

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



**Administrative:**

FY22 is almost over. FY23 is October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

FY23 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)

\*Need to renew or name new representative – terms are 3 years

See MMLL [Board page](#).

**State Aid:**

- The cooperative received the final State Aid direct payment for 2022 and has invoiced the membership for their indirect/co-op aid payments. This year has been delayed.
- Unfortunately, four member libraries had a reduction in State Aid owing to a lack of local support in some areas:
  - M. Alice Chapin Memorial (Marion) Library – Winterfield Twp.
  - Walkerville Public/School Library – Colfax Twp.
  - Walton Erickson Public Library – Austin Twp., Mecosta Twp., Winfield Twp.
  - Leland Township Library – Centerville Twp., Cleveland Twp.
- The indirect/co-op aid is essential to the cooperative's budget, and the local support is essential to public library service and library budgets. In the coming year, Library of Michigan staff will be focusing on this local support and strongly encouraging all public libraries in Michigan to make sure everyone is paying an equitable amount for library service.

**Trustee Information:**

- Library of Michigan trustee resources: [www.michigan.gov/librarytrustee](http://www.michigan.gov/librarytrustee)
- [United for Libraries](#) (ALA trustee division – resources provided to Michigan library trustees by Library of Michigan) – held virtual conference August 9-11, resources posted online
- [Trustee Training 102: Advanced Trustee 09/20/2022 01:00 PM - 02:30 PM ET](#)
- See <https://www.mirighttoread.com/> and <https://www.milibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-toolkit>

**Continuing Education:**

- Look for a cooperative-wide survey that will include questions about desired trainings, workshops, resources for professional development, etc.
- The Loleta Fyan Small & Rural Libraries Conference has been on hiatus. The Library of Michigan has stated that they will not hold the conference in 2023 or 2024. The Library Cooperative Director's Association and MLA are looking into the *possibility* of organizing the conference in Spring of 2024, stay tuned.

**Grants:**

- The new FY23 budget includes an increase to the MMLL Library Service Expansion and Mini-Grants Program, which has been appreciated and successful for many years now. Consider volunteering to be on next year's Grants Committee.
- The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program information is posted on our website: <https://www.mml.org/a/grants/emergency-connectivity-fund>. No word yet on the application funding announcement for the final round of the program. We still hope to get another 12 months of data service for the WiFi hotspots for member libraries asking to be included.

**eResources:**

- Transparent Language Online (<https://www.mml.org/a/transparent-language-online>) will be renewed for all members in FY23 as a service of the cooperative.
- The FY23 budget has uncommitted funds that may be used for shared co-op-wide e-resources or other agreed upon services to serve the membership.

**Tech Assistance:**

- We have a new annual agreement with "Emergency Geek" [Cory Walker](#) for FY23, and all libraries begin the year with four hours of tech support. Contact the director if you would like to donate yours to the "pool." See <https://www.mml.org/a/tech-corner>.
- Member libraries are urged to build into their budgets ongoing maintenance funds and replacement costs for technology, an integral part of public library service.

**Legal Assistance:**

- Added just this year, every member library receives one hour of legal services paid for by the co-op and provided by Foster, Swift, Collins & Swift Attorneys. This, similar to the grants program, is based on a reimbursement process. Unused hours may be donated into the "pool" so others may use them. You must send a Board approved form letter to get services started. Hours expire at the end of each fiscal year and then renew, with all members receiving one hour annually.
- See <https://www.mml.org/a/legal-assistance>.

**Final Thoughts:**

- It has been a pleasure to serve as your cooperative director these past seven years!
- I have been in contact with, and already beginning to impart lots of information to, your new director, Jennifer Balcom. She will be your next great resource – don't forget the co-op has your back!

*~Sheryl*

Sheryl L. Mase  
MMLL director