

Director's Report April 24, 2024

Welcome! Thank you for joining us here at Charles A. Amble Library at Mid-Michigan College in lovely Harrison! Thank you to Corey for hosting and giving us the chance to tour your library!

New Directors!

Welcome Missy Perryman to Ovid Public Library! I will meet Missy on Friday and attend their storytime in their newly renovated library!

PLA

I attended PLA in Columbus earlier this month and I am still sorting through information I brought home. The speakers were very good and Erin will give a recap of her experience under New Business.

Advocacy Day

A great day overall advocating for libraries. There were eight members from White Pine including John Clexton from Gladwin County District Library, serving as the event's Chair. Those of us who went, also met the day before to go over the information so we were on the same page the next day! We were tasked with talking about state aid to public libraries, capital improvement/infrastructure grants, and upcoming freedom-to-read legislation. Check out our Facebook page for pics from the day. For those eager to dive deeper, here's a link to [MLA's Talking Points](#). Please take the time to read them over. Advocating for libraries is more than one day in Lansing, it's an ongoing narrative. So, seize every chance to engage with your local legislator, be it inviting them to storytime or hosting their office hours in your meeting room. We need to tell our stories every day!

OverDrive Advantage Webinar

Twenty members joined the OverDrive Webinar about Advantage and Advantage Plus accounts. I hope those who attended found the webinar helpful and can see the “advantages” of having an Advantage account. If you were not able to attend, the slides and video link were sent out with last week's update and Alison has the links under the Events Tab on our website.

Additional Funds for OverDrive Holds

Just an FYI Sara and I placed our first Holds cart order last month. We each have \$1,000.00 to devote to the titles with the most holds on top of our regular budget amount of \$1,900.00 each. So monthly through September, we have \$5,800.00 to spend.

Michelle Bradley, LOM Library Development Manager

I coordinated a meeting with Michelle Bradley and other Cooperative Directors in March. Michelle is taking part in an AI cohort with other State Libraries hoping to draft best practices and the impact AI could have on libraries.

VOX Book Order

To date, I have eight members who have given me their order for VOX Books. The deadline to get the order to me is Friday, May 10. We have enough orders to qualify for free shipping. Thank you to Ruth at Rawson Library in Cass City who will again receive the shipment and sort and send the items out to those libraries that ordered.

Hoopla

Just a reminder that White Pine offers that any member who subscribes to Hoopla will receive a \$300.00 annual deposit to their account. This is a great way to try out the service. In the past few months, we have had three more libraries looking at this service.

Blackstone Unlimited Audio

Two separate BU plans, one Adult and one Youth/Teen, are covered by this agreement. Libraries may choose to purchase one plan or the other, or both. You will recall the disappointment in libraries when the RBDigital Unlimited Audiobooks service disappeared as a result of a corporate merger several years ago. Hence, we are pleased to present the Blackstone Unlimited Audiobooks service to libraries at TLN with negotiated, statewide discounted pricing.

List pricing is based on annual circ. No minimum number of libraries is required. 25% discount on both the Adult and Juvenile/Teen packages. For list price category purposes, BU classifies libraries as follows:

Annual circ <50k: List for Adult \$1,260, with discount \$945. List for J/T \$600, with discount \$450

Annual circ 50k-150k: List for Adult \$3,000, with discount \$2,250. List for J/T \$1,000, with discount \$750

Tutor.com

You may have heard about a press release sent out earlier this month by Congressman Tim Walberg and twelve other colleagues questioning Tutor.com and security concerns. Tutor.com was purchased by Primavera Capital Group a Chinese firm with ties to ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok in 2022. The legislators raised concerns about national security and child privacy issues based on an independent review by their partner organization, Parents Defending Education. This organization feels that tutor.com poses a significant threat to school and library databases and critical infrastructure including the potential to compromise sensitive teacher and student information.

Tutor.com responded within days of the Congressman's press release, with information that stringent safeguards are put in place to protect customer and student data which is constantly monitored. They also note they have a binding legal commitment to the US government that Primavera will not have access to any personal data or IT systems and that they are a US company with data stored on US soil. The Department of Treasury also weighed in back in April of 2023 that the merger with Primavera posed no unresolved national security threats or concerns. It also states that members of Congress and congressional committees will be advised of this determination. I assume because of all the TikTok press of late, this is now hitting the news although this merger took place 2 years ago. This is a great example of why we need to check resources.

My Review

The WPLC Board will be doing my review in the next few weeks and along with that is a Member Input Form that all Library Directors are invited to fill out. Your feedback will help the Board with my evaluation so please consider filling it out. The form will come via email to you from WPLC Chair Lorrie Taylor, Alma Public Library. These should be returned to Lorrie Taylor at ltaylor@myalma.com

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

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

Your Library Policies

Reviewing and updating policies is important. Check out these resources if you need guidance.

WPLC: [Resources tab](#)

LOM: [Niche Academy Library Policies](#) If this link does not work, go to the [Continuing Ed](#) page, 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 like email, hours, etc., please let Alison know. [Member Directory](#)