Director's Report February 2022

Welcome! Thank you for joining us at Thomas Fleschner Memorial Library here in Birch Run and for Jeanette hosting!

ARPA Funds
Equipment Kits: For those that submitted requests for the ARPA kits, TLN has said that in January programming laptops were sent out. This month, the green screens and cameras, as well as some Chromebooks will be shipped, and in March the rest of the Chromebooks and the public use laptops will be arriving. They were rolled out this way due to cash flow/reimbursement factors.

Digital Content ARPA Grant
This has been a very detailed rollout thanks to Lakeland Library Cooperative and their support from OverDrive. The Standalone libraries have completed their ordering and as of February 9, libraries that wanted to keep half or all of their allotment began ordering. Their orders must be complete by 6 pm today. It was done in sections because cash flow is a concern. The ARPA grant is reimbursement, so as the Standalones ordered and checked out, invoices began coming to Lakeland. As Lakeland paid them, they then submitted the information to the LOM which will reimburse Lakeland. We started with these smaller groups to make sure any kinks were worked out before the Shared Content Groups-like Fuel Your Mind- began ordering. These groups will also go at different times, again, due to cash flow.

OverDrive
Fuel Your Mind will have over $90,000.00 to purchase non-fiction ARPA titles. Sara will select the audiobooks as she does now, and I will do ebooks. This should equate to about 860 audio and 1800 ebooks added to Fuel Your Mind based on the average price of the materials available. These are OC/OU and will remain in the collection. There are 17 categories of titles to select from including addiction and recovery, battling burnout, career readiness and job searching, health and fitness, coping with stress and anxiety, high school and homeschool resources, and understanding trauma and grief.

State Aid
As of Monday, February 14, I have received the new census numbers from Kathy Webb. The Cooperative lost about 3% of the population. Libraries should begin to receive your specific information from the LOM soon. Alison will be sending out invoices for libraries for OverDrive content (based on pop numbers) and the platform fee this week. Once we have the new State Aid amount, she will bill for White Pine membership. I am thinking even though we have lost about 13,500 in the overall population, the increase in state aid should still provide about $16,000 more in income. Again, I am sorry for the delay.

Rides Delivery
MCLS is working on a new pricing structure for Rides Delivery, and more information will be coming in March/April. As you may or may not know, the UP is charged about 35% more for delivery than the LP. Last year a group of us signed on to a letter from a library in the UP asking MCLS to look into this. It is a statewide program and the current pricing is not fair or equitable. More details will follow.

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA)
A few Cooperative Directors have been working on developing some Continuing Educational programs for all MI libraries. Our first one will be coming up at the end of April or early May with a presentation

by Zingerman's from Ann Arbor. If you have not been to a presentation by Zingerman's before, they are very focused on customer service and present a very engaging program.

MLA
Board: I am on the Bylaw Review Committee, and we have met with Debbie once and will meet again monthly through October. One of the main focuses is how to achieve library class size, population, and diversity on the Board. As Debbie has been in the Executive Director position for almost three years, she and the Board feel some things may need to be changed, especially after Covid. This will take some time.

I am also on the Nominating Committee, and we have finalized the slate of candidates for consideration. MLA members will be voting soon so watch for the email announcement when voting is open.

ThinkSpace: I attended the first **ThinkSpace** in December along with a few White Pine members! The inaugural **ThinkSpace** meeting focused on equity, diversity, accessibility, and belonging and hit on these key points:
- Understanding your own starting point in the journey towards equity
- This is a journey, not a destination
- Try to recognize bias and it will help you learn to change. Interrupt your own biases…watch how you say things-tone-not just what you say
- Legal aspects that are important to consider when drafting EDI policies and what policies do we have in place that are exclusive?
- These are uncomfortable conversations

Our second meeting I tomorrow via zoom.

Swank Movie Licensing
Three libraries joined the group for a discount with Swank Movie Licensing. There are now 27 in this group. White Pine pays $100.00 toward the library's subscription cost.

Amazon Prime for Business
If you are interested in this but have not signed up, please let me know. This is a statewide program that TLN coordinates and you can join at any time.

BookPage
BookPage is adding an option for digital subscriptions to their services. Options will now be print, print and digital, and just digital. They are unveiling the information at PLA at the end of March. Our print subscription is paid through the March edition. The digital edition will be in addition to the print version and will provide access to previous digital issues. The service is still in the development phase, so pricing isn't finalized yet. More information will be shared when I find out about it.

MARC Bibs and OCLC ILL Requests/Lends
Just a reminder that White Pine has an OCLC subscription. This means that for those of you with Horizon circulation software who need OCLC records for the database, we can get those for you. Also, don't forget about Peabody. If you need an item that isn't available in MeLCat, submit a request through Peabody and Alison will search WorldCat. We provide this service for those not in White Pine, but they are charged for each request. You can find step-by-step videos on how to request through Peabody on our website. https://wplc.org/peabody-oclc-interlibrary-loan-tutorials/

TechSparks 2022
The Cooperative has purchased a collection of six live and on-demand tech programs presented by "Your Nerdy Best Friend, Beth Z". I sent everyone the link to the program on January 21, "Tech Tools to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions." Alison will be sending out information for the March 18 program, "Don't Let Cybercrime Ruin Your Year". If you are not able to attend the original broadcast, you can view it after. Alison will be sending out a flier by the end of the week with a link to register.

Equity v Equality
White Pine will be hosting an Equity v Equality webinar on Thursday, March 3 from 10:30 am -12:00 pm. The program begins with an overview presentation of structural racism in libraries and will transition to discussions around how the concepts of equity and equality differ from each other. Attendees will discuss common definitions for these two words and everyone will be encouraged to think about how they can use a new shared understanding to move libraries forward in our service to the public. I will send an email by the end of the week with the link to the webinar.

Alison
Alison has been with White Pine for 3 months and she is doing great! She has completed the MARC records course through MCLS, the Beginning Workshop, and the New Director's Workshop via LOM Niche Academy. She has added some Intellectual Freedom and Material Challenge resources to our website https://wplc.org/materials-challenges/ and will keep adding to it. She is revamping the Resources tab on our website to make it more user-friendly as well as looking at others pages on our site for updates. She is also completing 400-500 MARC record bib requests for member libraries each month.