

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
April and May 2025**

State Budget/State Aid:

- We have received almost everyone's 1st state aid payments to the Cooperative. We have heard that the Library of Michigan received notification that they would be receiving the IMLS funding for 2025-26, however, that could change. The state legislators are working on the state budget for next year, however we may not know what the budget will be until the end of September.

Cooperative Services:

- We would like to Welcome Sara Danford as the new director at Laingsburg Public Library.
- We recently learned that Dina Mein retired in March from Kettering University Library. Dawn Winans is now as the interim.
- Kara Haight is the interim director at Lapeer District Library, while LDL Board look for a new director.
- Taliah Abdullah from Gloria Coles Flint Public Libraries has accepted a new position in Illinois. She will be leaving at the end of June. They are looking for an interim director.
- Trish Burns from Bay County Library System has announced her retirement and will be leaving at the end of July. They are looking for a new director.
- Eric will be attending the ALA Annual Conference in Philadelphia at the end of June. Please let me know if you are planning on attending, so I can perhaps meet with you. If there is something you would like me to check out or look for when I am there, please let me know.

Library Cooperatives of Michigan (LCM):

- The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) interactive state map project from Lakeland is about 65% complete. Eric will be contacting the MMLC libraries that we need more information from.
- TLN is pleased to announce a brand-new MAP partner destination! Bay County Historical Society Museum <https://www.bchsmuseum.org/> in Bay City, is now live with the Michigan Activity Pass program. Patrons receive free admission to BCHSM with a MAP pass.
- We completed the Library Marketing Makeover with Trenton Smiley; we had nearly 80 people register for the makeover session. If you would like to view the sessions, click this link. [Event Archives – Library Cooperatives of Michigan](#) there are older webinars we have done there as well.

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

- [NEW Circulating Kit Reservation System](#) The Library of Michigan is excited to announce the launch of our new kit reservation system! Requesting digitization and youth services programming kits is easier than ever using LM's new booking software.
- Updates to LM Grant/Stipend/SLEA application site - the Applicant portal is changing. All programs will be shifted to the new version by August. You will no longer be able to access old applications/documentation so download anything you want to keep and don't have copies of by the end of July.
- NEW LM Library Development Team Member! Andrea Vernola, Continuing Education Coordinator, Vernolaa@michigan.gov, 517-335-0123

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

- The Michigan Library Association (MLA) is pleased to announce that the Mellon Foundation has awarded MLA a \$600,000 grant to support the MI Right to Read initiative. For the past year, MLA has worked to secure this pivotal funding to strengthen and expand MI Right to Read and its

work promoting intellectual freedom and championing the free flow of information. This recognition from the Mellon Foundation underscores the initiative's significant impact on libraries, library professionals, and communities across the state.

- Debbie Mikula has announced her retirement from MLA; she will be leaving at the end of June. Dillon Geshel, the former Director at the Superiorland Cooperative, has become the Interim Director of MLA.

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

- On May 27, MCLS welcomed James Orme as the new Financial Controller/Business Manager. James is a triple threat for this position as he has extensive management experience in libraries, finance, and HR. Staff are excited to have him on the management team, where he will oversee MCLS's accounting, administrative, and business operations.
- We are pleased to announce that Gloria Coles Flint Public Library (MI) has selected Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS) to facilitate their upcoming strategic planning process. We are excited to partner with the staff and Board on this project!

MMLC Administration:

- Eric helped Laingsburg Board interview candidates for the director. He was there for the second round of interviews, too.
- Eric attended both the LCM DEI monthly meetings; one was on the GIS Program and the other was about what is going on right now nationally.
- Eric attended the monthly Library of Michigan (LM) updates meetings.
- MLA had an Advocacy zoom meeting for everyone that would be attending the Advocacy Day in Lansing.
- There was a session in April and May for the Library Marketing Makeover and Eric was at both sessions.
- Eric attended his first in-person Advocacy Day in Lansing. He had a meeting with his representative and staff member of his Senator. Both meetings went very well. He also had the opportunity to visit the Bookmobiles from different libraries. MMLC was well represented since BCLS, CADL and PLOS all had their Bookmobile there.
- Irene and Eric attended the CALL meeting with the Lapeer Library Directors' meeting via zoom.
- Eric attended the Lapeer District Library Board meeting.
- The Cooperative Directors had a meeting with Michelle Bradley to discuss what is going on with funding and see if there is anything we can do to help the Library of Michigan.
- Every August, the Cooperative Directors have a retreat somewhere in the state. This year we decided to have it in Mt Pleasant. Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College will be hosting the meetings. Eric is working with Jennifer Balcom, Mid-Michigan Library League Director, we are co-hosting the retreat.
- Met with Ken, Janet and Irene to work on getting Eric's laptop to function correctly.
- Eric attended the LCM meeting.
- Met with Cindy Fesemyer on PLOS Strategic Planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Palmer
MMLC Director