



Michigan Cooperative Directors Association Report for Library of Michigan Board of Trustees November 2019

MCDA Activities:

The MCDA sponsored a booth at the Michigan Library Association's annual conference in Novi. We provided multiple opportunities to meet cooperative directors and had handouts detailing the services each cooperative provides. Two beautiful baskets featuring items made in Michigan representing all 11 cooperatives were raffled off.

We will be fine-tuning our strategic plan in December and February.

We will be working with the Library of Michigan to use Niche Academy to provide training opportunities to all our members.

Sheryl Mase from Mid-Michigan Library League will be our new representative to the LSTA Advisory Committee.

Detroit Library Cooperative – JoAnne Mondowney, Director

- Fine Free Policy: On September 1, 2019, the DPL implemented the “no overdue fines” policy approved by the Detroit Library Commission in June. Under the new policy, customers will no longer be charged overdue fines for books and other materials that are returned in good condition. As part of the implementation, unpaid overdue fines were removed from customer records. The average fine forgiven was \$8. The process returned approximately 145,00 library cards to good standing.
- New Mobile Library (Bookmobile) Delivered to DPL: A beautiful, new mobile library was delivered to the Frederick Douglass Branch for Specialized Services on August 26, 2019. The 34-foot long vehicle features two side doors to facilitate the flow of visitors, and an interior system that allows staff to switch out shelves, desks and benches, as needed. The mobile library is built on a 2020 Freightliner chassis that was selected because of its reliable service record and long-duty cycle of 17-20 years.
- 2019 Staff Development Day: On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, DPL staff gathered at Main Library for the 2019 Staff Development Day. The theme for the day was, “We Love What We Do.” The morning’s featured speaker, actor and author Hill Harper, encouraged staff to continue to bring their best efforts and positive attitudes to the Library daily. Part of the day’s program included workshops and the recognition of new employees and milestone staff service anniversaries.
- Book Lovers’ Buffet: Members of DPL-sponsored book clubs and other readers attended DPL’s 2019 Book Lovers’ Buffet, on Friday, October 18, 2019, at Main Library. The evening celebrated the city’s avid adult readers who regularly attend library author programs, participate in book clubs and love nothing better than a conversation about their current favorite book.
- ProjectArt Classes to Continue for 2019-2020 School Year: ProjectArt will offer free art classes for children at the Main Library and the Campbell, Edison, Elmwood Park, Knapp, Parkman and Sherwood Forest branches from September 2019 through June 2020. Each location will host three 1-hour classes each week. This marks DPL’s fourth year of partnership with ProjectArt, which is a New York City-based 501(c)(3) funded by grants and donations. Artwork created by ProjectArt students at Main Library is currently on a west-side Detroit billboard.

- DPL Support for the 2020 Census: DPL sites will serve as 2020 Census Assistance Centers educating customers on the census and supporting them as they complete the online census form. DPL's Mobile Library will participate in various census community events where the public will be able to use the Mobile Library's on-board computers to complete their census form. The Main Library's Technology, Literacy & Career (TLC) Center is promoting the availability of census-taker jobs and will host recruiters for these positions. Most activities will take place from April to mid-July 2020.

Lakeland Library Cooperative – Carol Dawe, Director

- The LLC Annual Meeting was held on October 10th at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. It was our best attended annual meeting in many years with 34 out of 42 member libraries represented.
- We have 16 libraries that are at least partially finest-free. They were featured on WZZM-13 in October. One more library will be finest-free by end of the year.
- We just completed a major server upgrade and now have our ILS hosted in the cloud using AWS. We are also looking at products to enhance the user experience and had 2 vendors conduct morning and afternoon demos in Grand Haven and Belding in order to encourage attendance throughout the cooperative.
- We continue to work on better ways to serve non-residents and compromise on non-resident cards within the Cooperative.
- We conducted a New Director's Orientation in October and held a session for directors on personnel and governance issues.

The Library Network (TLN) – Jim Pletz, Director

- End of the year fiscal activities included closing the book on expenditures for FY2019, starting data tracking for Fiscal Year 2020 and getting the books in order for the November Audit. Audit issues, cited in the FY2019, that could be addressed without expenditure of funds were undertaken. This includes work on ensuring the massive transaction with Cooperative "pass thru" of book purchases on behalf of member libraries.
- The new integrated library system, provided by The Library Corporation (TLC), launched in May of 2019, is now a little over a year old. Complaints and concerns are at minimal levels as staff adjust to new terms and methods, for essentially the same task(s) performed by the SIRSI/Dynix ILS Software.
- Workshop leaders have been finalized for the kickoff of the Leadership 101 series, the feature staff development series in FY 2020. The series will focus on pragmatic skill development, sorely missing in library school curriculum topics include facility management and planning, Human Resource best practices and basic budgeting for new administrators. Effort has been undertaken to make the workshops relevant to library directors, assistant directors and professional support staff.

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative – Eric Palmer, Director

- Eric Palmer MMLC new director started on 10/1. Had his first Advisory Council meeting with his library Directors and it went very well. Also attended his first CALL meeting in Lapeer and a couple of meetings with Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)

- MMLC director attended the 2019 MLA in Novi, MI where two libraries received awards: Capital Area District Library received the 2019 State Librarian's Excellent Award for superior customer service. Danielle Di Amico from Bay County Library System was awarded the Rising Star award.
- Attended the new cooperative directors' orientation with the Library of Michigan.
- MMLC director is trying to get out to visit all his libraries over the next few months, with 12 of them already scheduled.
- Irene Bancoft has already booked nearly 600 programs for 2019-20 year.
- We have a new library added to the cooperative starting 10/1/19, Harrison District Library.
- Starting this month, MMLC will be offering their members a \$500 grant to book a program through the cooperative during any of the months except June, July and August. This is to help to try to balance out programs throughout the year.

Mid-Michigan Library League – Sheryl Mase, Director

- FY20 is off to a good start! We had a nice turn-out for the annual meeting in September and we have new Advisory Council co-chairs who will do their best to engage the members, so we are able to provide services to match their needs. The cooperative and members are working on state aid reports and having annual audits.
- Membership benefits for this year include access to the extended collection of over 30,000 downloadable eAudiobooks from RBdigital, as well as Transparent Language Online, and four hours of paid tech support for each member by the "Emergency Geek." We also provide a "Library Service Enhancement & Mini Grant" Program, assistance with Board trainings, strategic planning, and policy development.
- Libraries: Glen Lake Community Library is in temporary quarters, with the main library under remodeling. Benzie Shores District Library is fundraising for an addition. Cadillac Wexford Public Library will soon open the new location for their Mesick branch, and soon the Manton branch will begin construction on a new building. Mason County District Library's UnBound project has been successful in allowing student ID card numbers as public library cards and delivering materials directly to the various locations for student requests. Manistee County Library has engaged MCLS staff for community engagement strategic planning this year.

Northland Library Cooperative – Roger Mendel, Director

- Northland has a new director Linda Adams assumed the position October 1, 2019. Linda was the Director of the Charlevoix Public Library.
- The Suttons Bay Library has open Director position, and a new director has taken the position at the Indian River library. Rudy Wright formerly with the Parchment Library assumed duties in mid-October.

- Services offered to member libraries remain the same as the previous year except for a new arrangement for libraries participating in the UpNorth digital program will see more of their dollars going into contest.

Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative – John Mohny/Andrea Estelle

- Andrea Estelle, Director of the Otsego District Library, has been hired as the new Director of SMLC. John Mohny will retire on December 31.
- Performer's Showcase was held on September 24 at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center. John hired Joel Tacey to run it. 30 librarians watched 12 performers.
- Michael Mok, from the Friends of Michigan Libraries, spoke to the SMLC Council at our October 8 meeting in Otsego about FOML and the Trustees Alliance.
- The Dowagiac District Library held an Open House on October 10 to celebrate the groundbreaking of a library expansion and renovation which should be complete on November 6, 2020.
- A Directors' Meeting will be held on November 14 at the Paw Paw District Library at 2:00. Jim Flury from TLN is scheduled to talk about the Michigan Activity Pass program and Jim Jonaitis will talk about the 2020 U. S. Census.

Suburban Library Cooperative – Tammy Turgeon, Director

- SLC continues to work on our new library discount program titled GoLibraryCard. The program will provide discounts at participating restaurants/businesses when residents show their library cards. The website has been launched (golibrarycard.org) and local businesses are being contacted to participate in the program.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative hosted 105 library staff from around the state for a workshop by Ryan Dowd, author of "The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone" on September 10th and 11th at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. The Cooperative would suggest that the Library of Michigan look at purchasing the online version of this training for all the libraries in Michigan.
- Center Line Public Schools and Eastpointe Community Schools have now provided student data and will now be participating in the Cooperative's Virtual Library Card program. All students in these two school districts will be provided with virtual library cards to access the library's digital resources. This is in addition to the nine school districts that are already participating.
- SLC provided administrative support for the Metro Detroit Book & Author Society's 95th luncheon. Four authors spoke about their books to an audience of over 750 people.

Superiorland Library Cooperative – Shawn Andary, Director

- The UPRLC Annual Conference was held on September 18 and 19 at the Peter White Public Library. Michelle Bradley from MCLS presented the highly interactive keynote “Appreciative inquiry: A Powerful Way to Create Positive Change” on September 18 , and Megan Buck, Director of the Dickinson County Library, and Lisa Waskin, Director of the Superior District Library, presented the keynote session on Thursday titled “Do You Mind? Library Etiquette for the Library and Life.” The annual UPRLC business meeting also took place, and for the first time ever, part of the meeting was conducted while Chair Marc Boucher talked like a pirate after being alerted that September 19 is National Talk Like a Pirate Day.

- New members nominated and elected to the UPRLC Executive Council at the business meeting were Megan Parish, Director of the Bay Mills Community College Library; Erin Matas, Faculty Engagement and Research Support Librarian at Michigan Tech University; and Jessica Holman, Director of the Negaunee Public Library.
- The Superiorland Library Cooperative Board met on Thursday, September 26 to approve the FY 2019/2020 Budget and Schedule of Services for the coming year. We do anticipate that some additional changes and revisions may be made after the Advisory Board of Librarians provides additional feedback in November.
- Superiorland Library Cooperative's Programming Mini-Grants for Fall will be announced on Monday, November 4. Cooperative members may apply for grant money to assist in public programming.

White Pine Library Cooperative – Kate Van Auken, Director

- Attended three Legislative Coffee Hours at member libraries. Discussions included penal fine transparency and all-around advocacy for libraries.
- We have begun to create videos for libraries all over the state on how to request items through OCLC via White Pine. White Pine pays for an annual subscription and provides this service to any library in MI that cannot locate items via MelCat.
- Our Annual Meeting, “White Pine Wednesday”, held on October 9, went very well. Nearly 70 librarians and Trustees were in attendance to listen to our State Archivist, an interior design consultant, Clare Membiela talking about “Bad Board Situations”, and author Tom Carr.
- Very proud and excited that Sandy Johnson and her staff at Howe Memorial Library in Breckenridge were recognized at MLA during the State Librarian’s Luncheon with a Citation of Excellence Award.
- Attended a LM Orientation day for new Cooperative Directors.
- Have visited over half of White Pine’s 48 libraries and continue to be amazed at the wonderful events and programming libraries across our state are providing to their communities. Have also learned that librarians are fiercely proud of their offerings, their staff, and their facilities!
- Continue to field questions and help newer library directors navigate the world of State Aid.

Woodlands Library Cooperative – Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director

- Our Children’s & Teen Services Committee has put on two free webinars. The first, on coding & robotics, had over 60 attendees from all over the state, and the second, “You (Yes You) Can Plan an Author Event,” had over 35 attendees.
- With the turn of the fiscal year, our new two-year committee cycle has started; WLC’s committees are a great way for the directors and all levels of staff at member libraries to get involved in creating and implementing the cooperative’s programming and training efforts. Many members are staying on, and we have a cadre of new volunteers as well.
- <http://nrr.ninja> has gone live! We’re always accepting new recommendations.

- WLC's Governing Board approved the member-driven budget proposal which includes \$2000 mini grants, \$400 in technology funds, and \$1000 for continuing education for each member library. We are continuing our cooperative-wide subscriptions to Mango Languages and Consumer Reports Online, too.