

MMLL Director's Report
September 22, 2011

State Aid, FY2010-2011 (Current Year)

We are now in the 12th month of the fiscal year and, I believe, we still have libraries that have yet to receive second 50% payment of the regular State Aid. The Library of Michigan has "processed" all the payments, but it is now up to the Treasury Department to issue the checks. We received our check last Friday and Morton Township received theirs earlier in the week. They must be paid by September 30th.

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. However, because the new population figures from the 2010 Census will be used for the first time to calculate the payments we are not able to predict with certainty what the rate will be. Some of our communities gained population and some went down. Also, the state overall lost some population which will affect the per capita rate. Surrey Township library added a contract township to its service area. Therefore, today's budget for 2011-2012 is really an estimate which will have to be revised when we have a certified population and rate.

Foster Swift law firm had another of their Webinar's for Trustees on Sept 6,

Foster Swift lawyers are presenting a series of webinars aimed at Trustees and Directors during the year. The second in the series was on September 6, and it was on Policies for Problem Patrons. I have distributed today the link information so that you and your trustees may watch it at your convenience. I think it is about 2 hours in link and the handouts are available online as well.

The Cooperative Directors Association will be proceeding to Conduct a Survey

As mentioned at the last meeting, 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. This is also being done to help facilitate the creation of Library Cooperative "Dashboard". Work is proceeding on the questionnaire and it should be available fairly soon

EBSCO is Offering a Group Discount for Novelist.

Beginning in October, Novelist will no longer be part of the Mel Databases and neither will OCLC's Worldcat. EBSCO is offering members of the League a group discount. Prices are based on your service populations. If interested please contact me, we need several libraries to sign up to get the discount.

Library of Michigan Will Not Appeal the Herrick Decision.

At the most recent Library of Michigan Board meeting on September 14, the Library of Michigan announced that they will not be appealing the Michigan Court of Appeals decision that strongly upheld the lower court ruling stating the Library of Michigan does not have implied authority to write rules unless specifically mentioned in the law (PA 89. – which is in the area of personnel). They will develop a new set of guidelines for state aid based on the ruling and the law.

Other matters & Miscellaneous

1. Workshop on making a Facebook page for their library will be held on October 25, 2011 in Cadillac. Sheila Good from Saginaw will conduct the workshop. Announcements will go out this next week. We have 8 people signed up. We have room for 2 more.

2. We are still working with Movie Licensing USA to see if we can get a discount for members with a group "bulk" buy. I will be contacting a few libraries for their active user counts.

Respectfully submitted by

James W. Lawrence, Director,