

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Director's Report  
June and July 2023**

**State Budget/State Aid:**

**State Aid**

- The 2023-24 State Budget has been signed by the governor and State Aid will stay the same as 2022-23 which was what we had been expecting.
- The second payment from State Aid should be at the libraries.

**Cooperative Services:**

- MMLC has continued working with libraries to negotiate with Swank Movie License for another year. Irene will be invoicing the libraries who are participating in this program.
- Irene should be invoicing all the public libraries soon for the second payment of State Aid.
- MMLC has successfully renewed the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for another year. Irene will be invoicing the libraries who are participating in this program.

**Organizations:**

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

- TLN has announced the 2023 Technology Forum with a theme of Security and AI. It will be at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, Friday, September 29, 2023 9am until 3:30pm. [Registration is required.](#)
- Wayne State University is conducting a Survey titled *Health Services and Programming in Michigan Public Libraries: Perspectives from Public Library Leaders*. The survey is ending August 16. The overall purpose of this survey is to examine how Michigan public libraries are supporting the health and well-being of members in their communities. [Click for Survey](#)
- The purpose of the MI-83 Projects was to enhance safe library services and programs available to Michigan's 83 counties to further pandemic recovery efforts in our communities. The projects have been successfully completed. Thank you to everyone who participated! [Final Report](#)
- MCDA hosted two sessions of *Beyond Book Bans* in July. There are two additional sessions in August. The dates are [August 15](#) and [August 22](#) at 2pm. Click the dates to register. Speakers include Amy Churchill, Lance Warner, Anne Seurnyck, Carol Dawe, Erin Schmandt, Randy Goble, and Dillon Geshel.

**Library of Michigan (LM):**

- Starting Thursday August 17 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm, LM will hold Library Law Office Hours with the Library Law Consultant (Clare). The office hours will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions and immediately receive information. Office Hours will occur monthly on the Third Thursday of each month. Registration is required for each session. [Registration](#)
- State Librarian Randy Riley shared that the Library of Michigan is also dealing with the book challenge issue. At the State Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, the board introduced and approved a resolution to protect the freedom to read. Book challengers were there speaking during public comment, and no library supporters were in attendance.

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

- In March MLA released all the findings of the public opinion polling regarding book banning. Last week the MLA board voted to spend \$100,000 on the messaging component; they have partnered with a Lansing-based PR firm to share the great polling figures with targeted regions throughout Michigan. The campaign will run from August – December.
- October is Library Appreciation Month, and we'll see much of the campaign work at that time. The annual conference will be in mid-October; award nominations and sponsorship opportunities are now open.

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

- MCLS staff and external partners are working to transition **Text and Learn for Kindergarten (TALK)**, a text messaging system for parents of children ages 0-6, from a completely grant-funded service to an MCLS subscription-based service for libraries **beginning Sept. 1, 2023**. If your library uses TALK currently, **please let MCLS know as soon as possible if you plan to continue using the service after Sept. 1** so we can plan accordingly. Learn more about TALK's history at the [TALK website](#). TALK is available today to public libraries throughout Indiana and Michigan with a community of any size. It has been completely free of charge to libraries to date, and MCLS will offer it for an affordable cost beginning in September to support the costs of running and continuing to develop it. We will also begin offering TALK to libraries nationwide over the next 12 months.
- MCLS members receive special pricing on LibInsight. Learn more about LibInsight from Springshare staff at a webinar on Wednesday, Aug. 30 from 11-11:30 a.m. Eastern (10-10:30 a.m. Central). [Registration](#)

**MMLC Administration:**

- Irene and Eric attended the FOML Budget and Finance Committee and FOML Board Meeting in June. There are no more meetings for FOML until the end of August.
- Eric attended both LM update meetings. LM has celebrated its 195 years. They are interviewing candidates for several LM position including Shannon White's old position.
- Eric participated in the MCDA DEI meeting, and we decided to take the next two months off, and resume work in September on new workshop opportunities.
- Eric attended the MLA Advocacy Hour: ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom with guest speaker Deborah Caldwell-Stone Director, ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom. She talked about how the book banning is going nationwide and how ALA is trying to help all libraries.
- MCDA has had two meetings and I have attended both.
- MMLC hosted the quarterly regional meetings for all the areas of cooperative at the end of June. We discussed how things were going in everyone's library and with MMLC. Next set of quarterly meetings will be September.
- Both Irene and Eric attended *Beyond Book Banning* webinar. Amy Churches was one of the speakers talking about her experience at Lapeer and did a wonderful job. The whole webinar was very informative, and they are doing 2 more sessions in August. If you miss the sessions in July, I encourage you to attend the August sessions.
- Eric worked on and attended the *MLA Connect: Facilities Management: Working with Vendors and Contractors*. Nick Loomis, Assistant Director from Harrison District Library, spoke about their remodeling an old restaurant into a beautiful new library. Nick did a great job sharing about the ins and outs of working with contractors and vendors. HDL plans on opening their new location late in August after years of planning this project.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Palmer  
MMLC Director**