

MMLL Director's Report
November 17, 2011

State Aid for FY 2011/2012

As reported at previous meetings, the legislature approved a total state aid to libraries package of \$6,750,000. This will be about a 7% cut from what we are receiving this year. The Library of Michigan requested that we submit a current list of all our member libraries and their service populations. The population figures are not certified yet, however the estimate for MMLL is 432,580 up from 414,790 in previous years. That is an increase of 17,790.

Some of our communities gained population and some went down. Also, the state overall lost some population which will affect the per capita rate slightly.

Foster Swift law firm had another of their Webinar's for Trustees on December 8,

Foster Swift lawyers are presenting a series of webinars aimed at Trustees and Directors during the year. The third in the series is scheduled for December 8-- Thursday, and --I think-- will be on either on the Privacy Law or on Employment. We have not yet received the registration information for this approaching webinar. We will post it on the MMLL listserv as soon as we have information on how to sign up. A webinar on the Open Meetings act and FOIA is available online at: <http://www.fosterswift.com/news-event-OMA-and-FOIA-What-Library-Should-Know.html>

The Cooperative Directors Association are Conducting a Survey on Cooperative Services and Attitudes

As mentioned at previous meetings, the Coop Director's Association has 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 presently in the hands or email of our members. Statewide about 200 libraries have responded so far.

Advisory Council Meeting Included an Evergreen Demonstration.

At last week's Advisory Council Meeting, we hosted Anne Donohue from MCLS for a presentation on the Evergreen open source library automation system. Some of our members are looking at converting from their present automation systems.

Michigan's New Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act

Libraries around the state are trying to adjust to and figure out the new Health Insurance law—variously referred to as the 80/20 law. The law also has a “hard cap” as a default ceiling. If an employer is under the cap then they may continue, but, if over the cap then they must have the employees contribute up to 20% of the cost. The bill is complex and some parts are not as clear as they should have been. MMLL is under the “hard cap” for the time being. I have copies here of the MLA analysis of the law.

Overdrive eBook Webinar to be Held on December 2nd

Due a sudden increase in interest in joining Overdrive, Brian Potash of Overdrive has set up interactive Webinar for December 2nd, 2011. Overdrive recently signed a deal with Amazon for Kindle books and since then interest has increased among libraries. It is planned to start at 10:00 AM and run about 1 hour.

Other matters & Miscellaneous

1. MLA Conference held October 26-28 in Kalamazoo. I went to the conference on Friday.
2. On November 2, I attended the advanced E-rate (USF) training session in Lansing at the Library of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted by

James W. Lawrence, Director,