

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

State Aid cut: The cut in state aid was not as large as expected. Instead of a 50% cut, state aid was cut 17%. There is also a move in the legislature to seek a supplemental appropriation for state aid, which if successful will bring state aid back to the level it was in the last fiscal year. Keep your fingers crossed!

Cooperative reorganization: We are waiting for the report from the State Librarian's committee with regard to a plan for reorganization. As soon as something is distributed, I will get it to the Board and Advisory Council so that we can study it and contribute our comments to the discussion. Betsy Hull, Director of the Community District Library is serving on that committee from our cooperative.

Northland interim director: The work is continuing and the closing on the sale of the building was held December 5th. The cooperative will move from the building December 20. Items will be stored and current files will come with me to Flint. NLC bookkeeping services will be handled by a local firm in Alpena and we will charge Northland for any costs incurred by MMLC in assisting with the running of the NLC.

PAC HUG Part II. The second round of grants to upgrade public access computers has been awarded. A number of our libraries are receiving grants. At the MMLC office, we will coordinate the purchase of close to 100 new computers for our members and NLC members. In return for this work, the cooperative will receive an administrative fee of around \$1,600. The administrative fee will be placed in our contingency fund.

Workshops: We will be scheduling workshops for the MeL databases for this Spring, as well as planning some other types of workshops for the future. The Summer Reading Showcase of Performers held on October 16 was a great success with 74 attendees and 25 presenters. Presenters included performers, but also programs on craft ideas, PR initiatives and the featured speaker, Patrick Jones, nationally recognized expert in the field of working with teens. Evaluations were glowing and many want us to repeat this next year. We will also be looking at other workshop opportunities. As a special feature of our connection with Northland our members will be able to participate in their mini rural conference which will be held in late April.

Library visits: I met with the Lapeer County librarians at their CALL meeting held in Almont in December. Issues related to getting Almont in the Valley Library Consortium were discussed as was the restoration of services by the Lapeer District Library.

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

MLA: I attended the MLA conference in Lansing in November. In addition to programs, I attended a special meeting of the cooperative directors to discuss the reorganization process. I also met with members of the subcommittee that is putting together the reorganization proposal.

In January, I will be attending the Mid-Winter ALA Conference in Philadelphia representing MLA as the ALA Councilor. My term as Councilor will expire July 1, 2008.

MLC: In January, I will attend my first meeting as a board member of the Michigan Library Consortium Board.