

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
September 2006

Library Happenings:

New Director at GDL: Carolyn Nash was appointed the new director of Genesee District Library in early August. Carolyn replaces Val McNiff who retired in December.

Millage elections. We have good news and bad news regarding library millages. Good news is that CADL and Holly Township libraries were successful. CADL had an over 65% approval and Holly had a 71% approval rating. The Lapeer County libraries lost by a little over 200 votes in their countywide vote and in Bay County the library lost by over 700 votes. With the exception of North Branch Township Library, all the libraries that lost in August will be back on the ballot in November.

Summer Reading Program: Irene will have a report on the success of the summer reading programs at our member libraries. Preliminary reports show high numbers in attendance at our performances. We have scheduled a meeting for September 12 of the children's librarians to discuss next summer and to plan for a November 2 workshop at which we will showcase some of the new performers for summer reading programs. We have had great response from the members regarding this workshop.

Website Update: Irene and I have been working with George Pratt to remodel and update our website. Our hope is to have it ready for the meeting and to show you some of the new features. Updating this website will take us one step closer to getting an Excellent rating for MMLC on the QSAC for Coops.

State Librarian's Tour of MMLC: August 4 State Librarian Nancy Robertson and I toured five of our member libraries. The libraries included the Mason Branch of CADL, the McFarlen branch of GDL, Hoyt Branch of Public Libraries of Saginaw, Wirt Branch of Bay County Library System and the Grace A. Dow Library in Midland. You can view her trip on Nancy's blog at: <http://www.statelibrarianofmichigan.blogspot.com/>

State Aid: Direct state aid for the cooperatives has been reduced for next year. This is approximately a \$50,000 reduction in funding. The budget you will be adopting this meeting includes this reduction. Only the three cooperatives that do not take the 16(4) indirect aid for their operations received this large a cut. Lakeland Cooperative (Grand Rapids) was reduced by about \$50,000 and The Library Network (TLN) was reduced \$125,000.

Merit Meeting: In July I attended the Merit Advisory Council meeting to discuss issues related to Internet connectivity and recent upgrades. George Pratt is also a member of this Council. MMLC will host the December meeting of this group.

ALA Conference Also in July I attended the American Library Association Conference held this year in New Orleans. In all my years of attending ALA this is the first time that our presence was noted. Our conference was the first conference held in New Orleans since Katrina hit the area. With over 18,000 people attending we were definitely a major impact on the economy. ALA was discussed on National and local media. The President of ALA was interviewed on local TV often during the week and the merchants, when they found out you were part of the convention were very friendly and welcoming. The programs and exhibits

were excellent. I made some contacts with authors who we may select for upcoming programs.

MLA: I am on the MLA Board now that I have been appointed to serve as the ALA Councilor for Michigan. I will be attending both ALA Mid-Winter and ALA Summer Conference and will be reimbursed \$500 for each conference. My appointment is for one year.

Cooperative Directors Association: August 18 was my last meeting as Chair of the Association. Ken Miller, Director of Hiawathaland Library Cooperative in the UP is the new chair. In September I will be representing the Cooperative Directors at a meeting of the Michigan Library Consortium Board to discuss the future direction of library cooperatives in the state.

MMLC Board Members: We have four board members that will be new to the board in October. I have held board orientation with Alma Staton from CADL, Denise Hooks from Mott Community College and Jack Phipps from Dryden Township Library. We are waiting for a response from Grand Blanc Schools for the School representative. Stu Bush from Grace A. Dow Library in Midland will also be returning to the MMLC Board beginning his first three year term.

LSTA Grants: For the first time in several years the Library of Michigan has set up a competitive grant program. Training for the program has been set up in September. I will be attending the session on September 18.

Mendel vacation: I will be on vacation from September 22 and returning to work on October 2.