

2026 MMLL Annual Meeting

Building Stronger Libraries Together

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. • Caberfae Peaks

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED!

This year's Annual Luncheon will recognize the service of Library Board Members from our libraries, and Board Members who attend will be entered into a special prize drawing

Agenda

10:00–11:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND TABLE TALKS Visit topic tables, connect with colleagues from other libraries, exchange ideas, and ask questions. Some tables will have an invited host to help guide the conversation, while others will be open, self-guided discussions with conversation prompts.
11:00–11:15 a.m.	WELCOME Jennifer Balcom, Director <i>Mid-Michigan Library League</i> Opening remarks, an overview of the day, event logistics, and an introduction to the Annual Meeting theme.
11:15–11:30 a.m.	MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR COOP MEMBERSHIP Jennifer Balcom, Director <i>Mid-Michigan Library League</i> A brief look at ways member libraries can connect, participate and make fuller use of MMLL services and relationships.
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	CONVERSATIONS WORTH HAVING Andrea Vernola, Continuing Education Coordinator <i>Library Development, Library of Michigan</i> Andrea will share how Appreciative Inquiry and generative questions can shift the tone and direction of library conversations, strengthen relationships with staff, boards, and community partners, and help build stronger libraries.
12:30–1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30–2:30 p.m.	BUILDING STRONG LIBRARY AND BOARD RELATIONSHIPS Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director <i>Woodlands Library Cooperative</i> A conversation about strengthening communication, trust, and collaboration between library directors and boards.
2:30–3:00 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS AND DRAWING Closing remarks, upcoming MMLL announcements, and a special prize drawing for board members in attendance.
3:00–4:00 p.m.	MMLL ANNUAL BOARD MEETING The MMLL Annual Board Meeting includes approval of the budget for the FY26–27 fiscal year.

Table Talks

Connect, Share, and Learn

The morning table talks are an opportunity to exchange practical ideas, learn from colleagues, and make connections across MMLL libraries. Attendees may visit any table that interests them.

PLOUD Share questions, challenges, and ideas related to PLOUD websites. Table host: Shauna Quick, Library Technology Access Consultant <i>Library of Michigan</i>	QSAC Discuss the QSAC process, current standards, and ways libraries can approach certification without becoming overwhelmed. Table host: Eric Smith, Director <i>Mason County District Library</i>
YOUTH SERVICES Exchange ideas about programs, services, challenges, and emerging needs involving children, teens, and families. Table host:	DEEP LIBRARY THOUGHTS There are a lot of assumptions in library work. Do you ever feel a desire to think deeper about the choices we make as library staff and boards? Is there a discussion you have been longing to have but don't have a safe knowledgeable person to have it with? Talk to Tracy! She has nearly 20 years of experience in public libraries and a love for challenging conversations. Bring your own subject, question, or concern or grant a conversation prompt from the jar.. Table host: Tracy Logan, Director <i>Cadillac Wexford Public Library</i>
PROGRAMMING Exchange successful program ideas, discuss programs that did not work as expected, and identify opportunities to share presenters, resources, and experiences. Self-guided conversation table Conversation starters • Which programs are drawing people into your library? • What have you tried that did not work as expected? • Are there presenters, ideas, or resources libraries could share?	COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT Discuss changing formats, budgets, community expectations, selection challenges, and collection trends. Self-guided conversation table Conversation starters • What collection trends are you seeing? • How are budget pressures affecting purchasing decisions? • Which formats or subject areas are changing most quickly? • What collection development questions would you like to discuss with colleagues?