

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Director's Report  
December 2021 and January 2022**

**State Budget/State Aid:**

**State Aid FY2021**

- All MMLC Public Libraries members finished their State Aid Reports by 1/31/22. Now we are waiting for Kathy Webb to updates everyone on the final population numbers from the 2020 Census.

**Cooperative Services:**

- MMLC will host a Virtual Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 where we will be having Encompass present information on EAP (Employee Assistant Program). We will also hear updates on the Cooperative Directors' Capacity Grants.
- As of the end of January, we have awarded 7 MMLC Innovation and Technology Grants. We look forward to receiving the remaining applications soon.

**Organizations:**

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

- Mi-83 TLC Kit Grant had a total of 258 requests submitted (minus a few duplicates). We have about \$950,000 in the grant for materials distribution. Requests totaled about \$1.127 million. MMLC has 17 libraries who are participating in the MI-83 TLC Equipment Kits Grant receiving over \$109,000 jointly.
- Mi-83 Digital Library Connection Grant is available for all public libraries in Michigan where they can receive between \$1000 to \$3700, based on certain criteria, to spend at Overdrive for digital content for their library. If the library is in a consortium, they can purchase the titles themselves or work with their group to do the purchases. In the MI-83 Digital Library Connection grant, MMLC members will be receiving over \$55,000 jointly.

**Library of Michigan (LM):**

- Public Library Programming 2022 Grant program: This LSTA grant program is designed to support public library programming in the areas of literacy, children and teens, and/or technology. Funding will be from \$500 to \$2,000 per library location. **Applications are due Monday, March 7th by 5:00 PM EST**
  - Public Library Programming Grant - How to Apply Webinar  
Monday, February 14th - 10:00 AM - [REGISTER](#)

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

- On Tuesday, March 1, the Michigan library community will unite to amplify our collective voice in support of ALL Michigan libraries, at our second annual Michigan Library Advocacy Day! At this virtual advocacy training event, attendees will learn about the issues of importance to libraries, how to be a good advocate, current advocacy and legislative challenges and priorities, and how to connect with legislators. <https://www.milibraries.org/advocacy-day>
- MLA offers virtual programs on a variety of topics addressing advances in the library field, current and up-and-coming trends and pressing issues affecting libraries. The MLA Professional Development and Networking Committee developed the curriculum, identifying the most up-to-date information, resources, and subject matter experts to create educational opportunities that benefit library staff from all library types working in a variety of roles. <https://www.milibraries.org/mla-connect>

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

- What is a "First Amendment audit" and how can libraries prepare? According to Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant at the Library of Michigan (LM); as part of her [June 2021 Library Law Spotlight video](#), which includes Q&A).

- Clare Membiela at LM published a five page information sheet on December 6, 2021 entitled [Book Challenges, Censorship, and Michigan Public Libraries](#), organized as a set of questions and answers and a list of other resources.
- Membiela also published [Handling Materials Reconsideration, Challenges, and Censorship, A Checklist](#) on December 6, 2021, which emphasizes various policies libraries should have and update regularly (including in bylaws) that should be clear, legal, and publicly available, training library staff and board members should have, and steps to take in challenge situations.

### **MMLC Administration:**

- Eric visited Shiawassee District Library in early December for a visit with Kim to see what she has been working on since becoming the new Director and talk with her about her plans for the future of SDL. I also stopped by Vernon District Public Library to say good bye to Cheryl Davenport, retiring director, and meet the new Director JoAnna Lincoln.
- Eric participated in the MLA Think Space with the theme of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Training in Grand Rapids for a two-day conference. There are 5 other directors in MMLC who are also participating in the Think Space.
- Eric is on the MLA Annual Conference 2022 and we had a meeting to talk about who would be good speakers at the conference.
- We had a meeting for the MI-83 Equipment grant
- MCDA meet and I officially become the Vice-President of the group and also chair of the Continuing Education (CE) group.
- Had meeting with Kate Van Auken from White Pine and Carol from Lakeland to start the discussion on how we want the CE and DEI groups to work together.
- We had our MMLC Board meeting where we had a presentation from Lewis and Knopf, CPAs, P.C. of our Audit which we passed with flying colors. We had our meeting at the community room at the GDL-Grand Blanc-McFarlen branch since the Mott Foundation Building haven't opened up their rooms for meetings.
- Eric attended the Library of Michigan updates in January, but missed the December since he was at the MLA Think Space in Grand Rapids.
- Eric attended the ALA Intellectual Freedom and Material Challenge webinar.
- Eric hosted the two CALL meeting with the Lapeer County Libraries via Zoom.
- For the Advisory Council meeting February 15, 2022 Eric had a meeting with the representatives from Encompass who will be doing a session at that meeting on Employee Assistant Program (EAP).
- Eric signed up to attend all the monthly MLA Connect Advocacy Hour.
- Irene and Eric attended the FOML Executive Committee Meeting, where MMLC is the fiscal agent for FOML.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Palmer  
MMLC Director**