

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

State Aid cut: As of June 5 we have not received any word on the lifting of the freeze on state aid payments. For the board meeting we will have a recommendation for saving funds from the current budget to assist with the budget for next year should the 50% cut in state aid stand as proposed in the Governor's budget. Also held up in this situation is our state aid for the Talking Book Center. Contacts have been made with the Governor's Budget Director by the MLA Executive Director detailing the problems faced by Michigan's cooperatives and asking that the frozen state aid funds be released. A copy of the report is included with this report.

MLA: 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: The LSTA grants that were approved will not be funded this year since the money is part of the amount frozen by the Governor's action.

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 had a meeting on May 11 to discuss this and have developed a list of core services and a general idea of how the "new" cooperatives would work. Next step is to contact the state librarian and present our findings. Our next meeting is June 15 and we will discuss the reorganization ideas with the state librarian.

Northland interim director: I spent May 21 and 22 in Alpena reviewing the operation and attending the Board meeting. On May 29, I spent the day there and attended the Advisory Council Meeting. During the week, I was on vacation up there and spent another half day on Northland business. The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will cease service in July and the building is being sold. The cooperative will remain in operation until a decision is made on the establishment of a new cooperative in the area. This means that they may still exist as a cooperative under the new arrangement or go out of existence.