

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association  
Report for Library of Michigan Board of Trustees  
February 2022

Below are individual reports from the Cooperative Directors.

The cooperative directors are working together on several issues: DEI, continuing education programs, service plans, succession plans, updating our website, coordinating and administering the capacity grants, and working together on other issues whenever and wherever we can...mostly on Zoom.

I look forward to meeting and seeing you all in person if the weather permits or I will join you by the phone.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dawe,  
MCDA President and Director, Lakeland Library Cooperative

**COOPERATIVE REPORTS:**

**Detroit Library Cooperative--Jo Anne Mondowney**

- **DPL COVID-19 Update**
  - Prior to the Library's November 23, 2021, implementation of a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy, 88% of the DPL workforce was fully vaccinated. Following the policy's implementation, the percentage of vaccinated employees increased to 98%. Unfortunately, the transmissible omicron variant coupled with the low vaccination rate in the city of Detroit, affects staffing levels throughout the library system. To date, there have been reductions in public service hours because of staff testing positive and/or being exposed to COVID-19 variants.
- **Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Home Test Kits for the Public**
  - On February 1, 2022, the DPL will distribute free COVID-19 home tests provided by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Test kits will be available at Main Library and the Campbell, Douglass, Edison, Jefferson, Parkman, Redford and Wilder branches.
- **Wayne Health Mobile Unit**
  - In September 2021, the Wayne Health Mobile Unit began visiting four DPL branches, Wilder, Redford, Jefferson and Edison, to provide free COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. These visits are continuing through January and February. During the visits, the public also can obtain free diabetes, cholesterol and kidney function screenings.
- **Detroit Public Library - Michigan Science Center Partnership**
  - The Michigan Science Center, in partnership with DPL, received a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to bring STEM programs directly to families. "MiSci in a Box," a do-it-yourself home STEM Kit with all the materials needed to explore the aerodynamics. Kits are available for pick up at Main Library's Children's Library, and the Campbell, Edison, Jefferson, Parkman, Redford, Wilder branches.

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- **Accounting Aid Society Tax Program**

- The Accounting Aid Society is offering free tax preparation in Main Library's first floor Galleria, Mondays – Saturdays, January 22 – April 18, 2022. Appointments are required and must be made by contacting the Accounting Aid Society. Masks are required and all other Library COVID-19 protocols will be enforced.

- **DPL Community Report**

- The library's 2020/21 Community Report is available online at [detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://detroitpubliclibrary.org). Because of COVID-19 limitations, the report is only available on the website.

### **Lakeland Library Cooperative--Carol Dawe**

- All 42 libraries completed their state aid reports. The Library of Michigan staff are always so helpful and patient and this year was like no other in recent years for many reasons. Of the 42 reporting, 12 directors are new to their positions since the last state aid window opened, 3 libraries have vacancies, and one library has a "director select" until June. This is a 38% change and to that end, we will be conducting a New Directors Orientation via Zoom on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Lakeland staff and board are working closely with all directors and their staff members to help them face the continuing challenge of Covid-19, First Amendment audits, materials challenges, leaky roofs, OMA questions and many other issues. I am also working on board training and development with several libraries.
- Our ad hoc membership committee is exploring ways to clarify and define expectations, responsibilities and guidelines as communities investigate contractual relationships with member libraries.
- Member libraries have received over \$225,000 in equipment and capacity grants for technology and digital content.
- As Administrator of the MI-83 Digital Library Content Grant, I am pleased to announce that all 11 standalone public libraries (not affiliated with a shared digital content group) have purchased almost \$40,000 in Overdrive content. The next group of 60 libraries will be trained on February 8<sup>th</sup> and will have a 2-week purchasing window. This group will be selecting over \$100,000 in materials for their individual libraries. The final group will consist of the 11 content groups that will purchase on behalf of approximately 330 libraries. All in total, over \$800,000 in digital content will be purchased through the Library of Michigan ARPA Capacity Grant Program. Funding is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan, an agency of the Michigan Department of Education.
- We are working on group purchases for summer online reading programs. We also hope to have Patron Point up and running before summer so that online registration will be easy and accessible to all patrons. Our Mobile App vendor, Capira has had a number of upgrades that will provide enhancements for users as well.
- There will be an ILS server migration in late February.
- Our Continuing Education Committee is going to focus on working with libraries to share their best practices, most creative programs etc. to highlight all the positive in the last two years.

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- Think Space, which has multiple sessions scheduled for the next several months, was attended by 6 Lakeland library directors and myself. The focus is on DEI for public libraries and this first session in December was instructive, insightful, and so important on so many levels.

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative--Eric Palmer**

- Flint Public Library (FPL) has closed their temporary location at the Courtland Center in Burton, Mi and are in the process of moving everything back into the newly renovated building on Kersley Street in Downtown Flint. There will be many new additions to the building including meeting rooms and study rooms. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, they had to delay their Grand Reopening till sometime in April 2022.
- Vernon District Public Library director Cheryl Davenport retired at the end of last year. And the Board did a search for a new Director and they selected Jo Anna Lincoln, who had been a branch manager with Community District Library.
- Through the Mi-83 Equipment Grant MMLC members will be awarded over \$158,000 dollars if everyone gets everything thing on their wish list. Through the Mi-83 Digital Grant, MMLC members will be awarded over \$55,000 to spend on digital material through Overdrive.
- Eric is part of the MLA Think Space, which had their first two-day conference in Grand Rapids in the beginning of December. Other members of MMLC that are part of MLA Think Spare are the Directors of Genesee District Library, Capital Area District Library, Flint Public Library, Public Libraries of Saginaw and Bay County Library System. The theme is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in libraries and will be working on this training throughout the year.
- At the MCDA meeting Eric accepted the position of Vice-Chair and will also chair the Continuing Education group. He is currently working with the group to do some brainstorming on ideas for virtual webinars for libraries. Eric is hoping to have one or maybe two virtual webinars a year on different subjects that will help all libraries in Michigan.

**Mid-Michigan Library League--Sheryl Mase**

- Our service areas are still dealing with a very high incidence of Covid-19. District Health Department No. 10 reported the highest number of new cases in a single day – 618 on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Most libraries are still open but asking patrons to mask up, with varied responses. Many staff have been infected, causing short staffing and some closures.
- We were approved for an Emergency Connectivity Fund group application for 25 of our members, and finally libraries are getting the equipment to circulate to patrons – laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, and WiFi hot spots from various carriers.
- Our member libraries have also benefitted from the ARPA grants, currently in distribution. Here is a summary of total funds benefitting our membership:
  - Emergency Connectivity Fund = \$115,995
  - MI-83 TLC Kits Grant = \$101,433
  - MI-83 DLC Content Credit = \$87,725
  - **GRAND TOTAL = \$305,153** (More than the MMLL annual budget revenues!!!)

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- Both Hart and Pentwater accepted an offer by MDHHS to distribute Covid test kits in a pilot program. Supply is limited and this program was rolled out in a very limited way, but hopefully this will be successful and future collaborations will be coordinated and well communicated. Now the federal government has launched a program in which people can sign up to receive Covid test kits in the mail: <https://www.covidtests.gov>
- We are offering new rounds of mini-grants, tech support hours, an employee assistance program for all member library staff, RIDES payment coverage, updated programming kits, and an online language resource for everyone to offer their patrons. This has been a trying time for library staff.

**Northland Library Cooperative--Linda Adams**

- **Plan of Service Committee** established to review and update document.
- **Alcona and Oscoda Libraries** are working to move from a County Library establishment type to District Libraries.
- **e-Rate contract** for nine rural libraries for an Internet Service Provider.
- **Up North Digital Consortium** (Overdrive)- eMagazines were added to the subscription. A reconsideration form was added and collection development policy was reviewed.
- **NLC Enhancement and Continuing Education Grants** awarded to libraries.
- **Year in Tech** Workshop Series by Beth Z: A series of six tech programs concluded in December. The series was offered to directors, staff and trustees.
- **Ongoing:** Northland Chats via Zoom on select topics. Responded to questions on ARPA Grants. Member of the MLA Marketing Committee. Continued support to the five new directors who started in 2021. Libraries continue to struggle with covid/staffing issues. Visits to member libraries and responding to calls and emails on issues of concern.

**Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative Report--Andrea Estelle**

- Sturgis District Library has recently finished a renovation. Portage District Library and South Haven libraries are also doing renovations currently.
- Director Jessica Ishmael of Lincoln Twp Library is resigning so that position will be posting soon.
- SMLC is working on Overdrive model and possible updates to member contributions based on circulation. Our Overdrive consortium has been trying to resolve issues with large numbers of holds on popular titles. We will hold a special meeting in February to vote on changing Overdrive contributions based on member circulation.
- We are working on transitioning a new coop treasurer. The SMLC treasurer also oversees cooperative grants.
- SMLC's 2021 audit presentation will be held at our February board meeting.



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**Suburban Library Cooperative--Tammy Turgeon**

- The Suburban Library Cooperative ended its year-long shared library marketing campaign with a celebration of #LibraryShelfieDay. The "Libraries: Your Bridge to the World" campaign provided a press release and two social media posts for member libraries to use to promote their library and services. The program can help to inform MLA on successes/challenges for the upcoming statewide marketing campaign for the ARPA grants.
- The Cooperative issued twelve \$1,000 grants to its member libraries for Early Literacy Projects. The libraries will share successes to inform all members on the most effective ways to meet the needs of the youngest residents and their caregivers.
- The Cooperative has almost completed adding all of the school districts in our service area to our Virtual Library Card program. This should be completed by June 2022. More information can be found at [virtuallibrarycard.org](http://virtuallibrarycard.org) .
- The Cooperative's GoLibraryCard program has picked up again as venues and businesses open back up. This program provides discounts to library card holders at various businesses in the area. More information can be found at [golibrarycard.org](http://golibrarycard.org) .
- The Cooperative is working with Macomb Community College to provide a one-day Lean Six Sigma training for interested member libraries.
- The Cooperative is reviewing alternate automation systems and discovery services due to its current shared automation system contract with SirsiDynix expiring in October 2022.
- The Cooperative added a Cataloging Intern position to assist with keeping the shared catalog records up to date and accurate.

**Superiorland Library Cooperative--Dillon Geshel**

- We are working on digital materials collection development policies, as well as a request for reconsideration of digital materials form. These policies will guide Superiorland staff and member libraries in their selection of titles in our shared OverDrive consortium, and ensure a process is in place for any individual member libraries that receive material challenge requests.
- Ten of our member libraries have either launched Kanopy for their patrons or are working through the enrollment process. Superiorland is offering a 15% discount to participating libraries overall costs.
- Superiorland has extended contracts with two internet consortium's that serve many of our member libraries. We've also been working with our Erate consultant to file FY2022 forms, and assisting independent libraries with their filing as well.
- All member libraries have finished and submitted their state aid reports. I am happy to share that we have helped one of our former member libraries complete a state aid application after a one-year lapse in their reporting. Thank you to Kathy Webb and Joe Hamlin for fielding so

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many questions from me during the state aid application window!

- Superiorland staff have hosted several trainings for member libraries over the last couple of months, including sessions on accessibility features in OverDrive's Libby app, accessing digital magazines in Libby, accessing other consortium's OverDrive collections via the Reciprocal Lending Agreement, and accessing eResources in our Enterprise catalog.
- After a mostly inactive 2021, Superiorland's Programming Committee has reformed to support summer reading programs. Superiorland will provide mini grants for summer reading materials and help facilitate the scheduling of discounted summer reading performers this summer.
- In November, the Hatchett Book Group reinstated Superiorland's ability to purchase the publisher's titles for our OverDrive consortium. For most of 2021, Hatchett would not make these titles available to us.
- Beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>, Superiorland's Recording Booth at the Peter White Public Library in Marquette will be available for public use. The recording booth is also used by Superiorland's Great Lakes Talking Books staff to record local books that are then made available in the National Library Service's catalog for the blind and print disabled.
- In February, I'll be presenting at a library's staff in-service event on first amendment audits, developing a customer service philosophy and the importance of role-playing exercises in preparation for difficult patron interactions. A version of the presentation will also be recorded and made available to all member libraries.

## **The Library Networks--Steven Bowers**

- **TLN Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives**
  - We held our most recent member forum in the fall, titled: "Equity Vs. Equality: A Facilitated DEI Discussion." Several members participated in the TLN learning event. The presentation from the event was later [recorded and posted \(vimeo.com/showcase/7590030/video/658678271\)](https://vimeo.com/showcase/7590030/video/658678271) with related materials for members and others to use. TLN has sent the recording information to all library cooperatives and has offered to do a similar session with their members if they are interested. We are currently in the planning to do the participatory session for another cooperative.
  - A staff in-service training day was held in November where the staff participated in discussion and learning about micro-aggressions. This "Conscious Leadership" session was facilitated by [Volar Consulting \(www.volarconsulting.com\)](http://www.volarconsulting.com). A separate similar session was held with the full TLN Board in the new year.
  - In January, TLN held its first support group meeting for TLN member library people of color. The initial meeting was well received, and the group intends to meet monthly. TLN will continue to consult and meet with the group to provide the support they are looking for from the cooperative.
  - TLN has contracted with [NEW \(www.new.org/\)](http://www.new.org/) to offer a workshop series to assist our

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libraries on self-assessment and development of integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion into policies and practices. In particular, the series of three workshops will explore principles and practices for cultivating a culture of belonging. Together, participants will be grounded in a shared understanding of critical concepts by developing inclusive ways of being, reflecting on organizational and community make up, and establishing equitable policies. The monthly series began in January. Participants were given a self-review homework assignment to prepare for the series and participated virtually, online, in small group discussions.

- The TLN Board established the Library Equity Access Fund (LEAF) this year and set policy for use of the fund. The purpose of LEAF is to provide financial assistance to one or more member libraries each year to further equitable access to resources through the cooperative. The LEAF includes money to be awarded to member libraries that need funding to participate in TLN initiatives, projects, services, and programs.

- **Working with Partners**

- We were pleased to hear official word from Metroparks in December that their Board approved funding the TLN hotspots program for another calendar year, in 2022. The program distributes 80 unlimited data hotspot devices to libraries in TLN for use by the public. The TLN office is reviewing usage data and plans to get hotspots to a few more libraries this year if they do not have any. Additional funding will come from the TLN Library Equity Access Fund (LEAF).

- **ARPA Update**

- Through the Library of Michigan ARPA Capacity Grant Program, the TLN MI-83TLC Kits project received requests from 255 Michigan public libraries, all of which will receive materials from the program. TLN is in the ordering and delivery stage of our grant, with materials for the project going out statewide to libraries, January – May. Informational flyers and videos are currently being created for distribution with materials and a [project overview \(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-pE9IobS4SW5-PKzQj-PwlFSyT-kWGOOf/view?usp=sharing\)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-pE9IobS4SW5-PKzQj-PwlFSyT-kWGOOf/view?usp=sharing) was sent out to participating libraries. Work has begun on the statewide marketing campaign as well, with Blohm Creative Partners.

- **FRBR Catalog Launched**

- The shared system catalog was updated to incorporate displays using Functional Requirements of Bibliographic Requirements (FRBR). TLN is the fourth CARL site to go live with the FRBR system, which conveniently groups all of the libraries' items for a shared title under one record making it easier for the user to find materials. Shared system libraries have heard lots of positive feedback from their library users.

## **White Pine Library Cooperative--Kate Van Auken**

- Working with Lakeland, Woodlands, and Mid-Michigan Library League on the ARPA digital content grant rollout. Adding another of our members to OverDrive which was sparked by the ARPA digital content grant funds.

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- Training White Pine's new Office Manager. Since she doesn't have a library background, she attended the MLCS MARC Records class and is working through the Beginning Workshop Pathway and the New Directors Workshop Pathway on LOM Niche Academy.
- Putting together a series of technology programs for members which will run through December.
- Starting a DEI workgroup with members of the MCDA. Our first meeting is scheduled for February 8.
- Meeting with MLA Nominating Committee to help finalize recommendation. Also am serving on the MLA Bylaw Review Ad Hoc Committee.
- Working on compiling State Aid statistics for members which they then share with their Boards.
- Helping members with State Aid, budgeting questions, some FOIA requests, and Board issues.

**Woodlands Library Cooperative--Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director**

- Kate aided the Friends of Michigan Libraries with a statewide membership survey that received nearly 200 responses. Future programming and membership development is happening.
- We are patiently awaiting the arrival of 224 Labor Law Poster sets that we ordered on behalf of Michigan's public libraries
- In December, Kate participated in MLA new cohort, Think Space, which will focus on equity, diversity, accessibility, and belonging over the next year.
- Woodlands' fantastic Administrative Assistant, Laura Claucherty, celebrated twenty years with the cooperative in December. We are so very lucky to have her on our team; Kate would be lost without her!
- In the beginning stages of setting up strategic planning sessions with two, possibly three member libraries over the next few months.
- Just this week, I ran a board orientation session with a member library board, in person, for the first time in two years. It was energizing and thrilling to be back out in the field after all this time.