

In Attendance: Tiffany Haight (Shelby), Quinn Maynard (Shelby), Eric Smith (Ludington), Kay Williams (Hart), Patti Skinner (Scottville), Tom Burnosky (Reed City), Mary Barker (Pentwater), Valerie Church-McHugh (Group 6 Board rep), Lauren Moran (Big Rapids), Chris Cook (Big Rapids), Sheryl Mase (MMLL director)

1. Comments on the annual meeting 2018 – The group discussed the annual meeting and in general people were pleased. The venue and food were good. The bathrooms on a separate level and the stairs were potential issues. Some suggestions for venue for next year were Iron Fish Distillery and Crystal Mountain. Sheryl will compile the feedback and make it available soon.
2. Introducing: Bright Idea Videos – The Continuing Education Committee (Patti Skinner, Tirzah Price, Tracy Logan-Walker, and Amanda McLaren) will be making short instructive videos to post on the cooperative's YouTube Channel. The channel will be shared once it has its initial set of these short topic videos. The committee is asking for topic suggestions. Suggestions include maker kit programming ideas, collection development, customer service, using Librarika, what is the Advisory Council?, Book Riot reviews (Tirzah), best programs, changing ILS (to Apollo – Mary Barker). Niche academy is a resource some libraries use. For those in Up North Digital, they want Overdrive instructional videos on our YouTube channel.
3. Patti asked for any requests for workshops or trainings, in person vs. webinar vs. short vids. Canva training was suggested, to be held in Cadillac. MeL e-resources training is always needed, and we could ask the Library of Michigan staff to come on site or do a cooperative-specific webinar. Tom Burnosky (who used to work for Learning Express) is willing to do a training for our cooperative on Learning Express on MeL. He suggested a half-hour webinar to cover practice tests, resume writing, computer training, and talent inventory – all on the dashboard for learning express. Sheryl will follow up and coordinate with him. Other ideas included Overdrive/Up North Digital specific training; providing reference services at a small public library, to include such topics as genealogy, car repair, legal forms, etc., to focus on moment of need topics (highest incidence of topics, common questions). Those using the Apollo ILS can add direct links to benefit their patrons within context. Consumer health topics could be highlighted and local hospitals made aware of library resources and vice versa. There are many helpful resources on the ALA website. Lauren suggested we create a tab on the MMLL website for Youth resources. We could engage assistance from Cathy Lancaster at the Library of Michigan.
4. More library directors are involving their staff and having them come to the Advisory Council meetings. This group can become the hub of the cooperative. Also discussed was

the concept of buddy libraries or teams of staff who can go out to member libraries to teach them new processes or help with existing workflow, etc., and possibly offer to bring a maker kit and do a sample program Reed City and Big Rapids have both reached to Evert and will continue. Shelby has reached to Walkerville. MCDL has helped Pathfinder. Patti suggested that we may be able to engage a library science intern to assist in these cooperative ventures. Finally, Sheryl mentioned that she will draft a letter to go out to each member library director and Board regarding the services of the cooperative. This draft will be vetted by the Board, most likely at the January 2019 Board meeting, before being mailed out.

5. Mini grants – There will be two rounds of the mini-grant program this fiscal year, and the first one is open and applications are due by December 14th. You can apply for a one-time event up to \$500 or a service improvement project up to \$1,000. The application is EASY and all information is online at <https://mml.ploud.net/a/grants>.
6. Small Libraries, Big Impact – This “SLBI” conference will be held on alternating years from the Loleta Fyan Small and Rural Libraries Conference. There are six library cooperatives involved in supporting this effort, each committing resources in order to keep the cost of attendance down. Small Libraries, Big Impact will be held in Gaylord at the Treetops Resort on April 29-30, 2019. The conference will begin with a lunch and keynote speaker Ben Bizzle (Library Market) on Monday. The dinner speaker that evening will be Anne Seurync (library law attorney). John Chrzka (Everylibrary) is the day 2 keynote in the morning, and the closing speaker will be Eric Guthrie (state demographer). A call for programs for breakouts will be coming soon. Registration will be open after the New Year, and a secured portion of seats will be saved for each of the six cooperatives for a set time to assure balanced registration opportunity.
7. Mary Barker (Pentwater) shared her service club packet of information about making front look less like an entrance. There is an ice rink near the library and they fund raise via advertising on the barricades. It was nice to see the interior re-design of the library, and the group was well-hosted with wonderful food and a comfortable setting. Thanks, Mary!
8. Sheryl talked about the efforts she has been making to contact the ISD/REMC tech directors to try to get them talking about adding public libraries to the MiSEN (State Education Network). We need a “win” to get the ball rolling, and we have a champion at the Mecosta-Osceola ISD – Fred Sharpsteen. Hopefully, Reed City will be able to connect and be our first to connect and have reliable broadband and Internet service for much lower rates. Pentwater received a quote from Merit of \$57,000 to connect ten feet (!!!) – Sheryl will follow up and sort this out. The trenching of the “last mile” can be covered by E-rate.