

**Mid-Michigan Library League  
Director's Report  
January 2021**



**Note: We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic. There are two approved vaccines, but the roll-out is slow and positive test cases remain high throughout the U.S. and there are now variants of the virus as well.**

At this time, some MMLL member libraries are open at a limited capacity for indoor service, and most are doing curbside service of some type. The Advisory Council is meeting the second and fourth Tuesday mornings via Zoom. We are following [MDHHS](#) and [MiOSHA](#) guidance, referring local concerns to the [health department](#) serving their county.

**Administrative:**

- FY21 Board members, groups they represent, year term ends:
  - Group 1 – Cindi Place (23)
  - Group 2 – Debra Greenacre (23)
  - Group 3 – Emily Thompson (23)
  - Group 4 – Diane Eisenga (22)
  - Group 5 – Eric Smith (21)
  - Group 6 – Lois Langenburg (22)
  - Group 7 – Valerie Church-McHugh (22)
  - Group 8 – Sarah Welch (23)
  - Group 9 – Patty Rockafellow (23)
- Advisory Council
  - FY21 (Co-)Chair – Cindi Place (Bellaire). See MMLL [Advisory Council page](#).
  - The group is meeting the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

**Continuing Education:**

- In-person trainings have been cancelled/postponed. There are many options for online training, virtual conferences, and on-demand webinars and training modules.
- The recorded presentation on Human Resources in two parts by Brian Mortimore from Kent District Library is on the MMLL website under [webinars](#).
- The MMLL monthly newsletter will change format in 2021, streamlined for ease of use. The goal will be to make sure members know of resources they can use and training they can receive online, hopefully in an at-a-glance format. Look for this soon.

**eResources:**

- OverDrive purchased the digital portion of Recorded Books (AKA RBdigital). The MMLL contract with RBdigital expired at the end of FY20. No more RBdigital downloadables.
- [Transparent Language Online](#) is available to all of MMLL through FY21, still accessible via the RBdigital app (we expect to see on Libby when they complete the transition) and [ONLINE](#).
- The [Up North Digital/OverDrive](#) consortium is open to the remaining MMLL member libraries who would like to join. We currently have 31 of 36 members participating, plus one affiliate - Missaukee.
- MMLL has an Advantage account with OverDrive, allowing us to add materials that would serve the MMLL members of Up North Digital first, and then potentially be available to others in the consortium. There is a small group working to add Advantage titles, using MMLL funds.

**Grants:**

- The FY21 Grants Committee includes Diane Eisenga (McBain), Tracy Logan-Walker (Cadillac), and Kathleen Rash (Hart). In the first round of the FY21 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program, 17 proposals were received and the committee recommended **full funding for all**, for a total commitment of \$10,949. The second round will be announced February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In the FY21 budget, we have \$23,000 allocated, so \$12,051 remains for round 2 of the [mini-grant program](#).

**Tech Assistance:**

- “Emergency Geek” Cory Walker will continue serving member libraries in FY21. Each MMLL member library has four hours of tech support plus mileage.
- As always, we strongly recommend that member libraries build into their budgets ongoing maintenance funds and replacement costs for technology, an integral part of public library service.

**Member Libraries:**

- Cadillac Wexford Public Library is hoping to fill their full-time children’s librarian position. Tracy is actively interviewing.
- Reed City Area District Library no longer serves Hersey Township as they have withdrawn from the district, making their residents UNSERVED, sadly. RCADL is now a class 2 library serving a population of 6,690.

**Trustee Mailing:**

The day before the Thanksgiving holiday, all MMLL member library trustees were sent a mailing via USPS that was also shared with directors. I have received three back so far because of bad addresses, but that means that of the 207 pieces mailed, 204 were received. MMLL directors are encouraged to invite the MMLL director to come to a local Board meeting (or attend virtually) to answer any questions or to do a training on roles and responsibilities.

**In the News:**

- As of this writing, over 375,000 people in the U.S. have died of COVID-19. In Michigan, the number of deaths is over 14,000.
- There have been national events of historic significance, with a second impeachment likely, but the January 20<sup>th</sup> inauguration will make Joe Biden our 46<sup>th</sup> U.S. president.

**Travel/Meetings:**

1/8/21 – Reed City to deliver 3D printer  
Working mostly from home and meetings via Zoom.

*~Sheryl*

Sheryl L. Mase  
MMLL director