

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

Library visits: My time has been spent working with the staff and boards of our libraries that had failed millages this fall. I have worked with the Ruth Hughes Library staff and attended their board meetings and given advice relative to cuts in service that the failed millage necessitates. The same is true with the Lapeer District Library. I attended two of their board meetings and have given them my input as well as working with their staffs. I have also been in contact with the staff at Bay County Library System and attended their Personnel Committee meeting and their Board Meeting.

PAC HUG Grants: We have received the Gates grant money from the Library of Michigan. It has been deposited and our orders have been placed. I will have more details at our meeting.

Children's Services Performer Showcase: Our first attempt at offering a Performer Showcase was a great success. We had approximately 50 in attendance, which included staff from other cooperatives. The half day event included 5-10 minute performances and information about planning for summer reading by staff from our member libraries. Deb Bacon-Ziegler, from the Library of Michigan was one of our speakers. The Grace A. Dow library was an excellent location, since they have a professional auditorium along with state of the art technology. The evaluations were very positive and the staff at Grace A. Dow offered to be the site for this next year. Participants all received CEU's for attending.

Audit: Our audit was held November 14 and the audit report will be given at our January meeting.

USF Training: On November 13 I attended a training session for Universal Service Fund this is our e-rate discounts for telephone and Internet. Four of our member libraries also sent representatives. I have assisted several of our members with filling out their forms for the coming year. I have also talked with the participants in our Merit Affiliate arrangement about the dissolution of that association.

SmartCard Project: The committee met on November 28 to discuss the project. So far libraries have sent in \$13,000 for this PR toolkit project, for which we serve as the fiscal agent. Plans for the project are proceeding and the PR modules will be ready for review by the committee in January.

Advocacy Plan Committee: Our committee met on November 30 and discussed the elements of the plan. Included in the Board packet is the draft of the plan. The Advisory Council at their December 5 meeting passed a resolution recommending adoption of this plan by the board.

LSTA Grant Committee: The committee has met and discussed a number of projects. So far we have not come to consensus on a specific project. I am in discussions with the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum about a project. We are still gathering data. I expect that we will have something to

present at our January meeting. I am also working with the Holly Township Library and helping them develop a project with the local historical group.

MLA: I serve on the Michigan Library Association Board and attended their December 1 meeting. In my capacity as ALA Councilor for the Association I will be attending the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Seattle. In February the Association will hold a two day retreat to discuss the restructuring of the association. The retreat will be held in Dewitt.

Capital Library Cooperative: The Director of the Capital Library Cooperative has announced her retirement, which will take place in December 2007. Her retirement has prompted the cooperative members to look at the viability of the group. A study group has been formed and charged with investigating how other cooperatives in the state are structured and what services are offered. The group will further look into the feasibility of the cooperative staying together, joining as a group with another cooperative or whether the cooperative should dissolve and member libraries find other cooperatives to join. We have been questioned by members of the study group regarding our services and structure. I suspect that in the future several of the cooperative directors will be asked to make presentations at Capital Library Cooperative meetings. I will keep you informed on this issue.

Merit Meeting: Monday, December 4 MMLC hosted the Merit Advisory Council. This is a group comprised of affiliate members of the Merit network. As an Affiliate Member I have held a seat on this council for two years. The Council meets twice a year in person and every other month via a teleconference. This is the first time the group has met outside of Ann Arbor. We used the 5th floor conference room for the event, which was deemed a success.

Office Holiday schedule: Between Christmas and New Year's the MMLC Office will be closed. Business during this time is normally very light. Irene and I will be using Holiday time and vacation time. I will be contacting our voice mail and responding to messages and will also keep up with email via my lap-top.