

**Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
September 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 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.

***Who will step up to chair the Advisory Council for FY22?

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.
- ***We need a Continuing Education Committee for FY22.
- 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. A recording of the speakers from Library of Michigan will be provided to those unable to attend.

eResources:

- The [Up North Digital/OverDrive](#) currently has 32 of the 36 MMLL members participating, plus one affiliate – Missaukee. Non-participants are Chase, Mancelona, Walkerville, and Wheatland. A letter has gone out to these four libraries encouraging them to join. eMagazines will be added for the whole consortium in 2022.
- 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.
- ***We need an eResources Committee for FY22 to 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.

Grants:

- The FY21 Grants Committee was Diane Eisenga/McBain, Tracy Logan-Walker/Cadillac, and Kathleen Rash/Hart. ***We need a Grants Committee for FY22

- 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. Two capacity grants for public libraries were 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.

Tech Assistance:

- “Emergency Geek” [Cory Walker](#) will continue to serve MMLL member libraries in FY22. Each MMLL member library will begin the year with four hours of tech support plus mileage.
- 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:

- The Reed City Area District Library hired a new director, Melissa Rohen. Welcome Melissa!
- The Glen Lake Community Library passed their millage renewal in August. Congratulations! They will now engage in strategic planning with an outside facilitator.
- The director of the Big Rapids Community Library got married and has a new last name! Hello and congratulations, Lauren Perkins!

On the Horizon:

- The MMLL Annual Meeting will be an in-person luncheon held at Caberfae Peaks 9-22-21. The FY22 budget and Plan of Service will be approved during the Board meeting.
- 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. Beginning Workshop will be the same.
- 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.
- Several member libraries are struggling with how to approach programming for the fall in light of the COVID persistence in the community. Most are back to requiring masking and social distancing, and will offer take-home craft kits for the children.
- Efforts are underway to make sure each member library’s director and their Boards are aware of the legislation under which their library was formed, and that they are operating accordingly. Many libraries need to update their service contracts and Board bylaws.

~ Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director