

Director's Report December 4, 2024

Welcome! Thank you for joining us here at Aitkin Memorial District Library. May thanks to Marty and his staff for the warm welcome!

Audit

Our audit was completed in November and the draft results will be presented to the Board this afternoon. We came in under budget so that is always good news.

Right to Read Legislation

House Bills [6034](#) and [6035](#). The full bills (there are two that are identical; one for district libraries and another for all other public establishment types):

<https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billintroduced/House/pdf/2024-HIB-6034.pdf>

MLA put out a Call to Action yesterday regarding The Freedom to Read Act legislation which was introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives on November 7 and referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The legislation is now on the agenda for a committee hearing scheduled for today, December 4, 2025, at noon.

Part of the legislation will require public libraries to adopt collection development policies that specifically commit the library to following the 1st and 14th amendments to the Constitution.

"The reason or basis for a request for reconsideration cannot be made based on the religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity... ", etc. And "A public library shall not grant a request for reconsideration based on the subject matter, content, or viewpoint of material unless the material has been adjudicated to be obscene or otherwise unprotected by the First Amendment of the Constitution..."

Other topics the lame duck legislators are looking at include Economic Development (help with corporations), Minimum Wage and Sick Leave, Government Transparency, Additional Gun Laws, Road Funding, Criminal Justice Reform, Dark Stores Loophole, and Maternity Interventions, to name a few.

Funding

We all should be keeping an eye out with the new administration when it comes to IMLS funding (federal monies) as Republicans will be in charge of Congress and the Presidency. At the state level, we also need to watch for what may happen to state aid with the House now a Republican majority, the Senate, and the Governor, democratic. Gridlock may be the term for the next two years, but we can hope for bipartisan legislation!

Book Repair Workshop by Demco's Book Doctor

On Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 10 am-1 pm, White Pine will host a Book Repair Workshop at Bullard Sanford Memorial Library in Vassar. Attendees will learn book repair basics and more advanced repair techniques. There is a minimum of 40 to attend with a max of 50. All supplies

will be provided and everyone in attendance will receive a new pair of scissors! Plus, this is FREE so get it on your calendars now, so you are ready to register when the time comes!

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, via Zoom

I am hosting the LCM DEI Committee, and our program is called, *Overdue: Weeding Out Oppression in the Library*. It will be presented by Anne Heidemann, Tribal Librarian at the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Libraries. Anne will share how after being awarded the IMLS National Leadership Grant, she and Indigenous community members facilitated the creation of a new classification system. The new system, titled Maawn Doobiigeng (Gather Together), is being implemented into their libraries. Anne will discuss the process and explain why the new system was imperative for accurately describing and providing access to Native Topics. This project has been a massive endeavor and has resulted in an incredible achievement! Here is the link to the [Podcast](#) if you are interested. The Zoom link will be in the Weekly update.

ACH (automated clearing house) Payments

I will be talking with the Board about a policy for paying vendors/members via ACH and accepting payments from vendors/members via ACH.

UofM Cohort

Our last meeting was in small groups with a facilitator from Hennes Communication (Crisis Communications firm) who talked about dealing with interview questions and the importance of being prepared. I asked for their tri-fold prep handout, and they sent it to me so everyone may have one.

Reimbursable Services Support Program Grants

Just a quick reminder about White Pine's Reimbursable Services Support Program. For FY 2024-2025, White Pine Library Cooperative will reimburse members for Programming/CE/eResources, Tech Support, and Legal Services expenses, up to \$900.00 per member. The deadline to submit receipts is September 19, 2025. Access the [Submission Form](#).

Accessibility at WPLC

Alison and I will be working on our website and related documents.

State Aid Reports

Please email me a copy once you have completed your report and I will send you your library's stats.

UEI Renewal

I have heard from a few members that they have been contacted by firms willing to do your renewal for you but for a fee. Remember, you can do this through SAM.gov and it is Free.

Volunteers Needed!

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the Zoom room at this meeting. Please consider volunteering if you can attend in person.

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

Please add performers and contact information.

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](#)