

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
February and March 2025**

State Budget/State Aid:

- The Governor has sent the legislature her Budget for 2025-2026. Within this budget State Aid is to remain the same. However, this budget was created before the Federal Government changed funding for Grants to the states. This could mean major changes to next year's budget.
- MMLC has received their State Aid payment and public libraries have received their first payment of their State Aid. Invoices for the 16(4) money that needs to be sent to the MMLC have been sent.

Cooperative Services:

- We are going to have an Advisory Council Meeting via Zoom on May 8th at 10am. This will be a great opportunity for you to talk about what's going on at your library and what concerns and thoughts you have about what is going on in Washington, IMLS/LSTA Grants or State. I have it scheduled for an hour but if everyone wants to continue we can. I will send out the zoom information later.
- Eric is planning on attending the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia June 26-30. If you are planning on attending, please let me know or if you had anything you would like me to check out for you, let me know as well.

Library Cooperatives of Michigan (LCM):

- Lakeland Library Cooperative is working on a statewide GSI interactive state map that will help patrons know which library covers their location. They are going to need help. If your library covers 100% of an area they can obtain that information, but it's the fractured areas they need help with. They will need any maps that you have of your service area. You can email Amber McLain at Lakeland directly. amber@llcoop.org. I will send out more information about this in a separate email later.

Library of Michigan (LM): Randy Riley, State Librarian

- The Library of Michigan has created flyers that provide facts and numbers that the LSTA grant help pay for. The information can be used if patrons or reporters ask you questions about the loss of the LSTA grants. I will attach the flyers to the email.

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

- On April 30th, MLA will be hosting the Michigan Library Advocacy Day in Lansing. The plan for the day will be just talking about funding for MEL and MELCAT. Currently LSTA Grants from the federal government pays for a majority of MEL/MELCAT. We will be asking legislators to put a line item on the budget specifically for MEL/MELCAT. The State has a 10 billion dollar rainy day fund that could pay for the LSTA portion of MEL/MELCAT, however there are many other groups that are thinking the same thing.
- Say yes and get involved with MLA! The Call for Ambassadors for MLA's 2025-26 workgroups and committees is open through April 30. Learn more and apply at milibraires.org/get-involved.

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

- In uncertain times when much is unknown, libraries and library organizations must focus on what we can do. A prime example is promoting the massive positive impact of statewide library services including the Indiana State Library's (ISL) INSPIRE and InfoExpress, and the Library of Michigan's (LM) MeL eResources and MeLCat (which [celebrates its 20th anniversary](#) in 2025; LM invites you to [share your MeLCat story](#)). The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funding to these and many other important and impactful state library initiatives across the nation.

MMLC Administration:

- Eric hosted the February Advisory Council Meeting via zoom, with Guest Speakers Anne Heidemann, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Librarian and Winnay Wemigwase, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan member. Anne and Winnay presented information about 'Maawn Doobiigeng' (Gather Together), a new classification system for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Library. In 2019, The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries were awarded the National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The purpose of the grant was to address the question: How can tribal libraries use traditional ways of knowing and being to break free of the colonialist epistemology of existing library organizational systems that reinforce a damaging worldview?
- Irene and Eric meet with Board Treasurer Tanya Jefferson to sign checks for both months.
- Eric participated in the LCM DEI meeting, where most of our discussion was on IMLS and how it is affecting our libraries.
- Eric attended both months of LM updates.
- Eric hosted the Lapeer librarians CALL meeting via zoom for both months. This meeting is with all the Lapeer County libraries directors, where they can talk about what is happening in the libraries.
- Eric attended the MLA Connect Directors Contracts and Contracts Negotiations with Anne Seurnck.
- Eric participated in the LCM meeting for both months.
- Eric attended the LDL Board Meeting in February.
- Eric and the other LCM Coop Directors met with Hoopla to discuss better pricing.
- Irene and Eric attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at SDL Durand Branch, where the city remodeled the front of the building with new windows, returning closer to the way the building was originally built. The entrance to the building was also remodeled to be handicap accessible. In addition, a new dropbox was installed.
- Eric attended the Quarterly meeting with Overdrive to discuss their Reciprocal Lending Arrangement (RLA) and how to improve the reports of it.
- Eric met with Trenton Smiley about the Library Marketing Makeover and Eric attended the first session of the three marketing sessions.
- Eric attended the MLA Library and Immigration: What to know and Understand about Immigrants Rights and New Federal Policy
- Eric attended the LM meeting on What Libraries Should know about Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA).

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Palmer
MMLC Director