

Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
March 2024



STATE AID

- All but one MMLL affiliate member library submitted their annual State Aid reports by the February 1st deadline. MMLL also submitted their annual report by the February 1st deadline.

LOM

- LOM announced staffing changes. Michelle Bradley is the new Library Development Manager and David Votta has been named Manager of Special Collections. Both Michelle and David began their new positions on January 8th. For a listing of Library Development Team Members and their contact information: [Contact Library Development Staff](#)
- Beginning April 18th LOM Legal Consultation will be suspended for 4-6 weeks as Clare Membiela will be out.

MLA

- Advocacy Day is scheduled for April 16, 2024. Two new School Library Bills have been introduced. Talking points will be provided to participants. MLA is actively working to increase State Aid by 2 million.
- Freedom to Read Act Representatives Veronia Paiz (D-11) and Carol Glanville (D-84) plan to introduce legislation to safeguard constitutionally protected materials in public libraries. The bill balances local governance with upholding civil rights protections. Only patrons from the service area can submit a request for reconsideration and the reason for the reconsideration may not conflict with protected classes listed in the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. It is likely the bill will be introduced in May.

MCDA

- The Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA) is currently undergoing a rebranding process. The MCDA is now the Library Cooperatives of Michigan (LCM). Our group meets monthly to discuss shared services to member libraries. The new branding will roll out at the MLA Conference in October 2024. Jennifer accepted the position of LCM Secretary. This is a three-year position.

MCLS

- MCLS launched a new Strategic Planning process. They just completed a Strategic Plan Listening Tour, welcoming input from all library staff in all roles at all libraries and library organizations. The next step in the process is a Strategic Planning survey.

MMLL Admin:

- Hotspot Funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) ended in 2023. MMLL libraries interested in continuing the program, transitioned to separate accounts and/ or moved to other providers.
- Round one of the MMLL FY 24 Mini-Grants Program became available in November. Eight libraries submitted applications. MMLL approved all eight mini grants totaling \$2800. A second round of mini grants opened on March 15, 2024.
- Jennifer presented to the Benzie Shores District Library Board in Frankfort on Fund Balances and Fund Balance Policies.
- Jennifer attended the Michigan Library Association’s directors-only “Think Space” conference in Grand Rapids, MI in December 2023. The theme for this year was Future Forward libraries. Highlights of the two-day conference included a session on how to bring Millennial and Gen Z patrons to the library. Additionally, the conference focused on generative AI and discussed ways it can be used within the library setting. Ethical dilemmas arising from AI use in libraries were also addressed. The second part of the Think Space program takes place on Mackinac Island in May.
- The Post Pandemic Public Library Cohort began in January. This is a yearlong cohort offered in partnership with U of M School of Information Science and the Library of Michigan. Monthly session focuses on different areas in library service which are currently changing. The program features speakers /presenters from libraries as well as other subject experts. As a Library Cooperative Director, I am auditing the program.
- Nick Tanzi, the Digital Librarian, will present a virtual webinar at the April Advisory Council Meeting called *AI Tools for Non-Techies*.

Member Libraries:

- Due to the May 2024 retirement of Cindi Place, the Bellaire District Library is looking for a new Library Director.
- The Manistee County Library Board has selected Interim Director, Julie Cirone, to be their new Director.
- Kristie Feguer is the new Director of the Reed City District Library.
- Three MMLL Libraries were recipients of ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities Grant for Assessability. The grants were for small and rural libraries and were for \$10,000. MMLL recipient libraries were: Central Lake District, Bellaire Public Library, and Big Rapids Community Library. Great work!

Travel/Meetings:

- 12/6/23 – 12/7/23 – Grand Rapids – MLA Think Space Conference
- 12/13/23 – Frankfort – Benzie Shores District Library Board Training
- 1/18/24 – Mancelona – Interim Director Training
- 2/20/24 – Reed City District Library – New Director Meet & Greet
- 3/14/24 – Marion Area District Library – Board of Trustee Training

