

# **Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative**

## **Director's Report**

### **January 2010**

**Library of Michigan:** Nancy Robertson, State Librarian, reported recently that the transition to the Dept. of Education was going very well. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, who spoke briefly to the Cooperative Directors at the December meeting, stressed the importance of libraries in the education process, and welcomed the library community back to the Dept. of Ed.

**State Aid Budget:** The checks are not in the mail! Sheryl Mase let the Co-op Directors know that Library of Michigan staff is working on state aid payments, but the exact distribution dates have not been determined. A report from Terri Assaf on report submission was sent to the Co-op Directors for member libraries.

**Summer Reading:** Irene met her goal of having the Summer Reading Program performers scheduled, contracts signed, and packets mailed to libraries by the end of 2009. Only a few minor details remained to complete in early January. She has booked 349 performances in 18 MMLC and 8 NLC libraries. Irene has the Spring tour - featuring Tim Smith "aka Buck Wilder" - bookings also underway with over 20 performances already scheduled.

**Michigan Library Consortium:** The members of the Michigan Library Consortium and INCOLSA (Indiana's library consortium) overwhelmingly passed a vote to combine the two organizations. This two-state consortium will provide libraries with:

- greater buying power
- enhanced access to information resources
- a wider array of programs and services
- support for library administrators

The new name will be the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services and will begin operation on February 15, 2010. I was asked to serve on the Interim Board consisting of 8 Board members from each state. The first Board meeting will be scheduled for February.

**Workshops:** On January 26, a day long workshop on millage campaigns will be held. Many of the member libraries have millage votes coming up in 2010 and expressed an interest in a second session on millages. Featured speakers will be: Stephanie Mallak Olson, Iosco - Arenac District Library Director; Shirley Bruursema, Kent District Library Board Chair; Richard Butler, Jr., Law Weathers; Trenton Smiley, Genesee District Library Community Relations Officer. On March 16, we will be hosting a book repair workshop featuring Nora Carr, Michigan State University Archivist. On March 31, Laurie Chudzinske, librarian at Houghton Lake Public Library, will present "Scratch Music! You're the Host."

**North Branch Township Library:** Karen Lambert, Director of the NB Library, retired after 30 years with the library. Kelli Lovasz has been chosen as the Interim Library Director.

**Universal Service Fund:** The 470 forms have been submitted for telecommunication services and internet access. MMLC costs will be reimbursed at 80% this year.

**U.S. Census:** There is a big push to market the importance of the census for the future of our state, our local communities and our libraries. Every person counted equals at least \$1,000 for Michigan. I have distributed free promotional items to almost half of the member libraries so far.

**Library Law Revision Committee:** The Cooperative Directors have formed a committee to study, discuss, and then begin the process of changing library laws. The focus is on:

1.) increasing autonomy for township, city and county libraries, primarily in respect to funding issues; and 2) clarifying aspects of laws that cause undue legal issues. While I was unable to participate in the first conference call, I do have the minutes and would be happy to share them with anyone who is interested.

**Friends of Michigan Libraries:** FOML recognizes that there is a need for Trustee training that was previously the role of the Michigan Library Association. MLA has indicated Trustee education is not a current objective. FOML will be surveying Library Boards to gauge interest and need.

**Strategic Planning:** The Strategic Planning Committee will begin a review of the three year plan that was adopted in 2006. In February, the Advisory Committee will have the opportunity to review and comment on the plan. Proposed revisions to the plan will be presented to the MMLC Board in March.