

# **Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative**

## **Director's Report**

### **May 2006**

**Workshops:** March we had two excellent workshops.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> we held a Readers Advisory workshop at McFarlen Branch of GDL and had 40 people in attendance. We opened this to libraries outside the Cooperative and had enough in additional fees to cover the cost.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March we co-sponsored a workshop on how to pass a millage and had 42 MMLC people in attendance. The millage workshop was held in Frankenmuth and over 50% of the attendees were trustees.

In April we held six MeL database training sessions and had 68 people attend. This coupled with the training held in fall with the school people brings the total trained to 108.

At present I am looking at a trustee training for September if we can get enough interest from our library trustees.

### **Library Activities:**

Bay County Library System held a dedication of their new facility in Bay City. I attended as well as assisted in getting their keynote speaker for the event (Sheryl Mase, Library of Michigan). I also met with members of the Board to discuss options related to an interim director and the process for hiring a permanent director.

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Meeting: Held April 6 at the Library of Michigan. Deloris King of our Talking Book Center also attended with me.

GDL Board: I have attended a number of the interview sessions and the board meetings related to the hiring of a new director for GDL.

FPL: On April 10 I attended the presentation regarding the upgrading of the Flint Public Library Main Library. Last year I participated in the process to find the architectural firm to assist Flint with the strategic planning for this building upgrade. It was gratifying to see the progress and the suggested options for updating the facility.

Lapeer Libraries: I have been working with the CALL Group from Lapeer County and assisting them with their millage election which will be held at the August primary.

Vernon District Library had the ground breaking ceremony for the new library in Vernon on April 21. Louise Goward, the library director took her turn digging the first shovel.

### **Statewide Activities and more:**

**PLA Conference:** March 22 to 26 I attended the Public Library Association Conference in Boston. The conference was a great success and many new ideas for programming surfaced. I also attended a session that had George Pratt's daughter on the panel. George's daughter is the author of a number of romance novels.

**Washington D.C.:** In early May I will be part of the Michigan delegation that is attending Legislative Day.

**MeL Cat Conference:** I will be attending the annual MeL Cat conference on April 26. Since we have all our members receiving statewide delivery and over 80% of the public libraries as MeLCat libraries it is worthwhile for me to attend.

**PLFIG/Smart Card:** I attended a session on the Smartcard project which is a pilot program designed to test marketing strategies for libraries. Our Public Libraries of Saginaw is one of the 15 libraries participating in the project.

The Grant to fund new public access computers for our libraries has been approved by the Gates Foundation. As soon as the Library of Michigan has the process in place our libraries will receive new computers to replace the computers they received in the first round of computers that were received in 2000.

**Website:** We have been working with a number of vendors regarding the upgrade of our website to have us in compliance with the QSAC standards for the Excellent level. After much activity we find that George Pratt will be able to assist us and hopefully we will have it ready to roll out at our Joint Meeting.

**MLA Legislative Day:** May 9 is Legislative Day here in Michigan. Sponsored by the Michigan Library Association the day will focus on how to talk with legislators and what the library issues are that we face today. I encourage all to attend this and help us bring the message to our state legislature that library funding and library issues should move up on the agenda. Check the MLA website for further information on the day's activities. [www.mla.lib.mi.us](http://www.mla.lib.mi.us)

