

**Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
January 2022**



Note: The pandemic has not yet subsided and the current variant, omicron, is highly contagious, putting the state back in a high-risk status for all areas. Some libraries have gone back to curbside only, others are advising mask wearing but are still open to the public. See [COVID-19 Quarantine, Isolation, Masking & Testing](#).

Administrative:

- FY22 Board members, groups they represent, year term ends:
 - Group 1 – Cindi Place (23)
 - Group 2 – Debra Greenacre (23)
 - Group 3 – Tracy Logan-Walker (23) - **Secretary**
 - Group 4 – Diane Eisenga (22) - **Chair**
 - Group 5 – Eric Smith (24)
 - Group 6 – Lois Langenburg (22) – **Vice-Chair**
 - Group 7 – Valerie Church-McHugh (22) - **Treasurer**
 - Group 8 – Sarah Welch (23)
 - Group 9 – Patty Rockafellow (23)

See MMLL [Board page](#).

• **Advisory Council**

- FY22 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.
- Committees of the Advisory Council for FY22: <https://www.mml.org/board/advisory-council/ac-committees>.

Trustee Information:

- Library of Michigan trustee resources: www.michigan.gov/librarytrustee
- Trustee Times (<https://lnks.gd/2/bDdtp3>) is sent directly to your trustees – contact Joe Hamlin at hamlinj2@michigan.gov if you need to add/change trustees on his list.
- See [Book Challenges, Censorship, and Michigan Public Libraries](#), authored by Clare Membiela. Also see ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom webinar [handouts HERE](#).
- Make sure you know your library's establishment type: [Michigan Library Establishment Types](#) – this dictates your Board establishment and legalities of operation.
- United for Libraries (ALA trustee division – resources provided to Michigan library trustees by Library of Michigan) – new login process: Visit <https://www.ala.org/united/> and click on Statewide Access-Find Your State button at the top of the page. Scroll down to the Michigan section. Either login or register for your membership account. Once you login you will find several squares for each class or session recording.

Continuing Education:

- The FY22 CE committee members are: Tiffany Haight (Shelby Area District Library) and Debra Greenacre (Manistee County Library). (Other committees of the Advisory Council are [HERE](#).)
- If you have an idea for a speaker or program for all of MMLL, let us know! We can have presentations via Zoom associated with Advisory Council meetings, so chime in with suggestions.
- The Library of Michigan has an online CE [Calendar here](#) and webinar [Archive here](#).
- The MMLL Youth Committee is meeting on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. See the [Youth Services page](#) on the MMLL website.

eResources:

- Up North Digital currently has 32 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. Non-participants are Chase, Mancelona, Walkerville, and Wheatland. eMagazines were added for the whole consortium in 2022. See the MMLL website page for [Up North Digital](#) and the ARPA grant information below.
- 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 for FY22 (Cindi Place/Bellaire, David Diller/Glen Lake) will continue discussing and prioritizing needs 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. Currently, the cooperative provides [Transparent Language Online](#) to all members for their patrons to use.

Grants:

- The FY22 Grants Committee is Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, Kathleen Rash/Hart, and Laura Marion/Missaukee. First round grant applications have been received and are under review
- Round One FY22 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program applications are currently under review. There were 13 applications received requesting a total of \$8,350.91. Awards will be announced January 28, 2022, and the Round Two program will be announced February 14th, with applications due April 8, 2022. See <https://www.mml.org/a/grants>
- The LSTA ARPA funds have been allocated to the Library of Michigan. Two capacity grants for public libraries are being run by the Library Cooperative Directors: MI-83 TLC Kits, for which the deadline has already passed (and many of our members are getting equipment), and the MI-83 DLC e-content program, for which survey responses are due on **January 24, 2022**. See more information about these grants on the website: <https://www.mml.org/a/grants/arpa-capacity-grants>
- The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program information is posted on our website: <https://www.mml.org/a/grants/emergency-connectivity-fund>. The application was finally approved in November but bureaucracy got in the way a bit and we are finally getting in the equipment and hot spots provided via this fund. Unfortunately, the data service was only good for the funding year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, so even though there was a delay, they will still only fund the data service through June 30 this year.
- MMLL was able to benefit greatly from these programs. Here is the value gained from each:
 - Emergency Connectivity Fund = \$115,995
 - MI-83 TLC Kits Grant = \$101,433
 - MI-83 DLC Content Credit = \$87,725
 - **GRAND TOTAL = \$305,153** (*More than the MMLL annual budget revenues!!!*)

Tech Assistance:

- “Emergency Geek” [Cory Walker](#) is continuing to serve MMLL member libraries in FY22. Each MMLL member library began the year with four hours of tech support plus mileage. Need more? Just ask!
- Member libraries are urged to build into their budgets ongoing maintenance funds and replacement costs for technology, an integral part of public library service.

Member Libraries:

- Leelanau Township Library needs a director – they are in process. Cora Schaeff took another job.
- Both Hart and Pentwater accepted an offer by MDHHS to distribute Covid test kits in a pilot program. Supply is limited and this program was rolled out in a very limited way, but hopefully this will be successful and future collaborations will be coordinated and well communicated. Now the federal government has launched a program in which people can sign up to receive Covid test kits in the mail: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

On the Horizon:

- The trainings for Beginning Workshop, New Director, and Advanced Director workshops are now all online in the Niche Staff Skills Academy. Find the course pathways starting here: www.michigan.gov/libraryce
- Spring Institute for Youth Services 2022 is back in person - **March 10-11, 2022** at the Comfort Inn & Suites Conference Center Mt. Pleasant at Central Michigan University. [More information here.](#)
- Lots of training and potential funding for digitization projects is out there for libraries. See Michigan.gov/LMdigitization. Also, see the CMU "[DIGMICH NEWSPAPER GRANT](#)".
- At least three member libraries will benefit from the "Libraries as Mental Health Hubs," Michigan Health Endowment Fund Behavioral Health grant awarded to MPRO. The three libraries, Morton Township Public Library, Big Rapids Community Library, and Luther Area Public Library will receive resources and training to assist local patrons and connect them with mental health resources.

Travel/Meetings:

- Think Space (MLA) – in Grand Rapids December 9-10, 2021
- All other meetings have been online.

~ Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director