

Board report January 2007

MLA, PPC. October 23 PPC meeting to review proposals for lobbying firm.

On November 9 we had an all-day meeting to interview 5 lobbying firms. Each firm was allowed 1 hour to respond to 10 questions that we posed. The Committee then recommended the top 2 firms to the MLA Executive Board; which will make the final choice.

Board then selected GSCI Lobbying Firm.

Attended MLA in Detroit. It was a very good meeting with quite a few excellent programs.

MEL

Major change to MEL and access. There will be separate teen pages, children's pages and different look to all.

October 25, 28 people attended the children's workshop presented by Elizabeth Andresen.

Preparing new legislative contact forms for the new legislators, once the information is available.

At the October Coop Directors' meeting, we began discussion on the future of cooperatives in Michigan. The Library of Michigan will be conducting focus groups across the state (January – March) to see what the library community needs.

Sent "Thank You" notes to the legislative speakers that came on October 4 and the speakers for 11/8.

Organized and attended open houses for the newly elected legislators and prepared information packets for the legislators. I had prepared a small information packet for them and discussed what libraries do. This was a successful activity. We were able to educate legislators on some public library issues.

Upcoming Open Houses: January 19 for Sen. Stamas in E. Tawas and February 2 for Rep. Coulouris.

Prepared a workshop on communication for the Mid-Michigan Library League and presented it 11/3 in Big Rapids. MMLL paid all necessary expenses.

Presented the "Policies" workshop in Albion for the Woodlands Library Cooperative. Jim Seidl, Director, will come to White Pine to present "Retention Policies" in May, 2007. Lakeland Library Cooperative has asked me to present this workshop there. That will take place on February 9, 2007. Southwest Library Cooperative has requested this workshop for January 26, 2007

November 29, 6 people attended the Policies workshop in Mt Pleasant.

Michigan Notable Books. The program is being set for 2007. There will be 65 presentations which will begin in April and end in May of next year.

Completed the AT&T final report and submitted it to AT&T.

The amended Plan of Service was approved by the LM October 27, 2006.

65 people attended the Regional meeting on 11/8.

Prepared and submitted the order for the Gates Grant computers. The money (\$155,000) was received from the LM Foundation November 17. The money will be used to purchase 141 computers and software in White Pine area. Ordered the Deep Freeze licenses 12/05. This process took considerably more time than expected.

Preparations for the Beginning Workshop are well underway. All speakers have been contacted and agreed to participate. We will again offer open registration to attend individual the sessions. Those attendees that want the level VII certificate, however, will need to attend all sessions. The Library of Michigan is not offering its BW this year. That should get more attendees for ours.

Contacted Legislators concerning HB6681 which provides that township supervisors can appoint library board members to township libraries. The bill was amended and passed.

Attended a special Board meeting for Elk Township Library to discuss options now that their population has diminished due to the creation of a district library next door. Brown City also lost population.

I did quite a bit of research for the "Future of Cooperatives" Committee that I am on. This project is on-going and is a discussion point at our Coop. Directors' meetings. The Library of Michigan requested input for a report Nancy Robertson has to give to HAL. The Library of Michigan is reviewing the "State Aid rules" for libraries and cooperatives. LM is also reviewing the cooperatives, their services and raison d'être.

Bay County, as a result of the lost millage will lay off 106 people, leaving 25 people. The bookmobile will be discontinued, 2 branches will be closed and the remaining 2 will be open only 2 days a week. Lapeer District Library also lost its millage. It will be down to 18 staff members and will close 3 branches. This has an impact on MelCat and access to the materials there. Bay County has opted out of MelCat until it can hire staff to do the ILL.

LM is embarking on a certification process for school libraries similar to QSAC. It is working with the Dept. of Ed. to do this.

Rural Libraries Conference: Free registration thanks to a grant from the B & M Gates Rural Libraries Foundation.

Baseball tickets. Yes, we will again be selling baseball tickets this spring.

Target Corp. Is working with the LM for the Michigan Reads program – donated \$85,000. LM will send 2 copies of the selected book to each library and branch. The grade level for this year's program will be 0 – 2nd grade. It will take place in September (which is also library card sign up month).

Training DVDs. MLA has produced board training DVDs. The Coop has copies.

Titles: Vote yes! Millages & Bond Issues
Patriot Act Workshop
Basic Training for Trustees

Sheila Good has been appointed to the MelCat ILL Committee.

As part of the looking at the futures of cooperatives, I am looking for quotes from members as to the worth of the cooperative to that library, or what services you get from the coop. Please send me comments.

Associate board members: The consensus was that I should just appoint the board members this first time and then a rotation will be used.

Ervin Bell from the Saginaw Correctional Facility in Freeland has agreed to be the "special" representative. Judi Chelekis from Vassar Schools has agreed to be the school representative.