

**Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
August 2021**



Note: The state pandemic mandates for COVID-19 in terms of mask wearing have been lifted, however libraries are directed to watch the CDC information regarding the Delta variant, which is spreading quickly in some communities, requiring masking in enclosed public spaces once again.

Administrative:

- FY21 Board members, groups they represent, year term ends:
 - Group 1 – Cindi Place (23)
 - Group 2 – Debra Greenacre (23)
 - Group 3 – Tracy Logan-Walker (23)
 - Group 4 – Diane Eisenga (22)
 - Group 5 – Eric Smith (21)
 - Group 6 – Lois Langenburg (22)
 - Group 7 – Valerie Church-McHugh (22)
 - Group 8 – Sarah Welch (23)
 - Group 9 – Patty Rockafellow (23)
- Advisory Council
 - FY21 (Co-)Chair – Cindi Place (Bellaire). See MMLL [Advisory Council page](#).
 - The group is meeting the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

Continuing Education:

- In-person trainings have not happened this year due to the pandemic. We have shared the many options for online training, virtual conferences, and on-demand webinars and training modules.
- The annual meeting of the membership will be held in person at Caberfae Peaks, Blackmer Lodge, on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. [Registrations](#) are being accepted now.

eResources:

- The [Up North Digital/OverDrive](#) currently has 32 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. The non-participants are Chase, Mancelona, Walkerville, and Wheatland. A letter has gone out to these four libraries encouraging them to join, as some of the ARPA grant money will be for content and flow through the OverDrive consortia.
- Our language resource purchased by MMLL for the whole cooperative, Transparent Language Online, is for all MMLL member patrons, point to <https://library.transparent.com/westmichiganmi/>. On the MMLL website (<https://www.mml.org/a/transparent-language-online>) there is a link to archived training plus flyers and bookmarks with the URL for patrons that can be printed locally.
- The eResources Committee is discussing and prioritizing future member needs so that they can ask the director to find the best pricing for opt-in discount groups for which MMLL pays the vendor and then invoices the participating members. The group also will consider additional resources that could be provided as a service of the cooperative in coming fiscal years, as part of the Plan of Service.

Grants:

- The FY21 Grants Committee (Diane Eisenga/McBain, Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, and Kathleen Rash/Hart) worked together well and their job is complete for FY21.

- In the first round of the FY21 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program, 17 proposals were funded for a total commitment of \$10,949. In the second round, 19 proposals were received and all were funded, some with slightly less than was requested, for a total commitment of \$12,633.
- The new LSTA ARPA funds have been allocated to the Library of Michigan, however the legislature has not passed the required supplemental spending bill allowing the funds to be spent. At this late date, it will most likely be after October 1 with the new state budget when the funds may be expended. There was a competitive program for projects of \$25,000 and over, as well as two capacity grants for public libraries written and submitted by the Library Cooperative Directors – one for content that will flow through the OverDrive consortia in the state, and another that will provide technology and resources for public libraries for programming and enhancing technology for patrons.
- We are waiting to receive notification of funding for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) application we submitted on behalf of 25 member libraries. The funding provides full payment for devices to circulate to patrons as well as WiFi hotspots and data service to circulate to patrons without home Internet service (as long as they can get cellular signal).

Tech Assistance:

- “Emergency Geek” Cory Walker continues to serve member libraries in FY21. Each MMLL member library began the year with four hours of tech support plus mileage.
- We strongly recommend that member libraries build into their budgets ongoing maintenance funds and replacement costs for technology, an integral part of public library service.
- Hours are still available, so member libraries should [contact Cory](#) for any work needed.

On the Horizon:

- The MMLL Annual Meeting will be an in-person luncheon held at Caberfae Peaks 9-22-21.
- The Michigan Library Association will again hold its annual conference online October 13-14, 2021.
- The Library of Michigan has converted its New and Advanced Director trainings into self-paced learning pathways via the Niche Staff Skills Academy. They are working in the Beginning Workshop to be delivered in the same manner.

Travel/Meetings/Leave:

- Lots of virtual back and forth work to submit the ECF application for 25 member libraries
- Lots of virtual work to assist in both cooperative ARPA grants
- MMLL Finance Committee, Ludington 8-5-21
- Seville Township joint meeting with Library Board, Elwell 8-11-21

~ Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director