

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Director's Report  
March 2007**

**Library visits:** In February, I did a presentation for the Genesee District Library Board along with the State Librarian and the Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association. We gave the board a brief outline of what each agency does and the services that are provided to libraries.

On March 5, I will be attending a millage committee meeting for Genesee District Library.

**PAC HUG Grants:** We are continuing our work on the Gates grants and hope to have everything completed by mid March. We ordered a second Internet Training Lab with money from the Gates Grant and additional dollars that we will receive in additional state aid this year because of some increases in our population as well as some cost savings due to cancellation of some of the delivery stops.

**USF:** The forms have been filed and we now await the letter awarding the discounts. This year I worked with several libraries in processing their forms. Hopefully every one of the libraries will receive discounts. This year will be the last year that we will work with the Iosco/Arenac Library System as they have negotiated a separate contract with Merit for Internet service.

**MLA:** I attended the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Seattle from January 20 to 27. The conference is basically a working conference for the delegates to the Council which is the legislative body of the Association. There were over 5,000 exhibitors at the conference which is always a treat to see the new products. As for MLA, in the beginning of February I attended a retreat for the association as they tackle the job of re-structuring the Association. The two days were very fruitful and we developed a plan for working on the restructuring.

**LSTA Grant:** Due to the death of President Gerald R. Ford, the grant project we were working on has been postponed.

**State Aid cut:** The Governor's budget calls for a 50% cut in state aid, which for us translates into a 36% cut in next year's income if this is passed. Nine individuals from MMLC attended the Senate Sub Committee Hearing on February 27 to testify about the proposed cuts. Ann Ingles, Catherine Alberts, Kate Pohjola, Desta Ureel, Carolyn Nash, Sue Hill, Veronica Beecroft, Bryan Cloutier and myself attended. Bryan, Sue and I testified as to the effect of the proposed budget cuts on our libraries and the cooperative. Quite a few trustees and librarians sent letters and emails to their legislators regarding the cuts. This is the beginning of a long process and any help that can be offered is welcome.

**State Librarian Town Meetings.** Flint and Midland are two sites in our cooperative area where the State Librarian will hold her town meetings to get input from the people in the state regarding library services, programs and to demonstrate the new look of MeL. The town meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. and will include lunch. The dates in our area are March 13 at Flint Public Library and April 2 at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library in Midland. There is no cost, but registration is necessary. Register at

[www.michigan.gov/lma](http://www.michigan.gov/lma)