

# Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative

## Director's Report

October and November 2021

### State Budget/State Aid:

#### STATE AID FY2021

- Annual Survey/State Aid started October 1 and will continue until February 1, 2022. Public Libraries will need to fill out the survey to receive their state aid. Payment of State Aid will be distributive by the libraries who have completed the Annual Survey first.
- MMLC has completed its Annual Survey/State Aid.

### Cooperative Services:

- Eric has split the Cooperative into 4 areas, Lapeer County, MMLC Central Group, MMLC Western Group and MMLC Northern Group. Lapeer County has been meeting for many years and we currently meet monthly; the other groups are meeting quarterly. During a week in November Eric had zoom meetings with all the groups and everyone who was available to meet found it helpful.
- Irene is working on programming for 2022. Over 300 programs are now confirmed for the fiscal year.

### Michigan Cooperative Directors Association:

#### Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA):

Officers are 2-year terms. The Board accepted the slate as presented.

- Chair/Pres - Carol Dawe (Lakeland)
- Vice Chair/VP - Eric Palmer (MMLC)
- Secretary - Steve Bowers (TLN)
- Treasurer - Tammy Turgeon (Suburban)

MCDA Virtual booth at the MLA Annual Conference had 79 visitors with an average visit time of 16 minutes. There were 135 comments collected.

### Organizations:

#### Library of Michigan (LM):

- **The MI-83 TLC Kits request period is now open!** The Library Network, Lakeland Library Cooperative and MLA have received \$2,252,462 to fund the MI-83 Project through two grants from the Library of Michigan through the Institute for Museum and Library Services LSTA American Rescue Plan (ARPA).
  - Through the MI-83 Project, public libraries in all 83 Michigan counties will soon be eligible for increased digital eContent from Overdrive, and technology tools/equipment (like laptops, Chromebooks, outdoor public address systems, etc.) to help facilitate recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will also include a multi-media awareness campaign directed at library patrons to promote the availability of the increased content, and the technology available for loan and use in Michigan libraries.
  - MI-83 Technology, Libraries, and Communities Project (MI-83 TLC Kits) **Requests are due by December 13, 2021, at Noon EST.** [Learn more and place a request for your library.](#)

#### Michigan Library Association (MLA): Debbie Mikula, Executive Director of MLA

- **Letters to Legislators:** [Check out November's edition](#) of the monthly outreach to Michigan Legislators where MLA continues to educate them on the value of our libraries and the critical role of library staff. The monthly letters include information on programs

and services that libraries provide, education on library funding, the return on investment for our communities, stats and fun facts about library usage and more.

#### **Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS): Scott Garrison, Executive Director of MCLS**

- MCLS awarded ARPA grant from the Indiana State Library
- MCLS Special offers:
  - Now your stories are just a phone call away with Dial-A-Story. Dial-A-Story is perfect for patrons with limited internet, those who are home-bound, and anyone looking to reduce screen time.
  - Unsub is a data dashboard that helps libraries reassess the value of their big deal subscriptions. Using Unsub, libraries can forecast their spending and fulfillment over the next five years, modeling a variety of different subscription and cancellation scenarios.
  - Limited time offer! MCLS & SAGE Publishing are partnering to provide special pricing on key SAGE resources

#### **MMLC Administration:**

- With the MLA Virtual Annual Conference, Eric had meetings and worked during the 21st Annual Conference and served on the planning committee. He also had a wrap-up meeting of the 21st Annual Conference. A second hour was the committee meeting for 22nd Annual Conference which will be in Port Huron in October 2022.
- Eric and Irene participated in FOML committee, Budget and Finance, Executive and actual Board meetings. Irene also completed the FOML 2022 Budget and presented it to the FOML Board.
- Library of Michigan (LM) has reduced the updates to monthly and Eric has attended both of the meetings.
- Superiorland Library Cooperative has a new Director. I met virtually with Dillion Geshel to welcome him and share my experiences as a new Cooperate Director.
- Met with MMLC Board Trustee Paul Travis, the new representative from Bay County Library System, to review some of the duties of a Trustee and important MMLC administrative documents.
- Northwood University held an open house introducing their new Learning Center Commons in the library. They went from having one study room to 5 as well as having the Tutoring Center into the library.
- Eric attended the MCDA meeting and has accepted the Vice Chair position of MCDA.
- Foster Swift conducted a webinar on 'What Employers need to know for 2022' which I attended.
- In September, MCDA held DEI training and we just had a braining storming session with the trainers to see if we can come up with more training possibilities for the future.
- Eric visited Harrison District Library to see the new building that is being remodeled for the library. It will be much larger and have a good size community room. Due to Covid, there have been many delays, but with any luck they hope to open in the new location sometime next year.
- Flint Public Library has closed their temporary location in the Courtland Center Mall and are planning to reopen in their freshly renovated building in March 2022.
- MMLC worked with TLN and Suburban Cooperatives on the ARAP Capacity Equipment Grant which is available to sign up now. I would suggest **Every Library** fill out the form, it will take less than five minute and the worst they will say is you don't get what your requested. But they could say yes, too. The grant is due by Monday Dec. 13. You should know if you'll receive the Grant before the end of the year. [Learn more and place a request for your library](#)
- Eric attended the Connect Nation 20 years, livestream in November.
- Irene and Eric attended 'Law and Virtual Programing' hosted by Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan Library Law Consultant.
- Irene attended the "Leading Big in Small Spaces" conference sponsored by Library of Michigan, University of Michigan School of Information and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- Irene attended the 2021 Collaborative Summer Library Program's "National Summer Programming Symposium".

Respectfully submitted,

**Eric Palmer**  
**MMLC Director**