

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
January 2006**

Workshops: The first of our winter workshops will be held February 14 and will be a book repair workshop. We have arranged that one session that day will be geared to school libraries and the other session for the public, academic and special libraries.

Staff changes: Val McNiff is serving as the interim director of Genesee with Ron Long serving as the interim director on site while Val is in Florida. Ads for the position have been placed and the GDL plans to interview sometime after February 1. Kate Pohjola has taken a medical leave and will return sometime in January. She has email contact during her absence. June Mendel and Sandy Hinds continue to manage the day to day operations at the library.

LM: A reception for Nancy Robertson will be held Friday, January 13 at 3 p.m. at the Library of Michigan. This reception is open to the public.

Gates Grant: Our member libraries have completed the inventory part of the grant process and we now await the Library of Michigan's writing of the grant. Public access computers to replace those received by our libraries will be purchased sometime in late spring, early summer of 2006.

Baseball money/fundraiser: One library in our cooperative received a grant from the money raised at the Library Day at Comerica Park fundraiser. Public Libraries of Saginaw received a \$1,000 grant. Plans for this year's game are underway. The game will be held May 21. Jennifer Dean, Director at Northland and Jim Seidl, Director at Woodlands are serving as co-chairs of this year's program. At the MMLC Advisory Committee meeting we will discuss how our cooperative will participate in the program this year.

Strategic Plan: Our present plan has been in place since 2001. The plan was written with the idea that it was a guide to how we operate the cooperative and did not have a laundry list of dates and items to accomplish. The format has worked well with a Director's Work Plan approved each year that has tasks that fit the six goals. New libraries have joined us since 2001, many

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of the board members and directors that were involved in 2001 have left and so it is time to look at the Plan and see what needs to be updated, changed. To do this I have placed on the agenda some time during our new business section to review and discuss our next steps. Following are a list of questions we should answer regarding this plan:

1. Do we like the basic format of this and need to have a committee come up with updates based on the changing library landscape.
2. If so, who should be on the committee?
3. Do we want to go for a new type of strategic plan and hire a consultant, have a planning retreat and come up with a new plan? A consultant may cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000, plus the cost of the location.
4. Again, who should be on the committee?

Public Library Association Conference: I will be attending the Public Library Association Conference in March, which is being held in Boston.