

# Mid-Michigan Library League

## Director's Report

September 2016

### Ballot Initiatives:

- 11 MMLL member libraries had initiatives on the ballot at the primary election August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 11 MMLL member libraries had success at the polls! Yay! Congratulations to:
  - Benzonia and Darcy/Beulah (joint)
  - Big Rapids (township support)
  - Glen Lake
  - Leland Twp
  - Morton Twp
  - Shelby (township support)
  - Suttons Bay-Bingham
  - Traverse Area
  - Walton Erickson
  - Wheatland Twp
- Meet the Candidates – We are partnering with the White Pine Library Cooperative to promote and facilitate meetings to ask candidates running for the State House questions about libraries, funding and support. We have three shared districts with the White Pine Co-op: 70, 97, and 103. For each district, candidates have been invited and set questions ahead of time. Meetings:
  - District 70 (includes Richland, White Pine and Seville) – **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, 10 – noon at the Alma Public Library
  - District 103 (includes Houghton Lake, Kalkaska, McBain, Missaukee and Richfield) – **September 27<sup>th</sup>**, 10 – noon at the Houghton Lake Public Library
  - District 97 (includes Reed City, Evart, Pathfinder, Marion, and Surrey) – **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 10 – noon at the Pere Marquette District Library
- Register (free) at <http://wplc.org/registrations/2015-2016/meetgreet.cfm>

### Administrative:

- We held an open house at our new office after the last AC/Board meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an abundance of great food and even door prizes! The new space serves us well.
- We have been told by the current owners of the Old City Hall that they plan to list the building for sale. We have a three-year lease and there should be no problems for us in the transition.
- State Aid – as of the end of August, we have received the majority of our cooperative state aid, with the remainder expected prior to the end of FY16. All direct aid has been received.
- All but one of the member libraries signed up for RIDES service renewal.
- Final budget adjustment for FY16 and draft FY17 budget will be before the Board for approval at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting

### LOGO:

- The Mid-Michigan Library League needs a logo! The map of Michigan with the counties we serve is what I have been using. The website has hands shaking with MMLL as bookends. That was made several years back by an intern who worked on the website. We need a logo that looks great and makes us very identifiable at a glance.
- Draw or otherwise create a logo that you think would represent a group of libraries cooperating together and a service organization helping them to be great. The size should be at least 4"x4" and it should look good in color or black & white. If your logo is chosen, you will WIN a \$100 Amazon.com gift card and possibly other fabulous prizes. You will agree to give your art free and clear to the cooperative. Send submissions to [smase@mml.org](mailto:smase@mml.org)

### Trainings:

- The annual meeting is **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the **Cadillac Grill** (7839 E. 46 1/2 Road, Cadillac, Michigan, <http://cadillacgrill.com>, situated on the Eldorado Golf Course). We have mailed the invitations and registration is currently happening at this writing. The state librarian, **Randy Riley**, and library law specialist, **Clare Membiela**, will join us and give presentations. After everyone has gotten lunch and are beginning dessert, we will have a program by **Jenifer Strauss, Story Be Told** ([www.StoryBeTold.com](http://www.StoryBeTold.com)) called **Humans Are Hard Wired for STORY!** that promises to be interactive, dynamic, and very informative.
- Other than lots of offerings via webinar and in person by other entities that I share via the newsletter ([News of Interest](#)), we are working on collaborations with other cooperatives and library partners.

### Technology:

- The MeLCat participation form does not obligate the library, it serves as a planning tool for MCLS in their implementation scheduling and is an agreement that IF you join, you will follow the rules and procedures created by the representative committees. You can join even if you are not automated! [http://mcls.org/files/5614/1157/3968/MeLCat\\_participation\\_agreement\\_2014.pdf](http://mcls.org/files/5614/1157/3968/MeLCat_participation_agreement_2014.pdf)
- Two of the four MMLL member libraries that are not automated have begun the steps toward automation (Walkerville and Walton Erickson).
- Some member libraries are looking at changing their ILS. If you are too, I am glad to coordinate some vendor demos and if you all want to go together, we could possibly drive down costs. Let me know!

### Initiatives:

- Library Service Expansion & Mini-Grant Program – The Ad-Hoc Grants Committee FY16 was Heather Bassett (Reed City), Kim Frazho (Houghton Lake), and Eric Smith (Mason County/Ludington). Both rounds of the program have been successful, and we are finishing up the reimbursements now. See <http://mml.org/grants.html>
- Rotating Maker Kits – Our group has lost three members, so we could use another one or two people to step up. It is a hard-working and fun group! Current members are Tracy Logan-Walker (Cadillac) and new member Alycia McKowen (Seville). Jack Sheehan and I also participate. Remember that we have the following for your library to borrow:
  - Nine Maker Kits with instructions and program ideas ([MMLL maker space resources](#))
    - Kit 1: Squishy Circuits (copy 1)    Kit 4: Q-BA-Maze    Kit 7: Sewing! (c1)
    - Kit 2: Squishy Circuits (copy 2)    Kit 5: Photography    Kit 8: Sewing! (c2)
    - Kit 3: Ozobots (c1)    Kit 6: Virtual Field Trip    Kit 9: Ozobots (c2)
  - Two MakerBot Mini Replicator 3D printers, each with laptop and supplies (extruder, filament, build plate tape) and warranty coverage; one with a 3D scanner attached to an iPad for use with the printer.
- The “Making as Learning” summer trainings offered by UMSI with a grant from IMLS have been held at two of our member libraries this summer: Houghton Lake and Benzonia. They have been wonderful, and the grant plan is to go back to the SAME communities/libraries next summer to run another maker training.
- Group Discounts – Currently we are handling group purchasing for Movie Licensing USA and Syndetics jacket art for online catalogs. I have gathered lots of information and will be putting it out to the membership to prioritize vendor negotiations. Be thinking about what you want. ;-)

### Cooperative Services:

- The Plan of Service for our cooperative needs to reflect the changes that will take place beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. A draft of the Plan was reviewed by both the Advisory Council and the Board. The plan is on the agenda for the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting for approval

- Our budget is very lean going forward with 39 member libraries. We will be reduced in population from 407,087 to 297,516 and for income from \$331,654 to \$237,315, because we have a majority of class I and II libraries. We may be small, but I believe we have wonderful people and talents in our midst, so we are mighty!
- One thing to consider is how we might want to add affiliate members to our cooperative. What services would they get and what would they pay?

**Travel:**

8/16-17 – Making as Learning UMSI grant funded training – Benzonia Public Library  
8/25 – New Group 9 meeting at Morton Twp.

**Member Library Visits:**

- If you would like me to plan a visit, whether I have been there already or not, please don't hesitate to ask! I am glad to attend a Board meeting, a fundraiser, or just come to talk with you about any issues you like.

Respectfully Submitted,

~*Sheryl*

Sheryl L. Mase