

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
August and September 2022**

State Budget/State Aid:

State Aid FY2022

- With the new State Budget, the state aid allotment will have reached the .50 per capita rate established by law. The per capita rate was established in the late 70's, so the focus will now turn to maintaining the .50 per capita rate and continuing to increase the amount for State Aid. Starting October 1, 2022, the Library of Michigan's State Aid portal will be opened. Libraries are encouraged to begin filling out the report. The deadline for submission is by February 1, 2023.

Cooperative Services:

- MMLC is still experiencing issues with our email host Network Solutions. We hope to have everything resolved soon.
- The MMLC Board of Trustees approved the FY 2022-2023 Budget which includes an allocation for the Innovation and Technology Grant. The grant amounts are:
 - Class VI Public Libraries \$15,000 each
 - Class IV and V Public Libraries \$13,000 each
 - Class I, II, III Public Libraries \$11,000 each

Organizations:

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA):

- The MI-83 Grants is finishing up very nicely and they are receiving good stories and input from the staff and patrons of participating libraries.
- There is a possibility that there might be more money from the ARPA funds allocated to the Library of Michigan. The Cooperative Directors Association are investigating the possibility of introducing a new grant sometime next year. Also, LM and MCDA are in talks about doing more Grants like the MI-83 in the future.
- MCDA and MLA are discussing working together to try and bring a Rural Conference session (like the Small Libraries Big Impact workshop) to the MLA Annual Conference in Traverse City in October of 2024.

Library of Michigan (LM):

- Trustee Round Table at the Library of Michigan October 27, 2022, will be an in person event.
- Participants in this roundtable event will be able to:
 - Discover the methods other library boards in the state use to make decisions, and handle operations.
 - Discuss the importance of knowing and understanding their library's establishment.
 - Identify resources available to Trustees from the Library of Michigan and other organizations.
 - [Register Here](#)

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

- Get ready to celebrate **[Michigan Library Appreciation Month!](#)** This October we are celebrating Michigan libraries and library staff and highlighting all the many ways libraries serve their communities.
- Think Space is an all-inclusive educational and networking experience including four full days of learning, two overnight hotel stays, meals, fun special events, and the opportunity to build deeper, lasting relationships with other directors and deans of libraries throughout Michigan. Join your colleagues for time to THINK deeply in a safe SPACE. **[Attendance is limited so reserve your seat today!](#)**

- MI Right to Read is an MLA initiative coordinated through the leadership of the Intellectual Freedom Task Force to protect the right to read in Michigan. Below are a few things you can do to take-action for the right to read and support all Michiganders' First Amendment rights.
 - Visit MIRighttoRead.com today to join the coalition. View resources to assist libraries with first amendment challenges at mibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-toolkit.

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

- Like so many other organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic influenced MCLS to become a mostly remote work organization, and I have big news to share. On Friday, Aug. 12 the MCLS Board of Directors voted to authorize me as Executive Director to seek our members' approval to sell the building and land we own at 1407 Rensen St., Lansing, MI. **Our goal is to complete a successful member vote by Wednesday, Sept. 28** through an open, transparent process that complies with Michigan state law and the [MCLS Bylaws](#). This means that **we will need at least 10% of our member libraries to vote**, with the majority in favor of selling.

MMLC Administration:

- Irene and Eric attended FOML Executive, Budget and Finance Committee and Board Meetings.
- Eric participated with MCDA and MLA in creating a special webinar for Library Trustees named "Navigating Material Challenges for Library Trustees". We had over 100 people signed up for the training with 60+ actually attending.
- Eric is finishing up working on the MLA Annual Conference 2022 workgroup. We have been finalizing the latest details for the conference this October 19-21 in Port Huron. The conference hotel was filled by the end of August!
- MMLC Overdrive Consortium meet for our annual meeting. One of the items discussed at the meeting is the need to update the group's policies. If any members want to help, please let Eric know.
- For 2022-23, Eric signed up to be in the MLA Workshop & Webinar Workgroup to bring training to staff members. We are finishing up a Professional Survey which is intended to bring insights to the needs of staff.
- MCDA held their monthly meetings and Eric was able to attend both as well as the MCDA DEI meetings too
- MMLC Vice Chair and Eric met to go over his annual evaluation. Then a meeting was held with all members of the personnel committee to update the personnel manual and set the annual employee compensation.
- Eric was able to meet and did some training with the two new MMLC Trustee, Nancy House from Harrison District Library and Tanya Jefferson from Flint Public Library.
- Eric attended both of the CALL meetings.
- Irene and Eric attended the MMLC Board Meeting at SDL Durant branch where the MMLC Budget was approved. Numerous Plans & Policies were updated and approved. The changes to all the plans, policies and employee manual reflect the change to a virtual business model.
- Eric attended the LM Board meeting representing MCDA along with attending LM updates.
- Eric attended the MLA Intellectual Freedom Library Law & Constitution & Compliance webinar.

**Respectfully submitted,
Eric Palmer
MMLC Director**