

Board report April, 2015

Report from MLA is that Renaissance Zone reimbursement will be almost 100% this year.

MLA is participating in an Amicus Brief with those that are appealing tax repayments. Some libraries are being hit with thousands of dollars to repay within one year.

MLA is working to get libraries automatically exempt from tax captures.

There is an effort to change misdemeanor infractions by minors to civil infractions rather than penal. That will reduce penal fines to libraries. Civil fines go elsewhere.

*I mentioned at the last Board Meeting that Citizen's Mutual Insurance agency had notified me that, since there aren't enough employees working full time, our policy is cancelled.

Reminder about changes in the FOIA that begin July 1, 2015. Must have policy in place and posted on your website, if you have one. Policy will be part of the minutes for the Board meeting this afternoon.

The Board will begin to review Cooperative policies.

Created new FOIA policy.

Is there any interest in having a presentation by AutoGraphics – Verso Circ system?

House Republican Action Plan, 2015-2016: 2 items specifically relating to libraries: Promoting Early Reading Literacy: Ensuring third-graders are proficient in reading by providing interventions and policies designed to raise Michigan's third-grade reading proficiency is long overdue and will be accomplished through legislative action;

Increasing TIFA Accountability and Transparency: Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a popular economic development tool used by municipalities throughout the state to capture increased taxable values, leaving other levels of government collecting a fraction of what they otherwise would. Exacerbating the problem is that there is little state oversight over the capture and expenditure of these funds and even less accountability when a TIF authority runs afoul of the several laws empowering these activities. Legislation to enhance transparency and accountability for TIFs will be adopted.

MAME will be meeting 11/11/15 in Bay City. The CDA is cooperating with MAME, MLA, LM for a preconference on multi-typing activities.

The last 2 libraries in Wayne County Library have withdrawn (and will become PA164 libraries). The WCL will close June 30, 2015.

MeLCat "going down" lately. This is because there are 3 agencies needing to schedule the repair time. III, MCLS and DTMB.

Delivery. WPLC will pay for 2 deliveries each week. Libraries will order their own service from MCLS and pay the bill. We will then deduct the amount of delivery (could be different for each library) from annual membership dues. The 3rd day will be subsidized from LSTA dollars. This is the last year for that subsidy. The LSTA amount was \$112,000 for 3 years. A RFP will go out in January for a vendor for delivery service. Additionally, a RFP for MeL databases is going out soon. Not everyone getting 3 deliveries will be charged the same price. Please send us a copy of your invoice so we will know how much to deduct (for 2 deliveries per week) from your annual fee.

MLA reports that if Proposal 1 fails, there will be a very large hole in the State budget – that money will have to come from somewhere. There is already discussion about Penal Fines. MLA is working with key legislators to ensure libraries are held harmless. Each Cooperative Director is preparing a document concerning how important Penal Fines are to local libraries. If you have anecdotes concerning use of Penal Fines, let me know. What will losing them do to your library? Start talking to your legislators now about how important they are to your library and which services will be cut if penal fines are reduced. I sent a spreadsheet yesterday with the dollar amounts each library receives with percentage of income.

MLA supports the Governor's Executive Budget – includes additional money for libraries.

SB 0108 passed the Senate February 12, 2015 removing the sunset for creating a district library with a school as partner.

Tax challenges resulting in reduced assessments.

MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL: <http://www.michigan.gov/taxtrib>

Docket Search by County: <http://taxdocketlookup.lara.state.mi.us/Search.aspx>

See: <http://rebusinessonline.com/michigan-provides-property-tax-lessons-for-big-box-retail/>

White Pine Workshops:

June 3, 2015 - 10 - 1: Using social media to market the library, with Bill Schroer

August 19, 2015 - time to be determined: Genealogy resources and how to assist patrons.

1 - 2: Cybersecurity for the library, with Paul Groll

Titles for the above may change as we finalize details.

OverDrive: Do we want a meeting to discuss any details such as inputting into the catalogue, replacing expiring titles or what is on your mind? We last met 11/13, 2013. Dates?

Remember the September 23 meeting is at the Caro Area District Library.

If you have equipment to pick up, please remember to get it after the meeting.

October 14: Annual meeting