

Director's Report June 23, 2021

WELCOME! Please welcome Jennifer Amormino who is the new Director at Columbia Township Library in Unionville. Also, congratulations to Briynne McCrea, the previous Director at Columbia Township Library, as she is now taking over the helm at Bad Axe Area District Library. Sadly, we say goodbye to Mimi Herrington from Bad Axe as she is retiring at the end of June.

STATE AID Kathy Webb is continuing to work on getting payments out to libraries and hope to have then done by the end of June. She is not expecting the census figures until late September or early October and continues to work with the Treasury to nail down a date. Once the state budget is set, we will know the State Aid amount.

ARPA FUNDS (American Rescue Plan Act) I am on the Public Library Digital Content Capacity Grant Group. We are working with OverDrive to see how we can best serve libraries and your patrons with digital content. There is also a Technology Capacity Grant Group being headed up by other Cooperatives. Do not forget about the Equipment Grants that your library would need to apply to on your own and by July 15, 2021. The Digital Content and Technology Capacity Grants will be applied for on your behalf via these two groups. I will share more details when I have them.

BALA FUNDS (Build America's Libraries Act) There is still no movement on these funds. More legislators have signed on in support, but that is it. When I spoke with a staff member from Lisa McClain's office on June 8, he was unaware of the Act.

HOPE GRANT (Round 2-Michigan Humanities) I applied for a HOPE Grant to help cover about 30% of the \$17,500.00 yearly cost for emagazines for OverDrive members. I will find out in August if the grant was approved.

PLAN OF SERVICE SURVEY There were 33 libraries who responded to the survey. The top two votes were for Statewide Delivery (27 votes) and Group Discounts (27), followed by Continuing Education (24) and Leadership (23). Grants to Members (20), Advocacy (20), and Member Collaboration (20) tied. Technology (16) came in last. Based on these results, the Plan of Service will be updated and presented at the next Advisory Council meeting in August. Thank you to those who provided additional comments and suggestions.

\$300 GRANT To date 31 members have responded to how they are spending the \$300.00 check sent out in May.

SRP 47%

*Other 18%

Books 16%

PPE 9%

Technology 6%

Continuing Ed 3%

*Other includes community event in the fall, combined with an LSTA grant to purchase a new AWE computer, chairs for new kids area, landscaping, a children's program, medical air purifiers.

OVERDRIVE As you probably read in one of the Weekly Updates, OverDrive is in the process of acquiring Kanopy, which is a streaming service. Not sure how things will progress with this but will keep you updated. <https://www.kanopy.com/>

OverDrive Advantage Plus-All Advantage accounts have the option to share their content with the Fuel Your Mind Group. This is called Advantage Plus. Members would login to their Marketplace Advantage (username would contain the term “adv”) and under the Admin tab, locate the Advantage Plus. The library then customizes which titles to share, types of licenses, etc.

VOX BOOKS White Pine coordinated another VOX Books purchase with the help of one of our members who received the delivery and sent them to the other libraries via Rides. If you are interested, we could try to do an order a year. They add new books every quarter.

AMAZON PRIME If you are interested in joining the Amazon Prime for Business account, please let me know. This first year is free. Based on how many sign up, it may be as little as \$10/year for the next year. White Pine has over 30 libraries signed up so far.

SORA If you are interested in partnering with your local school district to have them access your OverDrive youth collection, let me know and we can work with our OverDrive representative.

MLA Even though there was a pandemic, more people joined or rejoined MLA last year than had in a while. They also have begun a statewide marketing group comprised of library professionals and library marketers from all across Michigan. The committee’s goals include finding and implementing creative ways to promote Michigan library services at the statewide level. “The committee will find and implement creative ways to promote Michigan library services and assist with creating dynamic, and exciting multimedia communications to promote and advocate for Michigan libraries and the library profession. The committee will also oversee, create, and implement a statewide, multi-year public relations and advertising campaign to promote the importance and relevance of libraries – and educate residents, including elected officials and legislators, about library services that go beyond books.”

- 1) **Call to Action** HB4530 and SB130 seek to limit election dates and consolidate from 3 elections/yr to 2. The May election would be gone, and the August election would move to June. November would remain. This is being voted on today (Wednesday, June 23, 2021). This could be detrimental for district libraries who are seeking a millages.
- 2) **Penal Fines** HB 4535 and 4536 have the potential to divert penal fines. There is proposed additional revenue to keep snowmobile trails groomed via fines to those who damage the trails with ATVs. These fines would go toward repairing the trails rather than to penal fines.