

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
October 2007

State Aid cut: As of October 1, we do not have a budget approved by the state for state aid to libraries. At present the Senate has voted to have a 50% cut in state aid as the Governor proposed. The House has voted to fund libraries at the 2006/07 levels. This means they will go into conference committee on this issue. Early in the morning on October 1st, the Legislature and the Governor agreed on two increases in taxes and a new structure for school and state employee health benefit options. With this action taking care of the proposed deficit for this current fiscal year, the conference committee will now be able to look at the level of funding for state aid to libraries/cooperatives.

Cooperative reorganization: State Librarian Nancy Robertson has assembled a committee to work on this project. Betsy Hull, Director of the Community District Library is serving on that committee from our cooperative. Betsy reported to the Advisory Council that the committee looked at what core services might be and how state aid might be distributed under a new arrangement. No decisions or recommendations were made and the committee will meet again in the near future.

Northland interim director: The contract with NLC for my services for FY 2007-2008 was approved by the Northland Board and we have a copy in our files. The closing for the sale of the building will be held December 6. Furniture and equipment will be made available to the member libraries. NLC will not have office space after December 31 and their operations will be done out of our office here in Flint. We will have a proposal to review in October.

PAC HUG Part II. The second round of grants to upgrade public access computers is in process. All of our eligible libraries have submitted their application for this grant. **Workshops:** We will be scheduling workshops for the MeL databases in the Spring, as well as planning other workshops throughout the year. The Summer Reading Showcase of Performers is set for October 16 and we have 45 registrants. On October 1, we opened registration to libraries outside of MMLC. We can accommodate about 60 at the workshop.

Library visits: I conducted a board member orientation for Gail Kelso from Dryden on October 1, 2007. On Wednesday, October 3 I have scheduled a board member orientation for Gwenda Motley who represents the Flint Public Library.

October 8, I will be a presenter at the Lapeer District Library staff day and will talk about the library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the status of cooperatives and state aid.

In September, I visited at the Vernon District Library and assisted them in applying for USF discount funds.

In September, I assisted the staff at Holly Township Library in applying for USF funds.

Advocacy: This past month I have been in contact with every legislator that represents the libraries in our region. I also encouraged our libraries to contact

their legislators as well as kept MLA informed on the responses we have received from legislators. It's been a busy time but I hope we reap positive results. Thank you to all who have contacted legislators.