

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



At this time, most MMLL member libraries are open at a limited capacity for indoor service, but programming and gathering is still limited. 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. Michigan reached the 55% vaccinated milestone today, which means that, per Governor Whitmer's "MI Vacc to Normal" plan, in two weeks, or beginning May 24 (assuming the infection rates do not increase to surge levels), the mandate on remote work should be lifted. [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)

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 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 32 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. The non-participants are Chase, Mancelona, Walkerville, and Wheatland.
- There is enough money in the MMLL budget this year, after an amendment going for approval on May 20th, for the co-op to pay for eMagazines for all MMLL Up North Participants through the end of the calendar year. For 2022, we expect to add eMagazines for all consortium members and bill back accordingly. Costs will be divided according to the same formula as the eBooks and eAudio.
- Our language resource purchased by MMLL for the whole cooperative, Transparent Language Online, was not transferred to OverDrive. We now have a single URL for all MMLL members to point to, <https://library.transparent.com/westmichiganmi/> and on the [website](#) is a link to archived training plus flyers and bookmarks with the URL for patrons that can be printed locally. We will have Transparent Language Online next fiscal year as well. This is a service of the cooperative.

- 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) 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 were funded, some with slightly less than was requested, for a total commitment of \$12,633.
- We are waiting to see how the new LSTA ARPA funds will be available to libraries, per the Library of Michigan. When available, it will be a quick process, and funds to be expended within about 18 months.

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 available, so member libraries should contact Cory for any work needed.

On the Horizon:

- The Secretary of State announced that all services will be by appointment or via self-service stations. The problem is that scores of people without internet access or email accounts are coming to the library with lots of questions. Self-service stations are not close by. We are trying to address this issue via the Library of Michigan and MLA to see if there will be more attention paid to the “have nots” in this situation. Many of our members are just letting them use the library email.
- The Michigan Library Association will again hold its annual conference online October 13-14, 2021.
- The Library of Michigan is working to convert the New and Advanced Director trainings into self-paced learning pathways via the Niche Staff Skills Academy. They should be available by July 1, 2021 and emails will go to the directors who need to complete the courses for certification. The Beginning Workshop is also going to be converted, but will not be ready this summer. The Library of Michigan will keep us posted as to their progress.

Travel/Meetings/Leave:

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

~Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director