

# Michigan Cooperative Directors Association Report for Library of Michigan Board of Trustees September 2020

## **MCDA Activities:**

The can-do attitude and professionalism of the library community throughout the cooperative and the state is both impressive and humbling. Many, many thanks to the staff at the Library of Michigan for all their support, advice, knowledge and kindness and it continues every single day! Brava, bravo and hats off to all of you! We are all so very grateful! The Michigan Cooperative Directors Association continues to communicate regularly, with each other and with our partner organizations, during the Covid-19 pandemic. We compare questions and concerns we are receiving from our member libraries and work together to provide guidance.

## **Detroit Library Cooperative – JoAnne Mondowney, Director**

### **COVID-19 Update**

- All DPL locations were closed for public service on March 14, 2020.
- On August 1, 2020, Main Library began offering curbside service (by appointment) to customers.
- DPL's Mobile Library returned to the streets of Detroit in July. The Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1, generously opened the doors of its "Books for Kids Warehouse," to DPL librarians who selected children books that were distributed as free giveaways during scheduled visits to 40 parks, schools, recreation and community centers, food distribution sites and the Eastern Market. From July 13 - September 3, the Mobile Library made two visits to each location and distributed over 15,000 books. These visits also provided an opportunity to encourage participation in the 313 Summer Reading Challenge.
- Main Library successfully completed the National Sanitation Foundation's "Checked by the NSF program," which verifies that the library has taken necessary steps to reopen and stay open while minimizing coronavirus risks to staff, customers and guests. The NSF is an independent global organization committed to protecting and improving human health and safety.
- Customers visiting the Detroit Public Library's website now can connect with a librarian in real-time for information and support. Using LibAnswers by Springshare, librarians "chat" by text with customers, answering their questions, helping them navigate the library's website, and providing them screen shots and links to other resources. With the customer's permission, the librarian can also screen share with the customer, to provide even greater support. LibAnswers is one of the many changes being made to better serve library customers in a COVID-19 environment.

### **2020 African American Booklist**

The printing of the 2020 African American booklist was delayed because the printer closed as mandated by the governor's executive order. Copies are now available. This year's Booklist is entitled "African Americans in U.S. Politics: 150 Years," and focuses on when and where African Americans entered the historical record as elected officials. Dr. Dianne Pinderhughes, an African Studies and Political Science professor at the University of Notre Dame, provides an essay about the lives of many African American politicians who played major roles in reshaping American politics over the past 150 years.

## **Lakeland Library Cooperative – Carol Dawe, Director**

- All but 4 of the 42 LLC member libraries are opened to the public but with limited hours and capacity and service restrictions. Most of them are providing curbside service as well as digital and other creative services and programs.
- The LLC Advisory Council approved to send a reduced budget to the LLC board in September that anticipates cuts in state aid but also provides money for a new online public access discovery layer. Final decisions about the purchase will be made in October but we are anxious and excited to offer a new way to access materials for all of patrons/users of LLC ILS member libraries and this will be the same discovery layer that Kent District and Grand Rapids use or will be using. We are also very close to rolling out the Capria mobile app for 28 of our libraries.
- Lakeland staff is working remotely except for the director, facilities manager and the 3 sorters and drivers. The rest of the staff has access to the building by appointment only. This seems to work well in providing a safe environment for all 15 staff members.
- LLC has completed its 3rd group purchase of PPE. Over \$12,000.00 in PPE has been purchased thus far for our members and we worked with other coops as well.
- We are pleased to welcome Samantha Reid-Goldberg as the new director of the Hesperia Community Library, and I am working with two other libraries in their director searches due to impending retirements.
- We are meeting the needs of our members through new policies and projects, additional remote support and the willingness to think creatively and openly about this new time in public libraries.

#### **The Library Network (TLN) – Jim Pletz, Director**

- With the worldwide pandemic in full swing, our focus has turned inward. Continuing education for staff will be smaller in size, but, not in scope or focus. TLN is currently working on a series of podcasts for rapid access. Building a gradual appreciation for the skills, TLN will custom design individual classes. Professionals are introduced to each other with small group discussions.
- Stay at home staff are creating a new challenge for managers. That will take some time. TLN will help model the new work environment.
- A new director will guide TLN in the next month. Current director, Jim Pletz is retiring.

#### **Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative – Eric Palmer, Director**

- Eric worked with the Collaborating Partners on Creating Inclusive Libraries: Gender and Sexuality Awareness. MMLC handled the registrations.
- MMLC has canceled most of the live performances scheduled for this summer. Some of the performances have moved to virtual for this summer.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we decided to cancel the Performer's Showcase that would have been in August. We are hoping to offer a virtual form sometime later in the fall.
- 19 of 21 libraries have completed the application for Technology and Innovation Grant from MMLC. Some of the libraries have used the grants for hotspots, computers, Chromebooks, or

iPads to help patrons with their technology needs during the pandemic.

### **Mid-Michigan Library League – Sheryl Mase, Director**

Eleven libraries were funded in the first round of the mini-grant program and fifteen libraries were funded in the second round, for a total commitment to our member libraries of \$15,000 (<https://www.mml.org/a/grants>).

The CARES Act grant program, run by the Library of Michigan to fund PPE supplies/service and digital inclusion supplies/service, funded 28 of our 36 member libraries.

MMLL received a \$5,000 H.O.P.E. grant from Michigan Humanities to assist with RIDES payments for members. We received the money and have submitted the final report.

#### **Member Library News:**

- Luther Area Public Library has a new director: Amy Shank.
- LeRoy Community Library has a new director: Laura Jacobson-Pentces
- Seville Township Library has a new director: Justine Peterson
- Glen Lake Community Library is going to close in order to move into their recently expanded and remodeled library, leaving their temporary location, the “Limebrary” behind. They should be set to open in Empire on September 8th.
- Benzie Shores District Library is doing a building expansion and renovation project and have raised most of the funds for the \$950,000 project.

### **Northland Library Cooperative – Linda Adams, Director**

- **Enhancement grants** have been awarded to 19 member libraries in the amount of \$45,734. Grants are used to enhance services. This year they have been used to build digital collections (hoopla, RB Digital and Overdrive), technology (update computers, purchase sound equipment for outdoor programs), and for programs (Jonathan Rand Author event, Summer Reading Supplies, art supplies)
- **Continuing Education Grants** have been awarded to 10 member libraries in the total amount of \$4077. The grants were used to encourage continuing professional development. Educational opportunities included the MLA Conference, YALSA Youth Symposium, Digital Literacy Workshops, Marketing Workshops, and more.
- **Northland Chats** have been scheduled via Zoom on a weekly basis since April. Topics have ranged from reopening libraries to advocacy to successful virtual programs. Each week we address member concerns and work together to find answers.
- **Ongoing:** Visits to member libraries (6) and responding to calls and emails on issues of ongoing concerns.

### **Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative – Andrea Estelle**

- The SMLC directors met for a virtual HR training with Karl Butterer, Attorney at Foster Swift regarding HR/employment law changes related to Covid-19.
- We held our regular Ad Council and SMLC Board meetings on Zoom in August and had guest speaker Jim Flury speak about MAP.

- SMLC offered mini grants to all the member libraries to purchase PPE in lieu of training budget.
- For the 2020 budget year, SMLC will forgo movie licensing, hopeful that most other services will remain the same.
- Several new library buildings in progress: Ransom, Dowagiac, and Hartford.
- Sodus, Buchanan, and South Haven libraries had successful August Millage Campaigns!

### **Suburban Library Cooperative – Tammy Turgeon, Director**

- The Suburban Library Cooperative has been hosting Zoom meetings with member library directors every other week for the past few months. Directors are sharing policies/procedures and new ways of providing services to residents. Attendance has been very good since directors have not had to travel to attend meetings.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative purchased another group of PPE supplies on behalf of member libraries. This will continue until libraries no longer need these items.
- SLC staff have new schedules that include working from home when possible to minimize the number of staff in the building.
- The SLC Board held its May, June and August Board meetings via Zoom. The Board meeting calendar was set for the next year with meetings being conducted via Zoom until required to be held in person.
- SLC staff have been conducting training sessions and meetings via Zoom with much success.
- The SLC member library directors are working on updating the SLC Annual Plan for 2020-21.

### **Superiorland Library Cooperative – Shawn Andary, Director**

No Report Submitted

### **White Pine Library Cooperative – Kate Van Auken, Director**

We have been in our new office for 2 months. The move could not have happened at a better time, although I do not encourage anyone to move during a pandemic! This allowed us to purge many files, sell items we no longer needed, reduce our rent by 70%, and lower our building insurance costs nearly 20%.

- The pandemic has also made us step up our technology. We are all able to work from home when needed, have access to our files remotely, and can respond to calls to the office through our email.
- Next year's budget was approved with an anticipated 30% reduction in State Aid.
- Several White Pine members participated in the "Big Disruptions a Can Lead to Big Opportunities" presented by Maxine Bleiweis and sponsored by the CDA.
- Our Annual Meeting will be virtual this year. Rather than one day, programs are going to be

available over a three-week period in October. Authors, technology inspired success stories for smaller libraries, and exploring and preserving community histories are on tap.

I continue to:

- hold weekly zoom meetings with members. Sometimes I have a presenter/program, but for the most part, members have said the weekly meetings help them continue to connect with peers as they navigate Covid-19. Another benefit to the weekly meetings is that each time there is a new mix of members who attend. Considering we would meet at the most 6 times a year, Zoom has provided us the opportunity to meet much more frequently and has helped members (new and veteran) get to know each other better.
- send out a weekly update email about all the webinars, articles, etc., they may have missed during the week. To be honest, these things have helped me as much as our members.
- work with member libraries who are having difficult times with their Boards.
- work with members to explore more digital and virtual opportunities for their library programming like Library Ideas Online Book Club, Dial-a-Story, Checkers TV, and BiblioBoard.
- meet with legislators during COVID both virtually and in local parks. I am grateful that some Senators and Representatives are finding ways to meet with and talk to their constituents.

#### **Woodlands Library Cooperative – Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director**

- Counseling and advising Woodlands directors is ongoing, on a wide variety of topics and issues. There continues to be major concerns about library board behavior and treatment of library staff during the pandemic. There is also a ton of fear and uncertainty when it comes to re-opening and staying safe.
- While our member directors have adapted to virtual life quickly, boards have taken some more time to make the adjustment. I am pleased to share that I will be meeting remotely with a member library board, for the first time, to talk about the cooperative and our services.
- Our Advisory Council approved a budget reflective of a 50% budget cut for FY2020-21. That draft budget will go to the cooperative's Governing Board at their meeting in September.
- In lieu of my going to physically visit new directors, I will be offering a virtual New Director Orientation for the new directors in our cooperative. I will also be offering a Board Orientation session for our incoming new Governing Board members.
- Woodlands will be doing strategic planning later in the year. We are in the process of determining who will lead us through the process, and what that process will look like now that it is likely to be fully virtual.