

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



**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)
  - Group 4 – Diane Eisenga (22)
  - Group 5 – Eric Smith (24)
  - Group 6 – Lois Langenburg (22)
  - Group 7 – Valerie Church-McHugh (22)
  - Group 8 – Sarah Welch (23)
  - Group 9 – Patty Rockafellow (23)
- Advisory Council
  - FY22 (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., with one meeting being the formal one with agenda and notes.
  - Committees of the Advisory Council have been formed for FY22. See <https://www.mml.org/board/advisory-council/ac-committees>.

**Trustee Information:**

- The Michigan Public Library Trustee Manual (2021) has been distributed widely. It is also online at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/LM\\_TrusteeManual\\_2020\\_703765\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/LM_TrusteeManual_2020_703765_7.pdf)
- The cooperative directors and staff at Library of Michigan are working to clarify and assist in “righting the ship” if a library has strayed from operating as it should. So much of how the Board operates depends on the establishment law under which the library was formed. If you are not certain, we can help! See [Michigan Library Establishment Types](#).
- There will be more online training for trustees – [Trustee Training 101: The Basics](#) – December 6, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm and [Trustee Training 102: Advanced Trustees](#) – December 13, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm. And, there is an archive of these trainings, see [Library of Michigan Webinar Archives](#).

**Continuing Education:**

- The FY22 CE Committee includes Debra Greenacre/Manistee and Tiffany Haight/Shelby. Please let them know of your CE needs for the year. They will focus on resources/trainings for MMLL staff.
- As usual, the MMLL Newsletter will have lots of links to training opportunities that are conducted virtually, available either as self-paced learning or via a live session.

**eResources:**

- [Up North Digital](#) (OverDrive consortium) currently has 32 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. The non-participants are Chase, Mancelona, Walkerville, and Wheatland. The upcoming ARPA capacity grant for content will provide e-resources via OverDrive. Our non-participating libraries will need to make a decision about participation.
- The Up North Digital contract will renew for the calendar year in late December, and members will be billed in January for participation. The unlimited eMagazines will be included for 2022.
- Transparent Language Online will be extended through FY22 for all MMLL member patrons. Libraries should point to <https://library.transparent.com/westmichiganmi/>. On the MMLL website (<https://www.mml.org/a/transparent-language-online>) find flyers and other resources for TLO.

### **Grants:**

- The FY22 Grants Committee (Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, Kathleen Rash/Hart, and Laura Marion/Missaukee) has met and produced materials for the FY22 program. There will be two rounds and the first was announced Monday 11/15. See the website at <https://www.mml.org/a/grants>.
- The two LSTA ARPA funds submitted by the library cooperatives have now been funded – one for content that will flow through OverDrive consortia in the state, and the other to provide technology kits for public libraries for programming and enhancing technology for patrons. Stay tuned as these roll out – more information will be forthcoming.
- We received notification of funding for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) application we submitted on behalf of 25 member libraries! Total funding committed to us is **\$115,995.13** and we will begin to order resources and work with Janelle Morgan of Elite Fund to roll out this program.

### **Tech Assistance:**

- “Emergency Geek” Cory Walker has agreed to continue assisting MMLL member libraries in FY22. Each MMLL member library began the year (10-1-21) with four hours of tech support plus mileage. If a library needs further hours, they can check to see if there are “extra” donated by other members they can use, or if not, they can pay Cory a discounted hourly rate of \$40. [Contact Cory](#) to schedule!
- 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 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. See [www.michigan.gov/libraryce](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryce).

### **Travel/Meetings/Leave:**

- Attended open house at Glen Lake Community Library – great expansion!
- Maker kit/3D printer pickup and delivery trips...
- Co-op directors are involved in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) training with the Michigan Department of Civil Service. The co-op directors are committed to working with MDCS as a core group in support of DEI.
- MLA has a program called “Think Space” that forms a cohort each year to think deeply about specific issues relating to library service. I applied for a subsidy to attend and was given \$500 off. Sessions run December 9-10 in Grand Rapids, May 18-19 in Boyne City, February of 2022 for a virtual check-in, and an in-person confab and the 2022 MLA conference.

*~ Sheryl*

Sheryl L. Mase  
MMLL director