

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Advisory Council Meeting  
Mott Foundation Building  
February 5, 2008**

I. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Steven Flayer; Betsy Hull; Kevin Ayala; Trish Burns; Melissa Barnard; Desta Ureel; Karen Lambert; Shirley Roos; Denise Hooks; Kristen Valyi-Hax; Kay Hurd; JoAnne Mondowney; Kate Pohjola; Maureen Hirten; Carolyn Nash.

Members Absent: LaRene Klink (excused); Louise Goward; Sandra Chavez (excused)

Co-op Staff: Roger Mendel; Irene Bancroft.

II. **Call to Order:** Roger called the February Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

III. **Approval of the Minutes:** The December 3, 2007 minutes approved as presented.

IV. **Member Updates:**

Carolyn Nash: Genesee District Library recently had their newsletter in the Sunday Flint Journal. Numerous programs are being planned for the spring, including a major emphasis on "Black History Month" in February.

Denise Hooks: Mott Community College Hemingway program in March. The Library staff has started blogging as a potential service.

Kay Hurd: Almont District Library is in the process of joining Valley Library Consortium.

JoAnne Mondowney: Flint Public Library is enjoying a very successful Black History Month partnership with Flint Institute of Arts. Numerous upcoming special events are planned.

Betsy Hull: Community District Library welcomed Bentley Memorial Library as a branch in January. Millage election is schedule for August 2008.

Kate Pohjola: Lapeer District Library will be a Michigan Notable Author stop for the third year. The library will be receiving a major donation of original dolls for the Marguarite deAngeli collection.

Steve Flayer: Shiawassee District Library has also been selected as a Michigan Notable Author stop. Re-doing the website has been a project and rolling out the new website will occur in February. Scholarship fund was established for staff to further their education as a result of donations received in honor of Ken Uptigrove who retired from the library at the end of 2007.

Desta Ureel: Dryden Township Library adding two new children's computers.

Karen Lambert: North Branch Township Library added Madame Alexander dolls to their collection. Arranged with the local post master to hold a hugely successful eBay program.

Shirley Roos: Holly Township Library considering joining the Valley Library Consortium. Considering integrating all fiction together instead of separate genre filing. Partnering with another area library to have parenting workshops

Kevin Ayala: Bay County Library looking for a director, children's coordinator and children's librarians. New schedules at all locations have been started, with four locations in operation.

Trish Burns: Public Libraries of Saginaw celebrating African American History Month with a program on Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism. A very successful program with Jonathon Rand was also offered by the library.

Kristen Valyi-Hax: Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library Friends Book sale raised over \$900. Leap Day celebration being planned.

Maureen Hirten: Capital Area District Library starting to push the Capital Improvement Plan. Non-resident fee has been instituted.

**V. Director's Report:**

- a. State Aid Update:** Roger reported that there is no news on the supplemental state aid.
- b. MMLC Audit report:** Roger mentioned that Lewis & Knopf completed our annual audit. Copies are available to any members wishing a copy.
- c. Michigan Library Association Restructure:** Roger mentioned that the restructuring process is moving forward. One of the main changes will be the use of special interest groups and work groups, and the elimination of divisions and round-tables. The restructuring proposal has passed.
- d. Universal Service Fund:** Roger mentioned that it is time to file Form 470 with the deadline being February 7, 2008.
- e. Spring Author Tour:** Roger distributed a flier announcing that author / illustrator David Biedrzyski will be touring the MMLC area in May. The cost for MMLC members is \$500 per program. He encouraged libraries that were interested in being added to the tour to contact Irene.
- f. Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum grant:** Roger mentioned that MMLC is participating in an IMLS grant proposal with the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum to bring reduced cost programs to our area.
- g. Vernon Area District Library:** Roger mentioned that Vernon District Library is near to reaching their goal of raising all the funds for their new library. They currently need less than \$12,000 to meet their goal.

**State Librarian's Proposal for State Funding Discussion:** Roger gave an in-depth update on the State Librarian's proposal on reorganization. Roger mentioned that one member from the State Librarian's committee reported the committee's recommendation included direct State Aid funding for administration of cooperatives. The currently presented proposal was refined by the State Librarian to remove the State Aid funding for any direct administrative funding for Cooperatives. The proposal proposes that the State support be used to cover the cost of state-wide core services which include Mel delivery, Mel Cat and Mel databases. The remaining funds would be sent direct to public libraries on a per capita basis for connectivity / broadband, technology support, awareness / promotion of Mel services, training activities, and costs associated with participation in / enhancement of statewide core services.

Denise mentioned that it appears that the initial responses seemed to be in favor of the State Librarian's proposal, while more recent posts are more opposed. Melissa mentioned that it appeared as though the larger libraries responding were generally in favor, while the smaller libraries were opposed to the loss of the cooperatives. Roger agreed that that position has permeated the discussion for years. Members agreed that having HAL or Library of Michigan administering State Aid directly pose numerous problems. Kate brought up the letter recently issued by the State Librarian about the 5 year LSTA plan. One of the goals of the Plan is to move libraries forward by

increasing equity of service to Michigan residents. “Users need improved basic services and programming from libraries in rural and underserved areas of the state. Libraries in underserved rural and urban areas of the state need assistance developing services and programming in the areas of technology, generation specific programming, and outreach and marketing to non-users or populations having difficulty using a library”. Yet, the State Librarians’ proposal is geared towards the support of the MeL databases, catalog and delivery, but there is no mention of the other services Cooperatives offer on a regional basis.

JoAnne gave a brief overview of the State of Maryland’s library set up with having state-wide core services from the State Library and having regional libraries, both with state funding. Roger briefly described the Cooperative Director Association’s proposal. Members understand that there is a need for change, but they also agreed that there is a need for regional library services that are state funded. Members agreed that the regional library services need to be defined to include the MeL products but also the other services needed by libraries in a region. Members are concerned that the well funded libraries are driving this proposal, with no concern for the smaller and the under funded libraries.

Carolyn mentioned that although the larger libraries may be well funded, if the smaller libraries flounder, the larger libraries will find themselves needing greater resources to serve additional people.

Denise mentioned that there needs to be a ground swell of responses from library users, board members and legislators on this proposal, especially from smaller library systems.

#### **Consensus Items:**

- We agree that there should be regional libraries that have state funding.
- We understand that change is necessary. Change needs to be flexible but recognize the diversity and complexity of needs across the state. Services need to be broadened to include consulting.
- Members agreed that the proposal as written is not something we support.
- The Cooperative issue was not on the Town Hall agendas. Members would like to have additional meetings that would include this discussion. Roger mentioned that a full study is needed to determine actual need for libraries across the state. Also needed is an actual written plan for the transition from the current PA 89 legislation to a new plan.
- The cooperatives and Library of Michigan need to develop a three year plan that gives some authority for consistency.

Roger also encouraged members to respond individually and to have their board members respond to the State Librarian’s blog with their opinion and concerns. Nancy Robertson has indicated she will be accepting comments until late March.

Melissa recommended letting the State Librarian know that more time is needed to examine and garner support from all types and sizes of libraries.

Members agreed that a letter needed to be sent from the Advisory Council. Issues needing to be addressed:

- MMLC members do not support the proposal as written.
- MMLC should be used as a model of success in serving all types and sizes of libraries.
- MMLC members understand that change is necessary for the future.

- MMLC members agree that regional library services need to exist with state funding.
- New Town Hall meetings need to be held that specifically addresses the question of regional library services.
- Change needs to be flexible and recognize the diversity and complexity of needs across the state.

Roger was asked to draft a response to Nancy from the Advisory Council incorporating the ideas discussed and to post it to the list and get feedback from the members. The final letter will be sent to the list and librarians who wish to be listed as a signer will indicate that to Roger. The letter will be posted to the blog and also be sent to Nancy Robertson and Dr. Anderson.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Irene Bancroft  
Administrative Assistant

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:**

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Genesee District Library - Headquarters