

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
June 2008**

State Aid: The good news is that the House is proposing a 2 million dollar increase in state aid. This would bring the total to \$12,000,000. The bad news is that the Senate approved only \$10,000,000. We now have to wait for the results of a conference committee meeting to see what the numbers will be. Unfortunately, deficient projections on state revenues will probably mean that we will be lucky to get \$10 million.

Cooperative reorganization: The cooperative directors met with trustees from cooperative boards on May 19 to discuss what direction we should go in the future regarding reorganizing the cooperatives and distribution of state aid. Jane Smith represented MMLC along with me and we joined in a lively discussion of the issues facing co-ops. The group will meet again in June on the 20th to review the work done on an RFP to have a study done on cooperatives and state aid funding.

New Members: Chippewa River District Library (Mt. Pleasant), Pere Marquette District Library (Clare) and the Coleman Area Library. They are presently members of the White Pine Library Cooperative. They are interested in joining MMLC and have sent letters to us indicating this. They also have sent in their letters of notice to withdraw from White Pine. At our May 8 meeting the Advisory Council passed motions to accept the new members. Only one library voted no. The MMLC Board was not able to vote on the issue as we did not have a quorum of the board for our meeting. The issue is on the agenda for the June meeting.

Northland Interim Director: The NLC Board met on May 21 and discussed their future plans. I read a letter received from the state librarian indicating that NLC would receive a waiver which will allow for the cooperative to collect state aid next year. With that letter and the approval of their Advisory Council, the NLC Board would like to continue with the arrangement for contracted director services from Mideastern MI Library Cooperative. We need to discuss this at our June meeting and give them an answer. In looking to the future, they also asked if I would be interested in working as their Interim Director after my retirement date of September 30. I indicated that I am open to such an arrangement, but that part of the ability to perform as a "virtual cooperative" is the backup that I have with MMLC office and therefore the MMLC Board would have to be involved in that discussion should this become a reality.

ALA: From June 28 until July 2 I will be attending the ALA Conference in Anaheim CA. This will be my last conference where I serve as the ALA Councilor representative from Michigan. I also attended ALA Legislative Day in Washington D.C. as part of the Michigan delegation. My flight and hotel expense was covered by a grant from Gale/Cengage Learning. I met with Dale Kildee and Candace Miller and also the aides for David Camp, and Mike Rogers.

We discussed LSTA funding, the SKILLS Act and e-rate funding among other library issues.

MLA: My term on the MLA board will conclude June 30, 2008. I serve on the board due to my being the ALA Councilor. The restructuring of MLA is moving along. Next year will be quite a time adjusting to the new way of doing business.