



Report to Library of Michigan Board of Trustees  
November 2024

This past month the library cooperatives exhibited together at the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference, promoting our work and our shared project, the *Michigan Activity Pass*.

For this quarterly report, please find the individual reports from each cooperative attached. The individual cooperatives continue our work together to empower libraries as the **Library Cooperatives of Michigan**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Bowers".

Steven K. Bowers  
President, Library Cooperatives of Michigan  
Executive Director, The Library Network

**Detroit Library Cooperative  
Library of Michigan  
October 31, 2024**

### **10-Year Millage Renewal – Proposal L**

On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, Detroit voters supported Proposal L, the ten-year renewal of DPL's 3.9943 mills that provides approximately 85% of our revenue. The proposal received 63,494 "Yes" votes (85.8%) and 10,509 "No" votes (14.2%). This renewal provides funding for library services from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2035. The overwhelming support we received indicated that Detroiters value and appreciate the important role the DPL plays in providing access to information, technology and programs that enhance their quality of life.

### **Vision to Learn**

During the summer, DPL locations hosted "Vision to Learn," a national program that provides free eye exams and glasses for children and young adults aged 4-21. The program was offered at Main Library and 15 branches. As a result of this program, 186 young people received eye exams, and 181 of them received new glasses. The program manager for "Vision to Learn" noted, "It has been a pleasure working with all of the different branches, and we are excited about the positive impact we've made. Looking ahead, we are eager to continue our collaboration next summer and provide glasses for even more kids."

### **Summer Reading**

This year's Summer Reading theme was "Adventure Begins at the Library." Families had access to fun educational programs and free books throughout the summer at all library locations. Programs were provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron-Clinton Metro-Parks, DPSCD Office of Nutrition Garden and Fitness, the Detroit Puppet Company, and DPL's hard-working and creative children's librarians and staff. A special thank you goes to our partners Detroit PBS Kids, Kiwanis Detroit #1, Forgotten Harvest, White Castle and the Michigan Science Center, who helped to make this year's Summer Reading Program a success. During the seven-week reading program, we served 4,270 free lunches that were provided by Forgotten Harvest.

### **2024 Staff Development Day**

Staff Development Day was held on Wednesday, October 2, and was a resounding success. The theme, "The Power in You," resonated with the staff, and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Our morning keynote speaker, Robyn Hatcher, a communication expert, author and international speaker, provided opportunities to explore our individual powers that we can utilize to enhance our work and personal lives. Ten afternoon workshops focused on professional development issues including customer service, intergenerational communication, and personal self-care.

### **Gaming Development Workshop**

On Saturday, October 5 2024, the History of Black Writing program at the University of Kansas and the Detroit Public Library, presented “Game Jam Workshop,” a free day-long workshop for teens to discover the components of game development. Dr. Kishonna Gray, author, gamer and Professor of Racial Justice and Technology at the University of Michigan, was the presenter.

### **Sunday Family Fundays Return to Main Library**

Main Library resumed its Sunday schedule on October 6, 2024 with an exciting afternoon of family programs. Highlights included: hands-on activities for children provided by ProjectArt; a visit from General Motors Corporation's Reality Capture Group, which allowed customers to drive a robot around the building while answering questions about this exciting technology; and author Nathan Thrail, who spoke on his 2024 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*. Sunday Family Fundays continue through May.

### **Educators' Night**

In partnership with the Detroit Cultural Center Association (DCCA), DPL participated in its second annual district-wide Educators' Night event on September 26, 2024. This free, immersive event was a unique opportunity for K-12 educators from Detroit and the surrounding metro region to explore the incredible educational resources offered by the Cultural District's institutions. Seven cultural institutions were host sites, including the Main Library, which focused on early childhood literacy and education offerings.

### **2024 Halloween Programs**

There were many Halloween-themed programs offered throughout the Library system.

- On Saturday, October 19, at 2 p.m., the Hubbard Branch sponsored a Spooky Family Movie Matinee featuring Disney's “Haunted Mansion.”
- The Motor City Ghost Hunters were at Main Library on Tuesday, October 22. They discussed the history of the spirits that reportedly haunt the stacks and Adam Strohm Hall.
- On Halloween, Thursday, October 31, 4-5:30 p.m., Children's Library hosted “A Booktacular Halloween Party,” that featured games, treats, and Halloween-themed activities.



# LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

LEADING • LEARNING • LENDING

Report to the Board of the Library Michigan

We began the 24/25 fiscal year with a quarterly meeting that highlighted our services and successes within the past year. We once again want to say thank you for the increased state aid funding. It is wonderful to be above the rate set out in the initial legislation in the 1970's. Funding makes such a difference at all these libraries and how we support them!

We have new leadership on the board and advisory council. John McNaughton from Grand Rapids is the President, Lance Werner from KDL is Vice President and Ron Suszek from MADL remains secretary and Maggie McKeithan from Spring Lake continues as treasurer. Elyshia Hoekstra from Coopersville chairs advisory. Stef Reed from Flat River is our vice-chair and Joe Zappacosta from Hackley is our secretary.

Our Cataloging Services Department has added Muskegon Area District Library as a cataloging center. The 4 libraries and the LLC staff are working together to streamline policies and procedures and keep our cataloging standards high. We are also helping libraries use the acquisitions module of our ILS.

The consortia version of the BiblioCommons mobile app will probably roll out by the end of the year. LLC had 22 testers and 18 libraries. The testing was successful and has kept the vendor on schedule. Such a pleasure to work with our members and a vendor who values our time, opinions and commitment!

The Delivery department continues to drive about 50,000 miles per year per vehicle and movement of materials is as busy as ever! We have 3 new sorters this year. Our drivers continue to work safely, efficiently and reliably to provide materials to 800 thousand residents in 8 counties.

ILS and Member Services Managers are working to embark on evaluating our current ILS and analyzing options for the future. This will be a major focus for 24/25.

We are finishing up 3 strategic plans and continuing with 3 and starting 4 more. Plan the work and work the plan is our motto!

New laptops have been purchased for staff. The new servers, phone service and email have transformed how we communicate and support our libraries.

As I mentioned in September, Lakeland serves our members by meeting their individual and collective needs. We look forward to another fiscal year as we embark on year 3 of our strategic plan and we pursue new projects to help those who live in the communities that we serve!

Carol Dawe  
Director  
November 1, 2024

*Lakeland Library Cooperative*

*We strengthen libraries through expertise, services, and shared resources for the benefit of communities and individuals.*

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Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative  
Updates for LM  
November 2024

- We are happy to announce that we have two new Directors. Danielle Brigati became the director of the Lapeer District Library starting on August 1, 2024. Danielle comes to us from Texas where she had been a director. On September 30, 2024, Ryan Tackabury became the new director at the Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library in Imlay City. Ryan had previously worked at GDL in several different positions.
- In September we had the MMLC Board Meeting where we passed our 2024-25 Budget that went into effect on October 1, 2024. On October 1, 2024, we had our Advisory Council meeting at the Harrison District Library. Our guest speaker was Michelle Bradley from the Library of Michigan. Harrison recently went through a renovation. They purchased an historic restaurant building and remodeled it into a large modern library for the community.
- Eric was on the committee that did the pre-conference for the small and rural libraries. It was very successful and sold out quickly. The next day, the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference started in Traverse City. Which was also a big success.
- In April at the Public Library Association conference, Debbie Mikula director of the Michigan Library Association talked with several the directors of the Michigan Library Cooperative with the idea of doing a Podcast on Libraries employees. Each cooperative was to come up with the employee to be interviewed. MMLC was the first cooperative to have an employee interviewed. The person selected was Ryan Tackabury from the Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library. The first podcast should be coming November 14, 2024.
- We have been issues with our emails for the last several months but hopefully we are in the final stages of fixing the issue.



**Library of Michigan Report  
Northland Library Cooperative  
November 2024**

- Approved FY 23-24 budget amendments and FY 24-25 budget
- Reviewed and approved **Plan of Service**
- Completed **FY 23-24 Annual Report** to members.
- Working on **FY 23-24 Financial Audit**.
- **Renewed Cooperative Services for FY 24-25:** RIDES, Consumer Reports Online, print copies of BookPage, Overdrive eMagazines.
- **Added Cooperative Services for FY 24-25:** MLA Organizational Memberships, Summer Reading grants, Talk, Text and Learn, and a rolling legal fund for emergency use by member libraries.
- **Two Virtual Northland Chats:**
  - Directors met to discuss their best hiring practices.
  - Circulation staff met to create a document of common practices.
- Director attended the UM Cohort sessions, Small and Strategic Conference (was part of planning committee), and MLA Annual Conference
- Working on best practices for materials delivery to Beaver Island District Library. RIDES does not service them. Currently a member library handles all requests for delivery, and returns are via USPS.
- **eRate Funding:** Management of Category 1 and Category 2 funding contracts.
- Presentation on Boyne District Library's Ambassador Toolkit and how it is used to train staff, board and friends, making public messaging more consistent.
- Planning for 2025 Great Lakes Energy Grant: will provide \$15,000 to enhance digital literacy education at three libraries.
- **Monthly eNewsletters** to all libraries
- **Supported boards** in posting two director positions.
- New NLC Board members took the **Oath of Office**.
- **Providing consulting services** to directors and trustees: 24 times in September and October. Example of consulting service: helping a new director complete a draft budget and coaching on how to present it to her board. Support and networking continue to be a valued service of the cooperative.



# Suburban Library Cooperative

- The Suburban Library Cooperative was happy to host Michelle Bradley and Joe Hamlin from the Library of Michigan in October. Michelle spoke with Advisory Council to introduce herself and discuss upcoming plans from the Library of Michigan. Joe spoke to a group of Directors and Trustees during a Lunch and Learn about the State Aid process, as well as library data and Penal Fines.
- Two technology updates have occurred, affecting our shared system members. The co-op moved to Google Workspace for email and collaboration tools – we still offer email to shared system members, so many libraries made the transition with us. We also upgraded to true SMS notices within our ILS. Previous notices had been sent email to SMS and there were frequent issues on the receiving end. Staff and patrons alike have been happy with the change.
- For the new fiscal year, SLC is purchasing a LibraryIQ subscription for all member libraries. LibraryIQ is a powerful data tool that can analyze a library's collection in many ways, from basic weeding reports to analyzing the diversity of a collection and recommending areas for increased DEI. The onboarding process is currently happening and should be completed by the end of this month.
- SLC has partnered with the American Heart Association to work toward adding circulating blood pressure monitors to the co-op's central library of things. Additionally, they will be working with several member libraries on circulating monitors, in-library blood pressure stations, and creating cardiac event response plans.



Library of Michigan Report  
10/31/2023

- Andrea invited John Chrastka from Everylibrary to meet with Michigan libraries on Zoom in January! He will speak on Advocacy and share about what Everylibrary does. This program will be sponsored by Library Cooperatives of Michigan
- Andrea working with Amazon on improving their platform for libraries. Has sent 3 ideas so far and one has been sent through to their tech department for development! In November, Amazon will be “shadow shopping” with Andrea to gain better understanding of the library purchasing workflow.
- Audit for FY 2023-2024 in progress
- 501c3 paperwork has been submitted for SMLC, now waiting to hear back.
- Andrea created a “Welcome to the Board” packet for new SMLC Board members.
- Andrea visited member libraries and also the Paw Paw District Library board, and attended MLA.
- SMLC has officially switched over from a bank to credit union which earned the cooperative over \$10,000 in interest in the first year of the switch!
- SMLC Treasurer and Director now doing cooperative bookkeeping rather than outsourcing. Will have a bookkeeper annually review books prior to the audit.
- SMLC Continuing Education Committee actively planning 2025 with a lot of great training ideas, including: Cyber Security, Succession Planning, Reaching Hispanic Communities Panel, Weeding Collections, Facilities Management, and a half day Front Lines workshop focused on confident decision making, enforcing policies, and customer service.
- SMLC inquired with auditor about grants process and recently voted to change grants to annual distribution grants in the various areas. In 2024-2025 FY, grants increased to \$4000 with a new \$500 being designated towards Digital Collections so most of the libraries in the cooperative can add Overdrive Digital Magazines.
- SMLC celebrated multiple “Not So New Anymore” Directors by giving them a certificate and congratulating them on thriving in their first year (or two). The SMLC New Directors group will restart again with 4 new Directors next year.

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## Superiorland Library Cooperative

### Library of Michigan November 2024 Board Report

- In August, we hosted a grant funded virtual program with library consultant Beth Wahler, *Where I End and You Begin: Boundaries for Library Staff*. The event was well attended and well received by our member library directors.
- In September I attended a Spies Public Library board meeting with Clare Membiela and Joe Hamlin of the Library of Michigan. Clare and Joe presented to the board and we helped provide information in response to their questions about establishment, endowments, and the role of the library board.
- Our annual September UPRLC conference saw over 100 attendees, the most participation we've seen yet. The event was hosted in Escanaba on the campus of Bay College. Later this month, our UPRLC Annual Conference planning committee for 2025 begins their work.
- As of October, Superiorland's program committee is now reaching out to potential performers for visits to our member libraries in summer, 2025. Each year, we help schedule and subsidize a string of events with authors and performers to coincide with member library summer reading programs.
- October 1 marked the launch of the Text and Learn for Kindergarten (TALK) program for our member libraries. Library patrons at all Superiorland member libraries now have access to the program, managed by the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS).
- I'm happy to share that all eight of the Superiorland member libraries with proposals on the August ballot won their funding.
- In September, the Superiorland board adopted a new Schedule of Services for FY2025. In addition to TALK, new initiatives include providing support to libraries as they navigate new ADA website accessibility requirements, and providing training on new products available to the membership through our Integrated Library System (ILS) vendor.
- Also in September, I learned that the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPAD) grant application for MITTEN funds was awarded in the amount of \$857,909. Superiorland is a partner on the grant and will be meeting with CUPAD and other partners to begin discussing implementation in November.
- I am happy to report that we hired a new Reader Advisor and Recording Director for Great Lakes Talking Books (GLTB). Mia Brodeur started in her new role in mid-September and has been a welcome addition to our team and the GLTB patrons.
- I am currently working with my colleagues at The Library Network to organize a statewide virtual presentation with author Frederick Stonehouse in November, 2025, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. This will include hosting Mr. Stonehouse for an in-person event in Houghton county next year as well.
- Registration is now open for three in-person events we are hosting at member libraries in November, which are planned in coordination with Laura Warren-Gross of MCLS. Laura will be presenting at each library on MeL eResources, and I'll be presenting on various topics at each library, too. All UPRLC and Superiorland library staff are invited to participate.



Quarterly Activities Report  
Steven K. Bowers  
November 2024

### **TLN Board Elects New Officers**

The TLN Board has elected Victor Cardenas as Board Chair, Art Woodford as Vice-Chair, Joyce Parker as Treasurer, and Rita VanBrandeghen to continue as Secretary.

TLN Board biographies are accessible at: [TLN.org/BoardBios](https://www.tln.org/BoardBios)

TLN Board Agendas and Minutes are accessible on their Board page at: [TLN.org/Board](https://www.tln.org/Board)

### **TLN Workplace Perceptions Project**

This summer TLN had almost 900 library employees participate in the Workplace Perceptions Survey. There was a wide range of respondents, about two-thirds of whom were in non-management roles. In September a [Survey Results Webinar](#) was given, providing an overview of the findings from the project. A draft of the full Final Report for the project has been received and will be shared once it is finalized. Broad takeaways include a response of high employee satisfaction while also noting areas for improvement. TLN will work on follow-up and implementation of report recommendations and will continue to engage with a Workplace Perceptions member committee. See [TLN.org/workplace](https://www.tln.org/workplace) for more information and to follow the project.

### **TLN Goes to Michigan Library Association (MLA)**

TLN was able to send five individuals (**DJ Bond, Steven Bowers, Brigitte Felix, Jim Flury, and Janna VanHouten**) to attend the MLA Annual Conference in October. The Michigan Activity Pass (MAP - [MiActivityPass.org](https://www.miactivitypass.org)) and TLN shared a booth to showcase the program and other TLN services. TLN made two presentations at the Conference, including *I'll Take Management for \$500* (<https://tinyurl.com/MLA24PLAY>), co-presented with **Cathy Russ** from West Bloomfield Township Public Library, and *Understanding & Addressing Library Employees' Workplace Perceptions* (<https://tinyurl.com/MLA24WORK>), co-presented with Kari, from University of Michigan-Dearborn iLabs.