

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Director's Report  
April and May 2023**

**State Budget/State Aid:**

**State Aid**

- The latest information we heard about State Aid is that it would stay the same as last year. Now, they have said this in the past and then we learn there is more money. Hopefully, that trend will continue.
- The first payments of State Aid have been paid by the state and the second will be paid later in the summer.

**Cooperative Services:**

- Eric was asked to see if Library IQ could give the Cooperative a discount. I spoke with TLN about negotiating a statewide discount with Library IQ. TLN has successfully negotiated a contract, but for the best discount you will need 3 or more libraries using the same ILS. I sent out a trial for the public library members to try and see if anyone was interested and to see if there would be any additional discounts for MMLC members.
- Eric is negotiating with Encompass for another year of the Employee Assistant Program (EAP). We did have enough libraries still interested in the program. Look for Irene to send out invoices to the participating libraries in the next month or two.

**Organizations:**

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

- TLN will be launching a new Michigan Activities Pass (MAP) website, making it much easier for patrons and libraries to use. They are hoping to launch it in June. Eric has distributed all the MAP promotional material to Public Libraries. There was one box for every branch.
- MCDA is planning to do strategic planning at the August MCDA retreat.
- Woodlands Library Cooperative is planning a day trip to ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 24; and Lakeland is planning a day trip on Sunday, June 25 to visit the vendors. There may be seats available if anyone is interested.

**Library of Michigan (LM):**

- LM is shipping the new edition of the Trustee Manual and the Library Financial Manual.
- On July 11, the next Trustee Roundtable will be held at Otsego County Library @ 1pm. You can use the link in this statement to register.

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

- MLA was recognized with two Awards, Michigan Humanities Outstanding Humanities Organization Award, and the 2023 Gerald Hodges Intellectual Freedom Chapter Relations Award.
- What Do Michiganders Really Think? MLA Public Opinion Survey on Public Libraries and Book Banning, Visit MLA's website to view details including the full survey results, Frequency Report, and cross tabs.
- **Save the Date for the MLA 2023 Annual Conference!** Attendee registration will open in June. Save the date and plan to join us October 18-20, in person in Kalamazoo for MLA 2023 Annual Conference: Connecting the Dots.
- Save the Date and Submit a Nomination for the 2023 Michigan Library Awards at [milibraries.org/michigan-library-awards](https://milibraries.org/michigan-library-awards).

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

- Please note that MCLS will be sending out a membership renewal email reminder to most key library contacts (directors, billing contacts, and primary contacts) in early June\*. This email

offers an opportunity to respond with any changes to your membership and to provide updated contact information ahead of our July 1 renewal date. Invoices will be generated and emailed to your billing contact in mid-June.

- A new semester of training workshops is now available. Visit the MCLS Store for the full summer/fall 2023 semester of training workshops now open for registration!
- MCLS is seeking cataloging instructors for 2024. Do you have an extensive knowledge of cataloging, experience teaching in an online environment, and a skill for making this complicated subject clear to library staff? You may be just the person we are looking for!

### **MMLC Administration:**

- Irene and Eric attended FOML Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and Board meetings for both April and May.
- Eric attended and helped create the MLA Connect: Inclusion and Belonging: Accessibility Audits. Scott Duimstra from CADL was one of the speakers.
- Eric participated in the MLA Webinar, Workshop Workgroup in helping them create sessions for libraries on different subjects like DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and dealing with contractors.
- Eric worked with other Co-op Directors on the MCDA DEI committee, where we have been working on Anatomy of a Policy. This program is intended to help libraries create new policies and update their insisting policies.
- Eric attended the MLA Board meeting where they reviewed the Book Banning Survey results. MLA paid EIPC/MRS to conduct the Survey.
- Eric attended both CALL meetings, one was virtual and the second one was in person - the first time we had met in person since before the pandemic.
- Eric attended one of the LM updates but missed the second because of Think Space.
- Eric attended both MCDA meetings.
- MMLC Overdrive group met with Daiva to discuss joining the Michigan Reciprocal Lending Arrangement group (RLA). RLA works like Melcat but is for digital material. Eric attended the meeting and sent out for a vote on whether MMLC wanted to join RLA. Members of MMLC's Overdrive consortium voted in favor of joining RLA. We are hoping to have the process completed by the Fall.
- Eric attended a Gigabit Libraries Network State of State, where 'state librarians' from different states talk about libraries in their state.
- TLN hosted a webinar for Library IQ which Eric attended.
- Laingsburg City Library asked Eric to conduct Board training for them. There Board members asked many great questions.
- We held our Annual Joint Meeting with the Advisory Council and Board at Brick Street in Grand Blanc. We had a good crowd attend. Due to the pandemic, this is the first time Eric was able to present a power point presentation highlighting several accomplishments. At this meeting, the MMLC Board formally accepted Genesee District Library's request to withdraw their membership, effective September 30, 2023.
- Unfortunately, the Joint Meeting and MLA Think Space were on the same day. Consequently, Eric was only able to attend Think Space on Friday. He enjoyed the session he was able to attend.
- Eric attended the MLA Connect Advocacy Hour: Advocacy Resources for Trustees with libray of Michigan's Clare Membiela as the main speaker.
- Eric attended the Lapeer District Library Board Meeting. The Lapeer District Library Board voted unanimously to deny a request from a patron to remove "Gender Queer" from its

collection. The board also voted unanimously to keep a second challenged book, the children's book "Fred Gets Dressed," on its shelves.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Eric Palmer**  
**MMLC Director**