



To: SMLC Board
From: Gail Powers-Schaub
Date: December 30, 2006
Re: Director's Report

MEMBER SERVICES

Committee Meetings

During December the following committees met – minutes will be available online.
Task Force on the Future

Continuing Education

The following workshops were offered during December:

Workshop Title	Participants
MeLCat Cataloging	8
TOTAL	8

MeLCat

In January 5 SMLC libraries will be going live on MeLCat. Each library will decide on its own whether to run our co-op wide Agent ILL system alongside MeLCat – watch Newsnotes for information. This quarter three SMLC libraries are scheduled to begin the process for going into MeLCat, including:

Paw Paw District
Coloma Public
Otsego District

During December I met with the following libraries to work on planning for MeLCat implementation:

Marcellus

PAC HUG

In December we purchased replacement computers and software for participating libraries that had not already replaced their original Gates computers, and provided reimbursement for those who had.

Investor Education

At the November Public Library Directors meeting we hosted two people from Michigan's Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Securities and Insurance Offerings Division (OFIS), Peg Beckwick and Linda Cena. This Department, along with ALA and the Investor Protection Trust, is offering free, vendor neutral, very high quality Investment Education for the public, and are hoping to work through our libraries. Starting in March 2007, they will provide 2 hour programs that can be held at your library. Free Money Talk DVD sets were provided along with some samples of their educational brochures, also free. There is a lot of money available for grants, which can

be used for more programming around investor education, beefing up collections in this area, and other similar things. Visit http://www.investorprotection.org/wwi/grant_criteria.html or http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Version_of_IPT_OFIS_Guidelines_119513_7.pdf for OFIS grant information. These are rolling grants with no formal deadlines.

PC Cop

Responding to member requests the Co-op began negotiations with PC Info regarding group pricing on PC Cop – internet time management software with printing management capabilities. As of early January, about 14 libraries have expressed an interest – 4 more than the 10 needed to give us negotiating power! More information on a deal will be forthcoming.

Salary and Directory Survey

This year, thanks to Susan VerMeulen, we were able to automate data collection for our annual surveys via Survey Monkey. If you have not completed your salary survey (public libraries only) or your Directory Update (all members), you will be hearing from us. We will not be providing print directories this year, but will make the Directory information available electronically. Responses to date include:

SMLC Public Library Salary Survey
18 responded, need 16 more

SMLC Directory Update
28 responded, need 63 more
19 Public responses received
2 Academic responses received
1 Special response received
6 Schools responses received

Michigan Notable Books

The author tour will be held in April-May rather than May-June in hopes of enhancing audiences; this means we will all need to start our plans earlier. 65 libraries will be chosen as tour sites this year, up from 51 last year; this equates to 5 per cooperative. Target is a tour sponsor this year, along with Borders/Waldenbooks. Judith Moore, the LM Foundation Director, asks that we encourage new libraries to participate. The tour is open to academic libraries provided they are open to the public. A training program is planned for new libraries to help them market and make the best use of this opportunity. Libraries will have the opportunity to request 3 priority authors; staff will try to honor, but there are no guarantees. More information will be forthcoming.

ADMINISTRATION

Retirement

The Co-op is investigating MERS as a retirement plan provider. MERS is the most common provider used by Michigan co-ops.

E-Rate

The Co-op has solicited bids for telephone and internet service, and will be making selections for providers for the 2007-2008 e-rate year this month.

Networking/Education

In December I attended:

Coop Directors Association

2006 Data Digest: Copies of the digest were provided to directors, and more are available. Copies will be mass mailed to libraries; when all statistics have been verified and approved, they will be available on CD.

Nancy Robertson and LM staff is working on scheduling **town meetings** in March-April for libraries of all types; the discussion will include cooperatives, but this will not be the primary focus. Attendees will also get information and have a chance to give feedback on MeL 2.0. These meetings will be followed with an evaluation to be shared with all state agencies.

Beginning Workshop will be on hiatus in 2007 for revisions and changes. The new program will take a blended approach with both in-person and on-line modules and will include flexible starting times. **New Directors' Workshop:** The program is already on hiatus; staff believe there is a disconnect between what is offered and what is expected, and the expectations cannot be met in a one-day workshop. There is a need for training on how to be an effective library director; Deb Bacon-Zeigler from LM is exploring options for online learning and alternate delivery. Staff will be looking at Web Junction and other online courses; they would like to select courses to recommend for staff, rather than all libraries pursuing individually.