

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



Note: *We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. March 10th marked the one-year anniversary of the first case in Michigan. There are now three approved vaccines and 21% of Michigan residents over 16 have received at least a first dose. Positivity rates and new cases per million were on the decrease in late January most of February, but there is currently another slight increase, with the statewide positivity rate at 4.4%, new case rate at 122 cases per million, and daily deaths per million at 17.4.*

*****President Biden just signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides \$200 million in funding to the IMLS, \$178 million specifically for LSTA, representing the single largest increase in funding for the IMLS in the agency's 25-year history. The act also establishes a \$7.172 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund through the FCC's E-rate program, for reimbursing eligible libraries for 100% of the costs of equipment necessary to provide off campus connectivity to patrons, including Wi-Fi hotspots, routers, laptops, and more.**

At this time, most MMLL member libraries are open at a limited capacity for indoor service, but programming and gathering is still limited. The MMLL Advisory Council is meeting the second and fourth Tuesday mornings via Zoom, and the Library of Michigan is conducting Zoom meetings every other Friday for public library directors. We are following [MDHHS](#) and [MiOSHA](#) guidance, referring local concerns to the [health department](#) serving their county. In-person trainings and conferences are still not being held, in favor of webinars, online meetings and virtual programming.

Administrative:

- FY21 Board members, groups they represent, year term ends:
 - Group 1 – Cindi Place (23)
 - Group 2 – Debra Greenacre (23)
 - Group 3 – Emily Thompson (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 been cancelled/postponed. There are many options for online training, virtual conferences, and on-demand webinars and training modules.
- The News of Interest newsletter points to these many opportunities for professional development.

eResources:

- The [Up North Digital/OverDrive](#) currently has 31 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. Soon, LeRoy will join as the newest participant.

- Our language resource purchased by MMLL for the whole cooperative, [Transparent Language Online](#), will not be transferred to OverDrive, so we must change the access URL soon – stay tuned.
- MMLL has an Advantage account with OverDrive, allowing us to add audiobooks to the shared collections that are available to MMLL members of Up North Digital in a priority fashion, and then are available to others in the consortium. The eResources Committee (Cindi Place/Bellaire, Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, David Diller/Glen Lake) is working to add Advantage titles, using MMLL funds.
- The eResources Committee is working to prioritize member needs and to find the best pricing, considering what the cooperative can pay for on behalf of the membership vs. opt-in discount groups for which MMLL pays the vendor and then invoices the participating members.

Grants:

- The FY21 Grants Committee (Diane Eisenga/McBain, Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, and Kathleen Rash/Hart) has made final decisions for the second round of grants, and all have been notified of funding.
- 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 received funding, some with slightly less than was requested, for a total commitment of \$12,633.

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.

On the Horizon:

- The Michigan Library Association will coordinate the Michigan Library Advocacy Day on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021. Meetings will be coordinated with legislators online. Register [HERE](#).
- There is an update to local government chart of accounts: [Uniform Chart of Accounts](#)
 - [UCA Final Release Memo](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [UCA Implementation Dates](#)
 - [UCA Revisions](#)

Travel/Meetings/Leave:

Working mostly from home, about 30% in the office, with meetings via Zoom.

Used bereavement leave time and PTO hours in February.

Upcoming vacation: 3/22 – 3/26.

~Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director