

MMLL Director's Report
January 26, 2012

State Aid for FY 2011/2012 and 2012/2013

As of January 26, 2012, the Cooperative was still awaiting our first 50% payment of State Aid. Library of Michigan is trying to have the Cooperative's payments out by the end of January. We are also, awaiting the Governor's budget that is due out in February which will be the starting point for producing the 2012/2013 budget. Early indications are that no cuts are going to be put forward. The administration will use the current year as a baseline for funding most departments.

As of Wednesday, about 125 libraries statewide have not submitted their annual reports. I have requested a list of MMLL libraries that have yet to submit their reports. Reports are due February 1, 2012.

The Cooperative Directors Association's Survey on Cooperative Services and Attitudes completed

As mentioned at previous meetings, the Coop Director's Association contracted with Bill Schorer and Associates to develop and conduct a statewide survey of cooperative members to help with planning and advocacy issues for cooperatives. The survey is completed and the results will be presented to the Michigan Department of Education, the State Librarian and President of MLA on February 6. Following that meeting the results will be released to the library world. Statewide about 200+ libraries responded to the survey.

Advisory Council Meeting Included Performer's Showcase.

Two weeks ago the Advisory Council Meeting was held in Kalkaska. Most of the meeting was dedicated to the Performer's Showcase. We had 20 attendees and 9 performers.

Animal Encounters brought an alligator to show off, Martina Hahn--Speed Painter did a fast painting and we had puppeteers, magicians, and musicians. Many bookings were made by the attendees for summer reading programs and other events. The Summer Reading theme this year is: Dream Big – Read! The teen theme is: OWN the Night. The adult theme is: Between the Covers.

MMLL Upgrading LAN and Internet Connection to Higher Speed.

In mid-December, Jack's computer became infected with a virus which led to replacing his hard drive unit. Ultimately, this led us to upgrading our local area network to run faster on newer software with better protection and backups. We learned that the version of Novell we were using stopped being supported several years ago and updating would be very expensive. We have purchase a new NAS server unit which allows us to begin using newer software that we already own and to eliminate the Novell network. We have completed the first half of the project and we will soon be replacing our current DSL connection for a much faster cable connection which will complete the second half of the project. This will help us as we move forward with idea of offering video streaming of workshops and meetings – the current DSL line is too slow to accommodate these activities.

Channel 9 & 10 News Will Carry Summer Reading Programs and Schedules again.

We signed an agreement again for channel 9 & 10 News to carry MMLL member's summer reading program schedules in their Helping Hands segments of PSA's. We will be posting the schedules on website calendar as they become known to us.

Health Insurance Costs Increase 11.1% for MMLL.

Our health insurance provider increased the health Insurance costs by 11.1% for 2012. This increase keeps our health insurance costs below the \$11,000 per employee (for two person coverage) so-called "hard cap." Adoption of the default Section 3 rule of PA 152 of 2011 will allow us to continue with our current provision of health insurance.

Strategic Planning Materials with Goals and Action Steps

Last week we received the documents from Ginger Hentz from our Board planning activities. Included with your packets are the two goals and action plan/steps that we came up with at our planning sessions along with supporting materials. Discussion of the materials should be useful as we move forward to implement them.

Other matters & Miscellaneous

1. Kalkaska County Library Director –James Hibler resigned last week. Bradley Chaplin and Bonnie Reed are acting co-directors.

2. Benzonia is seeking a new director as Marjorie Porter is retiring. {Sara Boven has been hired as Director—3/8/2012}

3. On Feb 6, I will be going to the Library of Michigan for the survey results presentation.

4. The biennial Loleta Fyan Small & Rural Libraries Conference will be held May 2-4 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. May 3rd is being designated as Trustee Day. More information will be forthcoming. **Connect, Collaborate, Create** is the theme and registration is now open.

Respectfully submitted by

James W. Lawrence, Director,