

Director's Report March 2023

Welcome! Thank you for joining us here at Mayville District Public Library and thank you Jill for hosting!

Obscene Material in Libraries

State Rep Neil Friske (R-Charlevoix) has introduced HB4136 which would restrict the availability of "obscene or sexually explicit material". MLA's Director, Debbie Mikula was interviewed in MIRS about the bill and she also talked about it in MLA's newsletter mentioning that libraries do not and cannot have obscene materials on the shelves. She also mentioned that public libraries do not take on the role of a parent and it is a parent's responsibility to decide what materials they will allow their own children to read.

Other States' Proposed Legislation

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reports that [a state lawmaker has joined Republican Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft's "attempt to block public funding for libraries" if they offer allegedly "pornographic" material to minors.](#) "Rep. Mazzie Boyd, a freshman Republican from Hamilton, filed a bill last week that would institute punitive damages against Missouri's 160 local public libraries and their employees if they violate the law." The paper reports that the 24-year-old Boyd previously worked in the Trump White House and in Marjorie Taylor Greene's congressional office. [Ashcroft's sweeping proposed rule, which was first introduced last year, is strongly opposed by librarians in the state.](#)

In Arkansas, from the local *Saline Courier*, the news is that the Arkansas Senate Judiciary Committee has [approved a bill that would hold municipal or school library staff criminally liable for furnishing materials deemed "obscene" to minors.](#) The bill now heads to a full Senate vote. "As libraries, we don't own judicially recognized obscene materials. We also respect the First Amendment, allowing parents the freedom to choose what is appropriate for their children to check out instead of other parents or even librarians," a spokesperson with the Saline County Library told reporters, in response.

In North Dakota, *The Bismarck Tribune* reports that [two bills to ban sexually explicit materials from public libraries passed in the state's House and Senate late last week,](#) both with veto-proof majorities. House Bill [1205](#) passed in a 65-28 vote and now heads to the Senate, while Senate Bill [2360](#), passed 38-9, and now goes to

the House. "The bill mandates public libraries to come up with policies and processes before next year for removing and disposing of 'explicit sexual material,' handling requests to remove books, developing age-appropriate book collections, and periodically reviewing collections. Libraries also would have to submit a 'compliance report' to lawmakers," The *Tribune* reports, adding that "employees of school districts, state agencies, and public libraries" would not be exempt from prosecution. "You go sell your books in some other state," the top House top Republican commented.

Changes at LOM

Shannon White has retired from the LOM and Randy Riley has told the Cooperative Directors that they are not sure when someone may be hired to replace her. Also note, Joe Hamlin will now be doing the State Aid Report as well as other State Aid duties that Kathy Webb used to do.

Library Millage Webinars

Registration for the series provides you with access to all 4 sessions listed below. [Register here.](#)

March 9 at 1:00 pm Before Your Millage

Hear from LM staff members Clare Membiela and Joe Hamlin on library establishment and how it affects what the library can and cannot do when it comes to a millage. Information on how to find the best millage amount and how that can be calculated will also be discussed. (1.5 hours)

March 16 at 1:00 pm Legal Issues: Millage Proposals and Millage Campaigns

Attorney, Anne Seurnyck will provide an overview of the library millage process from a legal perspective. Participants will learn the dos and don'ts of ballots and campaigning in Michigan. (1.5 hours)

March 23 at 1:00 pm The Legal “Dos and Don’ts” of Campaigning: YES Committees, Libraries, Boards, and Friends Groups

Attorneys Bill Fahey and Kendall O’Connor will provide information to help libraries legally navigate the often-complicated relationships between the library staff, the board, the friends’ and the “YES” Committee in conducting a successful- and legal- millage campaign. (1.5 hours)

March 30 at 1:00 pm Tips for Obtaining a Millage in Contentious

Communities Long-time Kent District Library trustee and library millage campaign consultant Shirley Bruursema will discuss tips and secrets for successfully campaigning in millage-resistant communities, including communities questioning library content and operations. Valerie Meyerson, Petoskey Public

Library, Library Director, will share how their library navigated a successful millage campaign in a contentious and challenging time. (2 hours) The webinar link will be emailed to registrants the day before the webinar begins. You only need to register once to receive links to attend all 4 sessions. The four-part series will be recorded and available after the full series

Small Libraries Big Impact October 2024

MLA has decided to host a one-day conference for small and rural libraries since the Rural Library Conference probably won't be happening. It will be October 15 with MLA's Annual Conference starting October 16-19, 2024. It will be at the Grand Traverse in Traverse City. If you are interested in helping to plan the event, contact Amber at MLA. asheerin@milibraries.org

MI Notable Books Author Tour

Is anyone have a MI Notable Author coming to their library? Millington will be hosting Barbara Henning, author of *Ferne, A Detroit Story*.

MCLS

I was able to attend one of the last of the twelve Community Conversations with MCLS. As part of their strategic planning, they were seeking input from librarians in Indiana and Michigan about concerns and aspirations for our industry. I am looking forward to the results of all the meetings. Did anyone else participate?

UEI Renewal

I was able to renew White Pine's UEI number. If you have not done this yet, you may want to log back into SAM.gov and see when your renewal is up. You should also receive emails about a month before your listing expires.

Board Training

I have done a few Board training since we last met. Caro, Millington, and Brown City. Brown City's meeting was their first since becoming a District Library, so I will head back there to do more in-depth training if they would like. I also have Briggs District Library in St. John's coming up in April.

OverDrive

There is a new Content Group with OverDrive that your patrons have access to. Up North Michigan Consortium which includes libraries from Mid-Michigan Library League and Northland Library Cooperative. Do not forget to add them to your libraries and share the news with your patrons. I believe they are working on adding Woodlands next. Also, there is a new feature with Libby. **Deep Dive and Notify Me**. Here is a link to the [video](#) on their site.

MAP Overhaul

Mid-May rollout is expected for the new website and updated logo. A White Pine member asked how this is paid for. Each Cooperative contributes financially and TLN hosts and manages the program. If you know of any place near where you live that you think would be a good addition to the MAP website, let Jim Flury at TLN know. Alternatively, you can also reach out to the location and give them Jim's contact info. jflury@tln.org

MIHI

Has anyone attended the meetings scheduled around our state about federal broadband funding? Please consider contacting LEO about hosting. Why not bring them to some of our more rural areas...especially since that is where the internet is most limiting! If your organization is interested in hosting a tour stop, email LEO-MIHighSpeedInternet@michian.gov. [What can I expect at a MIHI meeting?](#)

Lapeer: March 7, 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Marysville: March 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Bad Axe: March 14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saginaw: March 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant: March 23, 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Alma/Ithaca: March 28, 2 - 4:00 p.m.

Hastings: March 30, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Muskegon: April 11, 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Baldwin: April 12, 5 - 7:00 p.m.

West Branch: April 18, 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Mio: April 20, 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Rogers City: April 26, 5 - 7:00 p.m.

[Register for the event that works best for you](#)

Programming Google Doc

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

Please add performers and contact information. There are about 15 performers listed in the doc so far.

Library Policies

I recently have had a few members contact me about **library policies**. Creating, reviewing, and updating policies are so important as you know, especially in this book challenge climate. This is by no means a complete listing.

WPLC: [Resources tab](#)

LOM: [Niche Academy Library Policies](#) If this link does not work, go to the [Continuing Ed](#) page, and click on Niche Staff Skills and then search library policies. [Administrative Resources](#)

MLA: [Policies Webinar](#) This webinar is wonky at the beginning. It appears to start about the 1-minute mark.

ALA: [Library Policies Guidelines](#)

Kent District Library: [KDL Policies](#)

MI Right to Read: [MLA's Intellectual Freedom Tool Kit](#)

Housekeeping Reminders...

Member Directory Just a quick reminder that if your information has changed-email, hours, etc., please let Alison know. [Member Directory](#)

New Business

MLA Advocacy Day

As you have probably heard, MLA's Advocacy Day is on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. They had planned for 120 spots for attendees and last I heard they have about 40 spots left. If you are interested [register here](#). This link will also take you to the day's agenda and more info. Hope to see you there!

Library Speakers Consortium

I shared a Weekly Update about the Library Speakers Consortium. I have not heard from anyone that this might be a service they would like to provide. Would you like me to set up an informational webinar with the representative?

LSC is working with over 200 libraries to bring author programs to communities of all sizes. LSC will create 2-3 online bestselling-author events per month which will be streamed live, including interactive Q&A sessions with participants. We are highly committed to offering a diverse mix of perspectives and will ensure that half or more of the speakers will be women and/or people of color.

Author selections will include:

- Novelists, poets, and literary fiction writers
- Personal and professional development thought-leaders
- Non-fiction authors

Author talks will be "white-labeled" on each library's microsite and appear as if they are streaming from your library. Additional features include:

- Microsites customized with library logos, colors, and photos.
- Programs archived for patrons to access "on-demand."
- Registrant reminder and thank-you emails with event links to live streams and archived recordings.
- Interactive Q&A sessions with participants during each event.
- Detailed analytics of registration, live views, and archive views.
- License to screen events in-person for patron "watch parties"
- Accessibility features: closed captioning and WACG compliance

Pricing: Pricing is based on a library's annual budget. See the attachment to the email.

Interested? Let me know and I will set up an info webinar with our rep.

<https://libraryc.org/>

Hoopla

Met with James Gonzales, our rep for Hoopla. They offer music, movies, tv, comics, ebooks, audiobooks. Cost is estimated based on your service population. Each patron is given so many circs/mo. You would set that. Items are based on \$1.99/circ or \$3.99/circ.

They have a consortia model now, but it is not like OverDrive. You would be working with Hoopla directly, but White Pine can contribute funds to a deposit account and the funds can be dolled out equally among those who sign up.

How other Coops do it:

One pays for their entire Coop. Not really an option for us as that would be \$118k.

Another pays a certain dollar amount into a deposit account. Each month, Hoopla figures out how much their participating libraries spent, and the Coop pays 15% towards the bill. The total for the year they have budgeted is \$4000.00.

If you are interested in Hoopla for your library, I will have a zoom meeting later in March to discuss what that might look like for members. Please let me know if you are interested. Those of you that have emailed me or expressed interest at the meeting in Mayville, I have you on my list already.