

# Mid-Michigan Library League

## Director's Report

### September 2015

#### Internal ~

FY2016 budget:

In the draft budget I am presenting, there are two new changes of note. The first is the addition of funds both above the line and below, so the net effect is neutral, for the potential group discounts we can negotiate co-op-wide. I would see how many members are interested in a particular product or service, negotiate a group rate, pay the vendor on behalf of participating members, and then bill the member libraries for their share. The second change is the creation of a Mid-Michigan Library League membership subsidy program. This would be a program by which the co-op can support its member libraries financially for unexpected expenses, special projects, or even travel expenses for meetings and trainings. Our program would not duplicate the program recently announced by the Library of Michigan - [Continuing Education Stipends Available for Library Staff](#). If the draft budget is approved by the Board, we need to create a committee that would inform the criteria for these subsidies, the application process, and how they are awarded.

Cadillac office and staff:

I extended the lease back in June on our current office in Cadillac (210½ N. Mitchell St.), managing a reduction in the cost. This year, staffing will include Jack Sheehan, interlibrary loan coordinator, and Lisa Eash, part-time bookkeeper. I will also try again to engage a student intern from Baker College. I have re-negotiated all insurances and reduced other expenses such as phone and electrical.

Footprint reduction:

The task of weeding through all files, both hard copy and electronic, is progressing steadily. As previously mentioned, this will take many months. I have been going through all equipment and materials in the office and making a decision to keep, toss, or try to sell. At this point, we do not own anything other than the Polycom conference call unit that needs to be depreciated (i.e. is valued at over \$1K). Once this "footprint reduction" is accomplished, we will be more nimble as an organization.

Large print books:

I sent a suggested process for large print book final dispensation to the participating libraries. The proposed plan involves each participant keeping what they have and receiving additional books from the division of the eleven additional unassigned sets, and around 700 books that were here in the office. Each library would then pay their final bill and keep all books, cataloging them locally so they are available for interlibrary loan. I have also offered to help those who wish to keep rotating collaboratively.

#### External ~

Training opportunity:

Part 1 (morning): *Using the Counting Opinions data interface*

Part 2 (afternoon): *Fabulous Finds in the MeL Databases*

These trainings are offered on September 30<sup>th</sup> in Traverse City and on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Cadillac. They are open to anyone, and I encourage everyone to invite any trustees, educators, or other collaborative partners who are interested in the content to sign up to attend. See <http://mml.org/workshops.html>

MeL databases:

There will be changes beginning October 1, 2015 to the statewide database offerings via the Michigan eLibrary. There is a list of the content changes on our website at [http://mml.org/mel\\_links.html](http://mml.org/mel_links.html).

Technology:

The 2015 Broadband Conference sponsored by Connect Michigan is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lansing Center. Executive Director Eric Frederick asked me to organize the library break-out session, and two of our own MMLL member library staff will participate: Eric Smith, director at Mason County District Library, and Scott Morey, technology director for Traverse Area District Library. Sheryl Cormicle Knox, technology director for Capital Area District Library, will be the third panelist. For more information, see <http://www.connectmi.org/agenda>.

E-rate:

I would like to make an E-rate request for proposal (form 470) on behalf of whichever MMLL member libraries are interested in improving their telecommunications. I will be putting out a call very soon for interest in joining this project. Suzanne Dees, retiring director of the Superiorland Library Cooperative, and I are in conversation and comparing notes about how best to accomplish the most for our membership in light of the new E-rate changes and potential to fund dark fiber/last mile connections.

WSU Scholarships:

Please continue to spread the word about this opportunity that was extended to our cooperative! See the information on our website at [Scholarship Opportunity!!!](#)

Advisory Council:

The representative to the MMLL Board from the Advisory Council has been Diane Eisenga (McBain). She and I discussed how best to engage the Advisory Council in discussion about how they want to conduct business. Our Plan of Service states "The council shall recommend to the Cooperative Board programs needed by local libraries as well as the total cooperative area." Also, it states that the Advisory Council meets a minimum of four times per year and annually appoints a member to be their representative to the Board. (See the [Plan of Service](#)) Diane has called the Advisory Council to arrive at 9:30 for the annual meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> (at TADL/Woodmere) to discuss organizational matters going forward.

Diversity:

The membership of the Mid-Michigan Library League is composed of quite a variety of libraries, in terms of populations served, budgets to support them, and needs of the local communities. As your new co-op director, I spend lots of time pondering equity issues and how to provide quality services to all our members, meeting them where they have the need. Please know that feedback is ALWAYS WELCOME, and that I will continue to send mini-surveys to the membership so I can get a feel for whether or not certain services "hit the mark" or, if they don't, what would. The library cooperatives, of which there are eleven in the state, are quite diverse as well, depending on the composition of their membership and location in the state. We are discussing together the possibilities of specialization so that we do not have to re-create services at each co-op that could be provided by only one. Examples of this include TLN negotiating statewide [Discounts](#) and Mideastern Co-op programming collaboration. The Coop Director's Association (CDA) will have a facilitated discussion on this and other topics this fall.

Respectfully Submitted,

*~ Sheryl*

Sheryl L. Mase