

**Mid-Michigan Library League
Director's Report
November 2020**



Note: We are still in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, experiencing another significant increase in cases in Michigan and the rest of the country and Europe.

At this time, most MMLL member libraries are open at a limited capacity for indoor service, and are also doing curbside service. There are at least two currently closed due to high local COVID-19 cases. We continue to check in with each other every two weeks, and the Library of Michigan continues biweekly director check-in Zoom meetings on Fridays. We are following MDHHS and MiOSHA guidance, and 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) and possibly someone else who steps up
 - The group is meeting every other Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. via Zoom.
 - Three members have stepped up for the Maker Team: Mark Morton (Leland Twp.), Cora Schaeff (Leelanau Twp.), and Lauren Moran (Big Rapids).

Continuing Education:

- All in-person trainings have been cancelled/postponed, including national conferences, state conferences and workshops, and MMLL events. Many options for online training have been offered, with the conferences going virtual or available on demand via archived webinars and training modules.
- We have a recorded presentation on Human Resources in two parts by Brian Mortimore from Kent District Library. This was originally to be an in-person workshop, now [ONLINE](#).
- We held the MMLL annual meeting via Zoom with 38 in attendance. We heard from the Library of Michigan, discussed workplace wellness, fundraising ideas, and learned more about the annual state aid reporting process. We reflected on the past year and had some fun trivia. The Board meeting commenced at 11:30, during which the FY21 annual budget was approved, as was the Plan of Service (unchanged).
- Regular monthly newsletters resumed in September, with lots of virtual CE opportunities listed for members. The annual MLA conference was held online at the end of October.

eResources:

- OverDrive is still working on the transition of services after purchasing the digital portion of Recorded Books (AKA RBdigital). The MMLL contract with RBdigital expired at the end of September, so we no longer have their unlimited eAudiobook collection. We do, however, have a renewal of **Transparent Language Online**, accessible still via the RBdigital app (we expect to see on Libby when they complete the transition) and [ONLINE](#). We have had three additional MMLL members join the [Up North Digital/OverDrive](#) consortium, bringing our total participants to 29 (of our 36 members).
- With the surprising increase in state aid funding in the new FY21 state budget, we expect to have just under \$16,000 in our MMLL budget. The Advisory Council is pondering a recommendation for the expenditure of these funds, most likely on e-resources and/or STEAM materials for the cooperative.

Grants:

- The FY21 Grants Committee includes Diane Eisenga (Board rep, McBain), Tracy Logan-Walker (Cadillac), and Kathleen Rash (Hart). The new FY21 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program has been announced. Round 1 is currently open, with **applications due December 11, 2020** and awards announced January 11, 2021.
- In the FY21 budget, we have \$15,000 allocated for the [mini-grant program](#).

Tech Assistance:

- We are continuing our relationship with Cory Walker “Emergency Geek” in FY21. Each MMLL member library is allocated four hours of tech support plus mileage. This is for FY21, which began October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021. If a library uses their allotment, they may contract with Cory on their own for a discounted hourly rate of \$40.
- 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:

- There were three directors from our cooperative who were selected for the initial year of the “Next Level Leadership in Small and Rural Libraries” project run by the University of Michigan School of Information. Amanda McLaren (Benzonia), Stacy Pasche (Benzie Shores), and Cora Schaeff (Leelanau Twp.) were part of the first cohort of participants. The group created a virtual conference, “**Leading Big in Small Spaces**” to be held on November 19, 2020.
- The newly expanded and refurbished Glen Lake Community Library is now open. The local community gave incredible support, as their library is a true source of local pride.

In the News:

- As of this writing, 241,126 people in the U.S. have died of COVID-19. In Michigan, the number of deaths is now 7,833.
- The CDC and health departments are mostly concerned about close contact between individuals not from the same household, as that is the primary way the disease is

transmitted. The library community has been anticipating guidance as a result of the [REALM study](#), however in each round of the study testing additional materials in various configurations, the virus has been found on materials for what seems an inordinately long time. Most libraries are quarantining materials for 96 hours, as there is no concrete guidance from the CDC, ALA, or any other entity at this time. Local decisions must be made.

Other:

The MCDA – Cooperative Directors Association – has been working together to create a mailing for public library trustees to let them know about cooperatives and library establishment and offer any assistance needed. MMLL will use the documents created to do a mailing out to trustees of member libraries in the cooperative and send, hopefully, before Thanksgiving.

Travel/Meetings:

No travel.

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom meetings galore.

~ Sheryl

Sheryl L. Mase
MMLL director