

## Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative On-line Newsletter

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### News from MMLC:

**Lapeer District Library** faces the voters on August 7 asking for a millage to support the library. Voters turned down two previous proposals last year. The library staff and board have worked to get the DDA's in the region to exempt the library and the term of the millage and the amount were reduced. If the millage does not pass further cuts will occur. This year the library closed 5 of its 8 locations and laid off a significant number of staff. Good luck to LDL on August 7.

**Genesee District Library, North Branch Township Library and Ruth Hughes Memorial Library in Imlay City** all had successful millage votes in May. The results of the millage voting for Genesee District Library showed 70% support rate. Congratulations to you all.

**Summer Reading Programs:** This summer has proved to be a banner year for attendance at summer reading programs. Irene reports that library locations that in the past had audiences of 40 to 50 are having 100 attend. Along with the many performers we have had in the past, this year one of the stellar programs has been **Scheer Genius**.

**MMLC website:** The new website has been live since May 15. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with its features. Posted on the website is a directory of member libraries, links to minutes of the Advisory Council and Board, documents of the cooperative such as the Plan of Service, Trust Account Policy, Personnel Policies and Strategic Plan. Two of the new features are the "What is your library worth to you? Check out the [Library Use Value Calculator](#) provided by the *Maine State Library*" and the updated Library Laws Handbook [Library Laws Handbook](#) from the Library of Michigan. The address for the website is [www.mmlc.info](http://www.mmlc.info) Check it out and give us your feedback.

**Advisory Council:** The next meeting of the MMLC Advisory Council is set for August 7 at the Wirt Library, Bay County Library System. At the meeting I would like to hold a discussion relative to the State Librarian's proposals for a new cooperative library structure. Start thinking now about the questions and comments you want to make. I will send out with the agenda a list of questions and concerns which

can serve as the starting point of our discussions. Out of the meeting discussions I hope we will have a position paper which we can send on to Nancy Robertson as she gathers information about a new structure for cooperatives.

### **Discount Programs:**

The discounts that you receive on office supplies for being a member of a cooperative have been renegotiated for this year. The discounts are good from July 07 to June 08.

To see the discounts visit: <http://tln.lib.mi.us/coop-discounts-07-08.pdf>

Please don't forget that member libraries of the cooperative are eligible for book and a/v discounts. Check out the website for details.

**Technology Funds:** Several libraries still need to claim their technology fund money for this year. If you haven't submitted bills for new software, hardware or other technology related expenses to the office do so as soon as possible. To find out the amounts left to spend please contact Irene at 810-232-7119 or email [Bancroft@gfn.org](mailto:Bancroft@gfn.org)

### **State Librarian's Excellence Award:**

Nominations are now being accepted for the Library of Michigan Foundation's State Librarian's Excellence Award. The award will be granted to a library (any type) that exemplifies excellence in customer service. The winners will receive cash prizes and be announced on Thursday Nov. 8, 2007 at the State Librarian's luncheon during the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference at the Lansing Center. The Deadline for Nominations is September 6, 2007

For more information visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/lmfoundation>

## **Library news from the national perspective:**

### **Library facts:**

According to the American Library Association:

- There are an estimated 117,467 libraries of all kinds in the United State today.
- The library is most often used for educational purposes followed by entertainment.

An ALA phone study of one thousand people over the age of 18 found that:

- 91% believe libraries are changing and dynamic places with a variety of activities for the whole family.
- 90% believe libraries are places of opportunity for education, self-help and offer free access for all.
- 88% agreed that libraries are unique because they offer access to nearly everything on the Web or in print, as well as personal service and assistance in finding it.
- 83% believe libraries and librarians play an essential role in our democracy and are needed now more than ever.