

Mid-Michigan Library League
Advisory Council Meeting
1-18-18 Notes

Present at the Advisory Council meeting held at the Cadillac Wexford Public Library on January 18, 2018 were: Alycia McKowen (Seville Twp), Patti Skinner (MCDL-Scottville), Tracy Logan Walker (Cadillac), Jean Gaskill (Surrey Twp), Patty Rockafellow (White Pine District), Sherma Horrocks (Richland Twp), Chris Cook (Big Rapids/MMLL Board, Group 8), Jeanette Fleury (MMLL Board, Group 9), Miriam Andrus (Big Rapids), Jennifer Thorson (Reed City), Susan LaBelle (MMLL Board, Group 2), Stacy Pasche (Benzie Shores/Frankfort), Mary Barker (Pentwater), Valerie Church-McHugh (MMLL Board, Group 7), Diane Eisenga (McBain/MMLL Board, Group 4), Eric Smith (MCDL/Ludington/MMLL Board, Group 5), Sheryl Mase (MMLL director)

- The meeting began with a question to the group: Should we try to have regional Advisory Council meetings? What is the reason people do not show up to the meetings in Cadillac?
- A couple reasons people do not attend were conflicts in scheduling (other meetings or events at the same time) and the amount of time and travel to get to the meeting and back seems excessive for the benefit. Also, people are interested in seeing other member libraries.
- The group seemed to like the idea of regional meetings and since there is one already in the works for Groups 8 and 9 in early March, prior to the March 15th MMLL Board meeting, that one could be the first regional AC meeting. Then, prior to the May 17th meeting, the next regional AC meeting could include Groups 5, 6, 7, and maybe 2 and be held in Baldwin (???). Then, prior to the August 16th meeting, the third regional AC meeting could include Groups 1, 3, and 4, perhaps held at Mancelona (???) Each regional meeting would include the Board representatives serving the areas if they are available to attend.
- Per bylaws, the Advisory Council must meet four times per year. The annual meeting counts as one, and these three regional meetings each count as one, plus there have already been two in this fiscal year, so that makes six overall for FY18. Next fiscal year could have a schedule of four regional meetings and then the annual meeting together with the Board.

The group went around the table for introductions and updates:

Eric Smith – Mason County District Library in Ludington is starting to work through QSAC, and Eric is presenting a couple programs at the Rural Libraries Conference (Grand Traverse Resort, March 30-April 2, 2018). We will try to find a time for any MMLL members to gather while at the conference.

Alycia McKowen – Alycia says with a smile “If you don’t know me you should!” Seville Township Library will hold an open house on February 3rd to showcase the extensive work Alycia has done to re-configure the small library to make the most use of the space.

Patti Skinner – In addition to working on QSAC, Patti has been working with high schoolers who are interested in 3D printing. Patti is on the MMLL Maker Team and that group will meet again soon.

Tracy Logan Walker – Tracy has been serving as interim co-director at Cadillac Wexford Public Library, but that will change on Monday, January 22nd, when their new director Denise McKernan begins. Tracy is also on the MMLL Maker Team.

Jean Gaskill – Jean has recently completed a minor renovation at Surrey Township Public Library. Her staff joke that they don't like Jean to leave the building to go visit other libraries because she comes back with more changes in mind! They have a library partnership with the Chippewa River District Library and the tribal library and have a shared catalog and reciprocal borrowing between the libraries. They meet twice a year and tour each other's sites.

Debra Greenacre – Debra has been 2 months at her job as director of the Manistee County Library. She has hands in a lot of things and will be a mover/shaker in our group. A big project she must tackle right away is the millage renewal. They are also working on the website and looking at changes inside the library. Debra is getting inspiration from others she is visiting.

Patty Rockafellow – Now that Patty knows about QSAC, she is working on it slowly but surely. She filed her annual report (yay!) and the White Pine District Library Board is looking at the neighboring property for a possible building expansion.

Sherma Horrocks – They are known for a popular annual program "Santa Saturday" which went well this year. They are looking at budget carefully to see if they can get by without having to make cuts.

Chris Cook – Chris serves as the Big Rapids Community Library in-house IT support and spends a lot of time working with adults and seniors to help them with technology. She teaches classes every week and has gotten a good response.

Jeanette Fleury – Jeanette has been on the MMLL Board for YEARS. She tries hard to engage the region 9 libraries by having meetings that rotate between the libraries, and includes region 8 as well. The meetings are lively and the outcomes have been practical, such as solving RIDES issues, etc.

Miriam Andrus – The Big Rapids Community Library is in a building that used to be the school with adjacent playground, and the library is currently making the first of its kind literacy playground, with each station in the park having an early literacy skill tied to the Every Child Ready to Read initiative. Also in the park will be hammock posts so patrons can check out a hammock from the library and use it in the park, community garden boxes that patrons can use with the seed library, a little free library, an art mosaic outside with lights, and a clay art structure, all nestled among the mature sugar maple trees. Cool!

Jennifer Thorson – Reed City Area District Library hired their new director (Tom Burnosky) in April and changed to a new ILS in October. They recommend that others remember to tell MCLS/Library of Michigan if they are changing their ILS, as MeLCat changes must be made, and also suggests libraries to the NCIP work at the same time instead of later, since this is harder and what they are involved with right now. But, all the work is worth it, she says, as the system is far superior to the NuGen system they had.

Susan LaBelle – Susan is new to the MMLL Board and is the Group 2 rep. Her home library is Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort.

Stacy Pasche – Cathy Carter will be retiring as director of Benzie Shores in June, and Stacy will become the new director. They hope to hire a full-time youth services librarian, which is a position they have wanted for some time. They also have been working on QSAC, and have been doing it for 3-4 years. Stacy reminds everyone that the certification expires, and the measures are updated and some have changed. The class I library rules are a bit easier now. Staff development is important in the revised QSAC measures.

Mary Barker – Pentwater is also doing QSAC and looking at all policies. Since they renovated the interior of the library, they have programming space that allows some nice programs, such as the TEDx salon they did that was free but they needed to acquire a license, which is good for three TED Talks. They had 14 people attend on a winter night – fake news was the topic. The library agrees to show the video and have discussion using the script provided. They collect the patron's emails for a follow-up evaluation from TED.

Valerie Church-McHugh – Valerie is on the Pentwater board and now represents Group 7 on the MMLL board. Pentwater is doing QSAC and did a board self-evaluation from United for Libraries. They decided that areas for development are advocacy and fund raising. Valerie is interested in representing libraries in Michigan's 2nd District, represented by Bill Huizenga, at the ALA Legislative Day May 1-2, 2018.

Diane Eisenga – McBain Community Library has started a preschool story hour, something that was not previously offered. 10-15 kids have been showing up, which is a great response. They are beginning to assemble teams for Battle for the Books, a "bowl" type program that involves McBain (with Missaukee), Houghton Lake, Roscommon, Gaylord, and Richfield libraries. Diane said they have 8 teams assembled, more than ever! Each team has five kids in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade who are responsible for answering questions from 10 books selected by the organizers. They each create their own logo, have a tshirt, and a coach. They have a mock battle then the elimination round, and the final big battle day, held at the Houghton Lake High School auditorium in March (reading month). It is a great program, running for several years now.

Lois Langenburg – Lois is the President of the Board in Luther and represents Group 6 on the MMLL Board.

- Chris Cook reminds folks that she is on the steering committee for RLC, and if you know vendors that should be invited to display in the exhibit area, let her know or point them to the RLC page.
- More discussion ensued regarding the next three meetings. Alycia mentioned that fear of change tends to prevent some of the directors from coming to meetings and participating and that one-to-one visits or conversations might be best.
- The Maker Team will meet and possibly get some demos created to de-mystify the whole maker kit borrowing and programming.
- Patti Skinner suggested that we might want to create a mini webinar series – five minute talks that can be archived and posted online. [There is a slightly dated spreadsheet of library programs with a summary and contact person for each that could be updated and posted.]
- Concerns need to be raised with elected officials on issues important to the provision of public library service, such as net neutrality.
- The group requested training on how to talk to elected officials.
- Debra worked in Colorado and met with a group of 8 libraries that met for lunch and then discussed ideas and solutions to problems. They would rotate locations so they could see each other’s libraries.
- Jeanette took a little “bird walk” to mention that she was at Blodgett hospital and “met” a robot named Rosie walking down the hallway. Rosie can be programmed to go to different parts of the hospital via GPS coordinates and picks up blood for the lab.