Turner, Vernon District Public Library.
- The Advisory Council was hosted by Jami Cromley at the Community District Library, Corunna Branch in early October. In addition to cooperative updates, the group presented on their use of

the Technology and Innovation Grant money. MMLC libraries presented truly creative ideas for library service using these funds and are always willing to assist other members in similar ventures. We also completed a *Real Colors Personality Assessment* and related it to our work behaviors.

- Congratulations to the Flint Public Library for winning the *2018 State History Institutions Award*. Kudos go to Kay Schwartz, the library staff, the library board, and the Flint Genealogical Society for this achievement.
- Irene has submitted our financials to Lewis & Knopf Auditors for FY2017-18. We are beginning the review process.
- I attended the Detroit Suburban Library Round Table meeting at the Canton Public Library. The speaker was John Chrastka of EveryLibrary.
- I attended a small online meeting to hear about Lynda.com and am working with others to see if a cooperative library rate can be negotiated.
- I attended the *Harwood Community Engagement Summit* and five year wrap-up. It was an excellent opportunity for those who embraced the Harwood method of turning outward in our communities to support initiatives based on the question, “What can the library do to support our community in ways that matter?”
- I attended the Lapeer libraries CALL group meeting at Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library.
- I attended the MLA annual conference in Novi.

Denise Hooks
MMLC Director