

Director's Report December 1, 2021

Welcome! Thank you for joining us at Alma Public Library and thank you to Lorrie for hosting!

Audit The audit took place on November 8 and our auditor is here to share the result with the Board after this meeting. We were able to add over \$65,000.00 to the fund balance for the 2020-2021 FY.

ARPA Funds

Equipment Kits: If you haven't done so, PLEASE fill out the request form that Steve Bowers from TLN sent to Michlib. I also shared it with members. Every library is eligible to receive equipment from this grant.

Digital Content: Met last week with the committee and we are working through things with OverDrive and making sure we are organized before we roll out information to all libraries. There are lots of moving pieces with this. Not every library is part of Overdrive and there are some libraries that are part of OverDrive but are not part of a buying group like Fuel Your Mind.

BALA Funds (Build America's Libraries Act) We continue to watch the information coming out of DC and MLA is constantly watching as well.

State Aid

I have been in contact with Kathy Webb at LOM regarding the new census populations and state aid amounts. Normally we bill libraries in November for your membership fees, but I have been waiting for the new figures. She mentioned that IT is working on it, and she has a meeting today and will try to get a date as to when she may have the figures. White Pine will bill you as soon as we have the information we need.

MLA

Board: I have an MLA Board meeting in Grand Rapids on the morning of December 9 and I will be attending the first **ThinkSpace** meeting on Thursday and Friday, December 9-10, 2021, in Grand Rapids. At our October Board meeting, the Board approved of me attending ThinkSpace rather than attending Public Library Association conference in Portland, Oregon.

ThinkSpace: The focus of this very first **Think Space** will showcase innovations in key areas of library management, leadership, and technology via compelling and cutting-edge sessions presented by well-respected experts, all while allowing attendees to build deep, lasting relationships with a cohort of directors and deans of libraries throughout Michigan. Each year the **Think Space** cohort will focus on one specific topic of importance to Michigan library directors and explore that subject in-depth.

The inaugural Think Space will focus on equity, diversity, accessibility, and belonging, including:

- Understanding your starting point in the journey towards equity
- Hiring practices through the lens of EDI
- Racial equity-based approaches to workforce development & training
- Legal aspects that are important to consider when drafting EDI policies
- Social Justice in America today

I will be out of the office from the afternoon of Wednesday, December 8 through Friday, December 10.

OverDrive

White Pine normally bills for OverDrive in November, but I was waiting for Alison to start so we could work on it together. This will probably happen in late December or early January.

Curious if members would be interested in eComics for the Fuel Your Mind Collection. The cost is \$6,250.00/yr for 3,211 titles. If the Board approves, White Pine will cover the cost for a year to see how the collection circulates.

Min Wage

January 2022, the minimum wage will be 9.87. Had a member ask about the minimum wage rate for 2022 since there has been a great deal of talk about this in the news. As you may know, the minimum wage may or may not increase based on the state's unemployment rate.

Library Visits

I am planning to attend the Holiday Open House at Columbia Township Library in Unionville and the Brown City Public Library Open House both on December 1. Columbia Township's party is from 5-8 pm and Brown City's is 5-6 pm. Join us if you can!

Leading Big in Small Spaces

I attended the "Leading Big in Small Spaces" virtual conference for small and rural libraries. I believe they said this is the second year they have done this program. If you recall, last year there were a few White Pine members who presented and this year there were three more! Amber, Amy, and Erin presented and did a wonderful job! I gave a recap in my Weekly Update of Nov 19.