# 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.

Reminder about changes in the FOIA that begin July 1, 2015.

The Board will begin to review Cooperative policies.
Created new FOIA policy.

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 TIF 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.

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/

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

White Pine Workshops:

June 3, 2015 - 10 - 12:  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.

October 14:  Annual meeting