

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

State Aid: Good news is that the Governor's budget released last month shows no reduction in state aid for cooperatives and a restoration of funds for public libraries. Now the process of getting support in the House and Senate begins. I attended a hearing on the budget at the House Appropriations sub-committee on February 8. We did a great job of filling the room and of getting a message across to the representatives that libraries provide some very important services that assist residents in getting jobs, forming small businesses and adding to the economy of the state. A similar session with the Senate will be held sometime in March.

Ernie and Tram: The baseball fund raiser is set for May 21. This year there will be an easier time getting tickets since we have an arrangement to get tickets on consignment from the Tigers and can actually give tickets. To help with the sale the cooperative is providing each library with two tickets that can be used in a promotion during National Library Week. I will have tickets at the meeting if any board members are interested in purchasing tickets. The cost is \$20 a ticket with \$9 going to a fund to help libraries fund endowment funds.

Visits to Libraries

Lapeer County Libraries: I have been working with the libraries in Lapeer as they prepare for the millage renewal in August.

Bay County Library System: Jane Smith and I attended a meeting of the Bay County Board and reviewed the cooperative and the services and benefits received by the Library.

Genesee District Library: I have been assisting the Board in the review process as they determine the candidates they will interview for their Executive Director position. I met with the board on Monday March 6. I have also been working with GDL staff on their USF problems.

Vernon District Library: I worked with Louise Goward to assist her in filing for QSAC certification as well as helped in on several occasions with her USF concerns.

Workshops:

Book Repair Workshop: This workshop was a great success with both sessions filled.

Due to personal concerns our speaker for the March 14 **Reader's Advisory Workshop** had to cancel. We have found two people who will conduct the workshop. We have over 30 registered for this workshop.

How to Pass a Millage, a workshop we are jointly sponsoring with two other cooperatives has over 65 people registered. The workshop will be held in Frankenmuth and there are still openings.

In April we have a series of workshops on the MeL databases and in May we will again co-host a workshop on Marketing featuring Trent Smiley.

PLA Conference: I will be attending the Public Library Association Conference this March in Boston. During the time I am gone, Irene will be on vacation for some of the time. The office will be covered since I will have my cell phone and laptop to keep in touch. I will also send out an announcement to the members that no one will be in the office from March 22-24.

ALA Legislative Day: This year, in May, I will be attending ALA Legislative Day and be a part of the Michigan delegation. I will be in Washington May 1-3.

Website We are working on the website and updating and remodeling it. In March we will meet with a couple of website designers.

Performer's List: We have had conversations with LM staff and some of the performers and will be investigating the possibility of having us host on our website a directory of performers available to libraries. It seems we are the cooperative that does the most business with performers and for a myriad of reasons other institutions in the state can't accommodate this function. We will talk more about this at our meeting.