

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
February and March 2022**

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid FY2021

- MMLC has received their first payment of State Aid. The first 3 MMLC members have received their payment as well. All other MMLC members first check will be coming out over the next couple of months.

Cooperative Services:

- I have been working with All One Health to possibly bring Employee Assistant Programs (EAP) to MMLC. They were the featured guest speaker at the February Advisory Council meeting. Several libraries have indicated they are interested in this service. We need a minimum of 175 employees to sign up. The cost would be about \$14.40 per employee/year.
- During our quarterly zoom meeting with each region of the cooperative, we had a discussion on changes to MMLC Plan of Service due to the census numbers, succession planning, and a review of Unit Cost service. Discussions were also held about the MMLC office and the upcoming lease renewal with Mott Foundation.

Organizations:

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA):

- Working with the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA) Continuing Education (CE) committee, we were able to develop a virtual Zingerman's Customer Service Webinar. It will be called '*ZingTrain's The Art of Giving Great Service*', a 3-hour virtual workshop with breakout sessions. Registration is open to any staff member of any of the Cooperatives. It will be May 11 from 10am-1pm. Register at: <https://events.getlocalhop.com/the-art-of-giving-great-service-virtual-workshop/event/YhqczwYKGB/> Eric serves as chair of the MCDA Continuing Education Committee.
- Eric is on the MCDA Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) committee and we are working on how to bring DEI to our members. As part of the MCDA DEI committee we all attended the *Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in your Library: How to Start Talking about DEI* workshop offered by Library 2.0 Learning Revolution. We are investigating offering a Beginning DEI webinar in the fall.
- White Pine offered to register MCDA members to attend TLN's *Equality vs Equity* virtual seminar. Several members, including Eric, attended.

Library of Michigan (LM):

- The [United for Libraries Learning Live](#) on April 12 will be focused on [Unite Against Book Bans](#), a national initiative focused on empowering readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship. Join Megan Cusick of ALA's Public Policy & Advocacy Office to learn more about the campaign and how library board members/Trustees, Friends, and Foundations can get involved. In addition, find out about United for Libraries resources specifically for Trustees, Friends, and Foundations as they support libraries facing challenges to materials and programs.

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

- Do you know an awesome library professional or library supporter who deserves recognition for their work in Michigan libraries? You can now submit a nomination for any of MLA's awards year-round! [Learn more and submit a nomination today!](#)
- The MLA 2022 Annual Conference is scheduled for October 19-21, 2022. The workgroup assists in the planning and execution of this event with up to 600 attendees, guests, speakers and exhibitors.

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

- Rides prices for 2022-23 are on [MCLS website](#), and Renewals will be sent out in early May.
- Looking for alternate ways to engage users with stories and other enjoyable content? Consider *Stories in the Cloud*. Using innovative technology, *Stories in the Cloud* provides libraries with a custom, private label Dial-A-Story service. Libraries receive a dedicated, local number users call to hear children's stories, jokes and riddles, music and songs, full-length titles as well as library news and information.

MMLC Administration:

- Irene and Eric attended virtually the FOML Executive committee, Budget and Finance committee and the Board meeting, for a total of 6 meeting each.
- Eric has been attending Gigabit Library Network virtually since the pandemic started, however they did a 'State of the State' series. This is where the State Librarian from different states talk about what is going on in their state. In the last one, Randy Riley, Michigan's State Librarian, was the guest speaker.
- Eric participated in the MLA Annual Conference 22 planning committee.
- Eric attended both of the Library of Michigan Update meetings.
- Eric attended both of the MLA Advocacy Virtual Hours and participated in the virtual MLA Advocacy Day.
- We had a MLA Think Space virtual check in.
- Eric attend both the ALA *Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity*, and the ALA *That's a Good Question, Developing an Effective Community Survey* workshops.
- Eric also attended the ALA Virtual membership Meeting for updates from ALA.
- Irene continues to book programs and field questions from members and performers about upcoming events. We currently have 372 events confirmed for the fiscal year.
- Irene attended the Library of Michigan's *Public Library Financial Management Guide* webinar. This webinar focused on the updates made to the Guide.
- Irene assisted Almont District Library with their conversion to using QuickBooks accounting software.
- Irene has continued to work with Island River Digital's Janet Newell, to update the MMLC website (www.mmlc.info).

**Respectfully submitted,
Eric Palmer
MMLC Director**