

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Director's Report  
December 2022 and January 2023**

**State Budget/State Aid:**

**State Aid FY2022**

- At 4 pm on January 31, 2023, MMLC received an email from the Library of Michigan that all MMLC public libraries have locked their State Aid Report for the year. I would like to thank all the libraries for getting their state aid done before the deadline of February 1. We are all set until the fall when we will start the process over for next year's State Aid.

**Cooperative Services:**

- We will be having an Advisory Council zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 7, with guest speaker Scott Garrison from MCLS, and will discuss the MMLC Strategic Plan.

**Organizations:**

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

- The MCDA and MCLS co-sponsored Kristin Fontichiaro, Clinical Assistant Professor at UMSI, *When Misinformation shows up at your Door: Pink Slime Journalism, Manipulative Algorithms and Your Library* on January 30. If you missed it here is the link to [the video](#).
- We are working on trying to create some policies template/Checklist that include looking through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) lens.

**Library of Michigan (LM):**

- Library Development Manager, Shannon White will be retiring on February 28.

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

- Debbie mentioned that she was incredibly honored to have been chosen to help Governor Whitmer lay the foundation for her [State of the State](#) address. She facilitated one of two small roundtable discussions of Michigan residents in Brighton as they shared how they are impacted by the economy, inflation, education, and a few other topics. Questions about the central issues affecting our state; why these issues mattered to the participants were voiced, and participants shared their hopes for Michigan. Attendees came from different walks of life and different political parties, but the time was spent having an authentic, civil conversation on the fundamentals that are sadly often missing these days.
- **Organizational Member Benefit: *HealthiestYou***
  - **Library Directors:** *HealthiestYou* is a new affordable option for providing your library staff with access to free healthcare!
  - **What is HealthiestYou?** *HealthiestYou* is a healthcare service that offers convenient, confidential access to quality doctors and providers by phone, video, or app 24/7/365. To learn more, see a demo of the *HealthiestYou* app, get your questions answered, and get ready to enroll and watch [recording of our informational session on YouTube](#).
  - **Ready to Enroll?** *HealthiestYou* is available exclusively to MLA Organizational Members. Please contact Rachel Ash, MLA Membership and Communications Director at [rfash@milibraries.org](mailto:rfash@milibraries.org) to confirm your library's eligibility or to join MLA. Rachel will connect you with Corey Cushing to begin the enrollment process.

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

- Following Kristin Fontichiaro's recent [presentation on mis- and disinformation](#), Dr. Emily Knox's [lecture at WMU](#) (and [livestream](#)) and [workshop on intellectual freedom](#) and book as challenges approach on Feb. 7-8, and after conversations with libraries, Scott mentioned his

continue thinking about diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and accessibility (DEIJA)—especially the pushback against these principles and how libraries work to practice and live the “anti-DEIJA” activity. Anti-DEIJA comes in many forms (including intellectual freedom challenges), sometimes despite best efforts to both serve everyone in communities and balance multiple needs. *How can libraries respond? How can library consortia support libraries in doing so?*

- The RIDES courier adds a 10% fuel surcharge when the monthly average of diesel fuel hits \$5.01 or more. This fuel surcharge is based on courier pricing. The monthly average of diesel fuel was above \$5.01 for the months of July through December 2022. MCLS will invoice libraries that receive direct RIDES delivery from the courier.
  - For more information visit [our RIDES FAQ page](#).

### **MMLC Administration:**

- Eric attended the MLA *Healthiest You* session, more information is above under MLA.
- Eric, working with MCDA, had a meeting with the Library of Michigan staff about the idea of the Cooperatives helping facilitate small Grants.
- Eric attended two different sessions called *Libraries in Response* put on by Gigabit Libraries Network.
- Eric visited Kettering, North Branch and Dryden in December.
- Eric is participating in MLA Think Space *Holding True to Our Values and Staying Strong*. We had our first mini conference in Grand Rapids. They had great speakers with good information. During the evening activities, Eric discovered he was a Duckpin Bowling champion!
- Irene and Eric along with Susan Johnson, Vice President of FOML and Jill Sodt FOML Board member conducted the biennial Audit Review for FOML.
- Eric attended two separate MCDA meetings, where we had guest speaker Tessa Sullivan from Amazon Business talking about Amazon’s *Pay by Invoice* option.
- Eric attended the second session of the *Supporting Trans Staff and Community in your Library* series put on by MLA.
- Eric attended two different MLA Advocacy Hours, the first *Working with Your New State Legislature* and the second *An Update from ALA on the Right to Read in America*.
- Irene and Eric both attended the MMLC Budget and Finance committee meeting, as well as the MMLC Board meeting. Lewis & Knopf Auditors representative Allen Gamble presented the annual Audit report, which we passed with flying colors. Both meetings were at the Mott Community College Library - thank you to MCC Library Director Jill Sodt for hosting.
- Eric participated in two different CALL meetings.
- Eric attended the Library of Michigan Update.
- Eric is working with the MCDA DEI committee where we are discussing how to help libraries with their policies using the DEI lens.
- Irene and Eric both attended the FOML Executive Meeting
- Eric attended Kristin Fontichiaro’s session on ‘When Misinformation shows up at your Door: Pink Slime Journalism, Manipulative Algorithms and Your Library’.
- Irene was asked to author, and present, to the FOML board a Financial Procedures document for the Friends of Michigan Libraries Standard Operating Procedures manual. The completed document was presented and has been formally accepted by the FOML Board of Trustees. The multi-page document will be added to the FOML Standard Operating Procedures manual.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Eric Palmer  
MMLC Director