

**Advisory Council Meeting**

**August 8, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**[Manistee County Library](#)**

**Meeting Notes:**

1. Introductions: who are you and what exciting new things are you working on?
  - Mary Barker, Pentwater Township Library - homecoming activities during the week, will walk in the parade. This coming February is the 165<sup>th</sup> birthday of the library – they are working on their history and will focus on donations with a number that means something to people (give \$165 since the library is that old, for example). They are doing the Human Kind program and will have an open house with taste of Cuba Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Susan Labelle, Benzie Shores District Library, Frankfort – Things are going well at BSDL, fundraising for an addition. Susan is also an MMLL Board member, representing Group 2 libraries - let her know what feedback you have for co-op services so she can advocate for you.
  - Renee Snodgrass, West Shore Community College, Anderson Library – will be doing MeL database training Friday Sept 6 Friday with Theresa Runyan and others are welcome. The schools are a bit hard to reach with their schedules, but MeL training is for all. The Human Kind program has been a focus at WSCC and the group encouraged Renee to speak about the program at the next Rural Libraries Conference (April 13-April 15, 2020 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan).
  - Patti Skinner, Scottville Branch of Mason County District Library, AC chair - has been the Advisory Council chair for more than two years, planning regional meetings, and informing the annual meeting content and location/menu, etc. Patti is busy and getting her library degree and looking forward to someone else taking the lead. ;-)
  - Thomas Trahey, Mason County District Library, Ludington, new Circulation Manager – this is his first meeting and he is excited to see how libraries change over time and stay relevant. He has seen change in the past and it has shifted his view of libraries.
  - Eric Smith, Mason County District Library, Ludington – Eric spoke more about the Human Kind program established by Brooke at West Shore Community College Humanities Dept. It is focused on people on the fringes such as Muslim women, sub Saharan Africans, etc..... Ruth Behar, a Cuban poet and children’s book author who is teaching at U-M will do a program at MCDL in Ludington.
  - Debra Greenacre, Manistee County Library – They have had and will continue with lots of renovations to the main building in Manistee. They have made the reference area open and inviting and have a new teen space with comfy chairs, computers, and a bistro table. Next – new carpet! Also computer tables, chairs in tech area, painted shelving. Five other locations – branches had trust for 20 years. Now \$ can come back to main library for needed work. Debra is contracting with MCLS for strategic planning and is also doing customer service training.

2. Who will step up as next year's Advisory Council Chairperson? We have had co-chairs in the past, so if you want to partner, say the word!
3. Who is interested in serving on the CE committee? The director and Board need input from the membership! That committee will work on the answers to the following questions:
  - a. *Are the maker kits still viable?*
  - b. *What is the next good thing the cooperative can do for its members?*
  - c. *MMLL supports the Rural Libraries Conference and Small Libraries/Big Impact conferences each spring, but what else do you want locally?*
  - d. *Do you watch webinars or go to in-person training?*
  - e. *What topics and type of training do you want?*Debra Greenacre said she will serve. Remaining on the committee (we think) are Patti Skinner, Tracy Logan-Walker, Amanda McLaren.
4. This year's annual meeting will be held at The Lake House, a new venue in Ludington. There will be poster sessions at the beginning of the meeting and people can meet and discuss various ideas that have been successful for different members. There will be a presentation about branding and promoting your brand consistency in messaging by Chris VanWyke, lunch provided by restaurant Table 14, and an author presentation by Natalie Ruth Joynton, author of *Welcome to Replica Dodge*. Finally, there will be the Board meeting. Sheryl made a big thank you to Patti for all her work as Advisory Council Chair!!!
5. Do members want to pursue any new group discounts? Debra is considering a new ILS (they use TLC now) and was asking if the cooperative had considered a shared ILS. Sheryl mentioned that when she worked at the Library of Michigan, they gave this cooperative two LSTA grants for the purpose of setting up a shared ILS, but when she arrived it had devolved into individual libraries on Auto-Graphics and software that the central office was paying for but not using. The advantage of a shared system might be to do local ILL first before going to MeL but still using RIDES for delivery. Another advantage would be shared cataloging, and potentially reduced costs. The group wondered whether Apollo has a shared system option. Eric and Sheryl agreed to follow up. Mary asked about audiobooks on CD – books on tape is discontinuing the nice cases. Others referred her to Recorded books and TDI micromarketing.
6. Are members interested in the 30K+ RBdigital eAudiobook collection as a benefit of membership? [We have extra mini-grant funds to offer OverDrive subsidy to members who either want to join or who will have price increases in the new model.] Sheryl described the RBdigital eAudiobook access that she has built into the draft budget for FY20. It is access for all MMLL libraries' patrons to over 30,000 eAudiobooks that are always available (Netflix model). We have the funds and Sheryl is trying to get even more of a discount. [latest news: we got an extra \$2K reduction in the price, so the annual cost for access would be \$25,000.]

7. We have affiliate members (WSCC Anderson Library, Midland Grace A Dow Library, Missaukee District Library - pending) and if members know of others, please reach out to them! See the “membership” tab on the website – [mml.org](http://mml.org).
8. QSAC – if you have feedback for potential changes, contact Stacy Pasche (Frankfort/Benzie Shores District Library) who is on the QSAC committee.
9. 2020 Census and forming a Complete Count Committee – the Library of Michigan is having informational sessions on the 2020 Census and its importance to library funding and so much more. [Portage District Library – August 23](#), [Peter Whited Public Library – August 28](#), [Chippewa River District Library – August 29](#), [Bloomfield Township Library – September 24](#). The group discussed the process and the fact that they are still hiring for census workers. The latest newsletter has the dates for the census info sessions. An associated question from Mary was about penal fines going down for Pentwater because of the number of vacation and rental homes. It is so hard to budget based on penal fines, especially when you are in a resort community.

**Next meeting:** Annual Luncheon Meeting! Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 10:00 a.m., [The Lake House, Ludington](#).