



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

As a valued resource, the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association is a state-wide innovator, empowering Michigan libraries to achieve success.

MCDA Activities:

The MCDA has or will bid farewell to Bryon Sitler, White Pine; Denise Hooks, Mideastern and Roger Mendel, Northland. We thank them for their years of service, professionalism and insight. We also welcome Kate Van Auken as director at White Pine and Eric Palmer, director at Mideastern. We also welcome Debbie Mikula and Scott Garrison as executive directors at our partner agencies, MLA and MCLS.

On April 29th and 30th six of the eleven Michigan Cooperatives sponsored the “Small Libraries, Big Impact” Conference at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. There were 196 paid registrants and the feedback was very positive. Many thanks to Roger Mendel for coordinating this event, which we hope to refine and repeat in the future.

At their April meeting, the MCDA approved a new mission statement: “As a valued resource, the Michigan Cooperative Director’s Association is a state-wide innovator, empowering Michigan libraries to achieve success.”

On August 15 and 16, MCDA members met at the Detroit Public Library for their annual retreat. With our mission statement in mind, we talked with our partners at LM, MLA and MCLS how we can best work together on specific initiatives to help all our members. It was agreed to share our continuing education programming for 2019 and 2020 and to build upon this long term. We will also be looking at what we can do for new directors after the New Director workshops in September. There was discussion about returning to a continuing education certification program.

Kate Pohjola Andrade represented the MCDA at the Library of Michigan’s New Director Workshop September 12.

Future projects include future work on our strategic plan and analyzing the results of a survey of all 11 cooperatives.

Detroit Library Cooperative – JoAnne Mondowney, Director

- Michigan Cooperative Directors Association: The Detroit Library Cooperative hosted the annual meeting of the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association on August 15-16, 2019, at the Detroit Public Library’s Main Library. On August 15, the cooperative directors and other invited guests had dinner in the Burton Historical Collection room. The evening included a presentation of several DPL “treasures” by Mark Bowden, the Collection’s Coordinator. A business meeting was held on August 16 in the Friends Conference Room.
- Cultural Center Planning Initiative: An international collaborative of designers, including Paris-based Agence Ter, with Detroit-based Akoaki, rooftopwo and Harley Etienne, were winners of the Midtown Cultural Connections international design competition. More than 100 people attended

the announcement event, which was held on Monday, June 10, in DPL's Burton Historical Collection at Main Library. During the next 18 months, Agence Ter and its other partners, will develop more concrete plans, with input from the public and area stakeholders, for transforming the outdoor public space in the Cultural Center.

- **Reading Teacher in the Library:** DPL's "Reading Teacher in the Library" is a free six-week reading support program for students entering grades K-3. Certified reading teachers work with the young students to strengthen their reading skills, enabling them to be more successful academically. First offered in the summer of 2017 at three branches, "Reading Teacher in the Library" expanded to six branches in 2018, and to nine branches this year. Participating branches include Conely, Duffield, Edison, Elmwood Park, Franklin, Hubbard, Knapp, Parkman and Wilder. The 2019 program was offered June 2 – August 2.
- **2019 Author Day:** Dear Martin, a New York Times best seller by Nic Stone, was the featured title of DPL's 2019 Author Day. Approximately 200 Detroit students read Dear Martin and attended a book talk by Ms. Stone at Main Library on May 20. Author Day, an annual program established in 1987, is designed to encourage recreational reading for students in grades 6-12.
- **Wash & Learn Grant:** The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan awarded the DPL a \$35,000 grant to develop a "best practices" manual for "Wash & Learn" programs at neighborhood laundromats. DPL's grant partner, Libraries Without Borders, will develop a manual based on DPL's experience of offering Wash & Learn programs in the Parkman, Wilder and Edison neighborhoods during the next year.
- **Spanish Language Movies:** Classic family movies in Spanish were shown at the Campbell Branch Library on Saturdays, from January – April. The movies, which are not generally available in the U.S., have been recently restored and have had English sub-titles added. During the 15-week series, 350 people viewed the movies that were provided to the Campbell Branch by the Mexican Consulate.

Lakeland Library Cooperative – Carol Dawe, Director

- Lakeland has moved to a multiple budget approach to our finances: Operating, Pass-through and Capital expenditures. This will insure fiscal transparency and flexibility. We are also embarking on much needed building repairs
- Staffing changes have been made. These changes will help server our members and give them direct access to the expertise of each of these individuals and other team members as well.
- We will be sponsoring an all-staff program, "Customer Service Essentials for Libraries" on Monday November 11, 2019 at the Kentwood branch of Kent District Library. Members of the Zingerman's ZingTrain group will share their innovative service philosophy (and some baked goods) in the morning and Michael Burns from Active Training Consultants will talk about the skills library employees need to provide great service, including adaptability, interpersonal skills, friendliness, tactfulness and creativity.
- We are working on providing member libraries with a variety of options for data-driven reports and training videos for the ILS and customer service issues. A major server upgrade for our ILS is scheduled in October. There is cost savings, enhanced security and added redundancy to name just a few of the benefits from this change.
- The member libraries are looking for better ways to serve non-resident users that have purchased a library card, while supporting libraries that are working on passing a millage. Working with other partners to clarify these issues is also a long- term goal.

The Library Network (TLN) – Jim Pletz, Director

Results of the 2019 TLN Member Library Director survey were shared with the membership on July 9, 2019, during the Annual Picnic for TLN.

Highlights of the survey include:

- 61 of 74 member libraries responded to the survey, an 82.4% rate of participation
- 19 Class IV libraries participated – 31.15%
- Class I - III had a returned 9 surveys, a rate of 13.17%
- Class V libraries added 29.51% returned surveys with 18 libraries reporting in, and
- 15 Class VI libraries responded, a return rate of 24.59%

TLN has a veteran and youthful mix of experience for the Director, including

- 37 directors reported 5+ years seniority as a director
- 18 directors shared this was their first directorship
- 43 directors responded they had not served as a director prior to their current position

Library directors value TLN for

- Promoting resource sharing (79.66%)
- Cooperative purchasing (47.46%)
- Technology support (45.76%)
- eRate filing (44.07%)

Comments and concerns ranged from

- The TLN website and branding is terribly out-of-date
- Very disappointed in the CARL integrated library system
- TLN seems more focused on SAS and less so on stand-alone members. I don't know how to improve that, sorry it is what it is and I've accepted it.
- Thank you for all you do for us
- I wish more libraries would participate and attend meetings so that we could have a closer network and help each other out more

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative – Denise Hooks, Director

- The MMLC Board and Advisory Committee met for the Annual Joint meeting with Randy Riley as a guest speaker. Irene Bancroft, Administrative Specialist, was honored for 25 years of service to MMLC.
- Eric Palmer was named the new MMLC Director and he will start work on October 1, 2019. My official last day is September 30, 2019.
- New Board members beginning their terms on October 1, 2019 are Monica Fox, Chippewa District Library and Dr. Jason Jubar, Holly Township Library. Leaving the Board after two terms is Karen Hornus, Community District Library.
- MMLC scheduled over 664 programs for libraries through the Summer Reading season and have another 47 programs already confirmed for FY2019-20. Performer's Showcase was an outstanding event in August.
- Harrison District Library was accepted for membership in MMLC and will officially join the organization on October 1, 2019.
- In September, MMLC will begin our third year as fiscal agent for the Friends of Michigan Libraries/Trustee Alliance.

- The Advocacy Committee reviewed and approved a revised Advocacy Plan. The Committee also recommended that the National Library Legislative Day event grants be renewed for the May 2020 Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. It is anticipated that 9 individuals will attend from MMLC.
- The MMLC Advisory Council will meet on October 8, 2019 at the Genesee District Library, McFarlen Grand Blanc Branch, with speakers Scott Garrison, MCLS; Matt Pacer and Bernadette Bartlett, LM on Special Collections; Local Collections”; Joe Hamlin and Kathy Kosinski, LM on “Discovering Your Community’s Needs”.

Mid-Michigan Library League – Sheryl Mase, Director

- The annual meeting will be held this year on September 19 in Ludington at The Lake House. Members will have networking time and share poster sessions on successful programs and services; we will have a speaker on marketing/messaging by Christopher VanWyck, an author talk by Natalie Ruth Joynton (Welcome to Replica Dodge) and wrap up the year by approving the budget for FY20.
- We are enhancing membership benefits for FY20, if the budget is passed, by providing all member libraries’ patrons 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 will also enhance our Library Service Enhancement & Mini Grant Program this year, offering assistance for eResources as an additional focus.
- We continue to have issues with some of the library Boards and their reluctance to empower the director to assume their appropriate role. In the coming year, we will focus on communications with the library Boards in the cooperative and assist as needed.

Northland Library Cooperative – Roger Mendel, Director

- In August, Northland sponsored a week of MeL training at five locations across the cooperative region.
- The cooperative is working with the Mid Michigan Library League in reorganizing the UpNorth Digital Consortium which provides e-books via Overdrive.
- Members of the cooperative are completing their Library Enhancement grants allowing for the addition of new services at member library locations.
- Interviews were held in early September to select a new Director for the Cooperative. A candidate has been offered the position and the Board is awaiting confirmation from the candidate.

Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative – John Mohney

- SMLC Council & Board met on August 8 at Allegan District Library. Clare Membiela from LM talked to us about Digital Privacy, Video Surveillance, and Rights of Disabled Adults.
- The current SMLC Board will interview candidates for the Director position on September 17 at the Paw Paw District Library. John Mohney is retiring at the end of this year.
- Performers Showcase will be held on September 24 at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center. Joel Tacey is hiring the performers and running the workshop.
- The new SMLC Board will meet on October 10 at Otsego District Library.

Suburban Library Cooperative – Tammy Turgeon, Director

- The Suburban Library Cooperative is working with Dale Jaslove to launch a new library discount program titled GoLibraryCard. The program will provide discounts at participating restaurants/businesses when residents show their library cards. A website has been launched - <http://golibrarycard.org> - and local businesses are being contacted to participate in the program. We anticipate launching the program in October.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative's Internship program has begun. Starting September 1st, our selected intern will work two months at five of our member libraries and then two months at the Cooperative, 15-20 hours per week. She will gain experience with archives, reference, adult and youth services programming, administration, outreach, automation systems, and more. We are very excited about this endeavor to develop MLS students that are ready to take on any task when they graduate, and hopefully stay in our service area.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative is hosting 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. More than 100 attendees from around the state are registered to attend.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative is hosting Betsy Diamant-Cohen, creator of the Mother Goose on the Loose early literacy program, for a youth librarians training on November 12th at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. Attendees from around the state are invited to attend.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative worked with member libraries to evaluate the current digital resources that are provided to all the member libraries. The Cooperative selected Tutor.com, RB Digital Magazines, and Ancestry Library Edition for the next year.
- SLC and member library staff met with the Superintendent of Center Line Public Schools and Eastpointe Community Schools to promote 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.

Superiorland Library Cooperative – Shawn Andary, Director

- Superiorland has started a new mini-grant program. Member libraries can apply for small (up to \$250) or large “mini” (\$250-\$500) grants in order to purchase supplies or programs for the library. \$3,700 was awarded to 11 libraries in the summer, and we have increased our budget to allow libraries to apply for grants throughout the year. Some libraries used the funds to purchase supplies or prizes for summer reading programs, others used the money for programs.
- A presentation titled “Decolonizing the Library” with Angela Badke (Ojibwa Community Library) and Randi Dalton (Caro Area District Library) was provided at the Portage Lake District Library in Houghton, Peter White Public Library in Marquette, and St. Ignace Public Library on August 5, 6 and 7. Afternoon webinars were also provided each afternoon on those dates. Patrick Sweeney presented “Schmoozing for Beginners” and “Party Hard/Make It Happen” on August 5 and 7, and Kelly Bennett and Jeff Milo presented “From Facebook Followers to FANS” on August 6th. Recordings of these presentations are available on our website at <http://www.uproc.lib.mi.us/podcasts>
- I put together a fundraiser for libraries at the Kaufman Auditorium and titled it “From Ballet to Blues.” We earned \$1100 that will go toward the mini-grant program that was mentioned above. Additionally, the Cooperative and public libraries got some good press - we made the front page of the Marquette Mining Journal <https://www.miningjournal.net/news/front-page-news/2019/08/from-ballet-to-blues/>

White Pine Library Cooperative – Kate Van Auken, Director

- Kate Van Auken has been on board just over a month as the White Pine Cooperative Director.
- Kate is busy working on visiting the 49 libraries in the cooperative. Some of the highlights of recent visits include three libraries with exciting building news. Two were able to move forward on their projects due to fiscal foresight regarding windmill revenue. Reese Unity District Library nearly doubled their library space with a beautiful addition and complete renovation after purchasing property behind their building. Columbia Township Library is in the process of breaking ground for an addition that will double their square footage and provide needed space for Columbia Township offices. Fairgrove District Library just purchased property behind their building and have plans to add a community room, additional parking, and perhaps a garden.
- Jim Flury, TLN, attended White Pine’s Advisory Council meeting August 28 and shared great information about the MAP program. Jim also answered questions about RBdigital, including the option of adding Recorded Books to member libraries who currently have RBdigital magazine subscriptions.
- White Pine members voted to set aside \$11,000.00 for Special Projects in the new fiscal year which would include providing registration and hotel accommodations for members attending the Rural Libraries Conference in April 2020.
- White Pine’s Annual Meeting is coming up on October 9. The agenda includes:
 - Archives of Michigan, Kris Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist
 - Space Planning for Libraries, Fred Schutmaat, Team Schutmaat, Inc.
 - Making the Best of a Bad Board Situation, Clare Membiela, Library of Michigan
 - Michigan Mayhem, Author Tom Carr

Woodlands Library Cooperative – Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director

- Our Children’s & Teen Services Committee has planned a webinar on Coding & Robotics for Friday, September 13. 62 librarians are registered from all over the state, and the webinar is free to attend for everyone.
- Kate is working with partners at the Brandon Township Library to build <http://nrr.ninja> – a library vendor review site. The site has been soft launched and will officially go live during our poster session at the MLA Annual Conference in Novi.
- Kate has worked with a few member library boards on various issues, including hiring new directors, potential district library formation and board orientation.
- Kate is serving on statewide committees for the revision of the QSAC standards, and the Small & Rural Librarians Conference planning committee.
- Our eResources Committee is planning an “eResources Training Day” for Tuesday, October 29. Vendor representatives will be joining us to train on their products.
- Kate attended the Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) Michigan event, along with a few Woodlands member libraries.
- Kate is currently working with two libraries on their strategic plans, with at least three more looking at planning sessions in the future. The cooperative will be reviewing and revising our strategic plan as well.
- WLC’s Governing Board will review a budget proposal that 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 as well.