

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

PAC HUG Grants: We have completed the Gates grants project. All the bills have been paid and we sent our report in to the Library of Michigan.

USF: We have received notification for the discounts that we are eligible for this year. This year we will not receive a discount on the phone card used in my laptop. I have the instructions for how this should be done next year and will begin that process in November 2007.

MLA: We continue the process of restructuring MLA to make it a more efficient organization. I will be attending the ALA Conference in June representing MLA on the ALA Council. The conference will be held in Washington D.C. and will include a special legislative day which I will be attending after taking an advocacy workshop sponsored by ALA.

LSTA Grant: Due to the financial situation in Lansing there may be a delay in awarding grants this year. We should know about this by our June meeting.

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. Since reporting this information at our last meeting, nothing has changed except for the fact that this year's second 50% of state aid is being delayed and could be released as late as the end of September. Although libraries have escaped cuts this year, the hold up of payment may actually turn out to be a cut this year if there is no money to pay it. Also held up in this situation is our state aid for the Talking Book Center. The cooperatives held a Legislative Reception several weeks ago to assist in educating our representatives and senators on the plight of libraries and what services are in jeopardy.

Cooperative reorganization: There has been some talk from the Executive Branch about consolidating agencies. In response to this the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association has been meeting to talk about how the 13 cooperatives could be consolidated down to 5 or 6. We have a meeting scheduled for May 11 to discuss this and by our meeting I should have something to report. At present, there are four cooperative directorships that are vacant, with several looking at finding interim directors to assist with cooperative business.

On the bright side, if there is such a thing, East Lansing Public Library is considering MMLC as a cooperative to move to when their cooperative (Capital Cooperative) goes out of business.

State Librarian Town Meetings. The meetings were held in Flint and Midland and both meetings were successful as they gave our state librarian much to ponder regarding library services and needs. A report will be prepared and made available to the library community. Also, this information will be used to prepare a five year plan for the Library Services and Technology Act grant program.