

MMLL Director's Report
March 22, 2012

State Aid for FY 2011/2012 and 2012/2013

The Cooperative and about 7 member libraries received the 1st 50 % State Aid payment in February. Library of Michigan is paying the State Aid in the order libraries filed their state aid annual report. LM will be making every effort to get the 1st 50% payments out by July and the 2nd 50% payments all made by mid-July.

The Governor's budget that was announced in February. It will be the starting point for producing the 2012/2013 budget. The legislature is planning on having most, if not all of the budget passed by June. The Governor has budgeted state aid to libraries at the same level as approved for the current year --\$6,750,000. Early indications are that no cuts are going to be put forward. They have also added \$800,000 for Mel Databases. LM has argued for these funds to help match the LSTA funds that used for the databases and MelCat support. At the early budget hearings almost all the questions were about the funding for the databases and why it was needed. No concerns were voiced about the State Aid to libraries levels.

The neither the legislature nor the governor want any prolonged fights about the budget so it should be passed quickly so that the legislature can began campaigning for re-election.

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

Included in your packets today is the summary of the survey that was conducted in November 2011 concern cooperatives in Michigan. 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 full report is 26 pages long and I have a few copies here. I hope to have it posted on our Website or at least a link to the report on our website. We will discuss the report separately on the agenda, but the results were very favorable for cooperatives around the state. Statewide about 200+ libraries responded to the survey.

MMLL has new, faster Internet connection, phone carrier, email and website host

As reported at previous meetings--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 because the older system was obsolete. We learned that the version of Novell we were using stopped being supported several years ago and updating would be very expensive. The change-over has taken us a couple of months to complete everything, with the old Novell server being disconnected today. This will help us as we move forward with idea of offering video streaming of workshops and meetings and save us money on phone bills and Internet access.

Group 9 Libraries Held a Regional Meeting on March 15

Jeanette Fleury and I met with six of the eight library directors in Group 9. Morton Twp Library hosted Director's from Richland Twp Library; Wheatland Twp Library; Seville Twp. Library; Barryton Public Library; Big Rapids Community Library. We toured the greatly enlarged Morton Township Library that is set to reopen to the public in May.

We had a good discussion of their needs and problems. One area that seems to be real need is in the area of Board and Friends group training, duties and responsibilities. And, we explored ways to work together in the area. We hope to meet again in the late summer or early fall.

Other matters & Miscellaneous

1. Sara Petrovich-Boven has been appointed as director for the Benzonia Public Library and began her duties on 3/8/12.
2. Helena Township Library has formed a district Library and will be changing its name in the next few weeks.
3. Registration is now open for 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.

Respectfully submitted by

James W. Lawrence, Director,