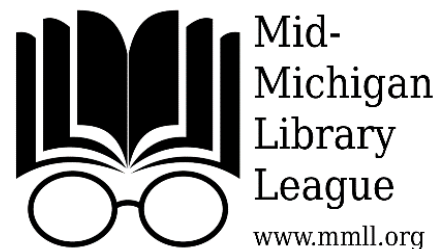


**Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
November 2023**



Administrative:

FY23 is October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

FY23 Board members, groups they represent, year term ends:

- Group 1 – Mary Peterson (26)
- Group 2 – Amanda McClaren (26)
- Group 3 – Tracy Logan-Walker (23) - **Secretary**
- Group 4 – Diane Eisenga (25) - **Chair**
- Group 5 – Eric Smith (24)
- Group 6 – Lois Langenburg (25) – **Vice-Chair**
- Group 7 – Valerie Church-McHugh (25) - **Treasurer**
- Group 8 – Vacant*
- Group 9 – Justine Peterson (26)

*Need to renew or name new representative – terms are 3 years

Annual Meeting

- MMLL's Annual Luncheon Meeting was held at Caberfae Peaks on September 21, 2023. Nearly 70 people attended and survey feedback indicated Thomas Fladung's keynote on crisis communications in libraries was well-received. Survey feedback also indicated participants felt there was not enough time for member libraries to engage with one another during the time allotted for table talks and poster sessions. Surveys also said additional training opportunities, especially those focusing on adult services, would be valuable throughout the year.

MMLL Office:

- MMLL's Annual audit fieldwork was conducted the week of October 23, 2023. The audit report is not yet complete. It is anticipated Zach Frederickson from UHY will attend the January 2023 MMLL Board meeting for the audit presentation.
- The MMLL office printer is still out of commission, which has made printing and scanning a challenge, especially during the annual audit which was completed in late October. I am happy to report the new printer, which has been on backorder, will be installed on November 16th.

eResources:

- Transparent Language Online (<https://www.mml.org/a/transparent-language-online>) was renewed for all members in FY24 as a service of the cooperative. Transparent Language has some upcoming webinars
- The UpNorth Digital Contract will renew for the calendar year in December, and members will be billed in January 2024 for participation.

Mini Grant Program:

- The MMLL’s annual mini-grant program rolled out the first week in November. The mini grant program has been re-organized this fiscal year to offer two rounds of grant support for member libraries. The first mini-grant round offers support during the fall and winter. The second round will offer spring and summer support for libraries who previously utilized the now discontinued LSTA Grant program through the Library of Michigan. The first grant application submitted by a library will be given priority consideration. Special thanks to the Mini Grant Committee for their work.

MMLL Board Member Vacancy

- The MMLL Board seat representing Group 8 is currently vacant. This seat replaces Sarah Welch from Big Rapids Community Library whose term was complete in 2023. I have reached out to Surrey Township Public Library and Barryton Public Library, who are also in Group 8, about potential replacements.

MLA Conference:

I attended the MLA Conference in Kalamazoo in October 17th thru 20th and enjoyed staffing the Michigan Cooperative Director’s Association booth and engaging with staff from libraries across the state.

Here are the key takeaways from the sessions I attended:

- Connecting the Dots and Donors
 - Public funds have to be used for a public purpose
 - Libraries have the ability to direct donated funds to foundations (including local community foundations)
 - If a library raises or accepts funds for a capital campaign, those funds must be kept in a separate account and used only for that capital purpose.
- Ask the Lawyer
 - Child Protective Services field manuals state that a child should not be left at home alone at age 10 or younger. This could be a metric for public libraries to use.
 - Staff are NOT considered in-loco parentis regardless of whether the parent is present or not.
 - If a patron has a service animal (miniature horse or dog), staff may ask “Is this a service animal” and “what service does this animal perform?” but only that. Emotional support animals are not legally permissible. The animal growling, barking, being disruptive is not allowed.
 - FOIA has new updates that state a public entity can deny a FOIA request if it deals with security (including cybersecurity).
- Holistic Approach to Strategic Planning
 - Strategic planning is 3 plans – core operations, vision & strategy, and culture.
 - Culture Values Statement are important– what is the tone of the workplace, do employees feel empowered and actualized in their work? Do employees trust that they have a voice and will be heard?

Travel/Meetings/Presentations:

- 9/21/23 – Cadillac Caberfae – MMLL Annual Meeting
- 10/9/23 – Alden District Library Board Meeting – Fund Balance Presentation
- 10/17 – 10/20/23 – Kalamazoo – MLA Conference

Jennifer Balcom
MMLL Director