Executive Director’s Report

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2022 January

Library Site Visits

In spite of the pandemic, I have been able to continue scheduled site visits to TLN member libraries. In October, November, and December I visited a few, including Plymouth District Library, Highland Township Public Library, Canton Public Library, Oak Park Public Library, and Saline District Library. I was able to meet virtually with others.

Work on New TLN Website

Work on the new website is slow but sure. The company has fixed a file load problem that we need in place to go live with TLN system reports on the new site. Most other pages on the site are now drafted and we are working to finish up file transfers.

Working with Partners

We were pleased to hear official word for Metroparks in December that their Board approved funding the TLN hotspots program for another calendar year, in 2022. The program distributes 80 unlimited data hotspot devices to libraries in TLN for use by the public. The TLN office is reviewing usage data and plans to get hotspots to a few more libraries this year if they do not have any. Additional funding will come from the TLN Library Equity Access Fund (LEAF) that the TLN Board began funding this fiscal year.

ARPA Update

The Library of Michigan granted a total of $4,004,730 in ARPA funds to libraries. TLN libraries received a total of $559,861 in funding, materials, and library digital content. For the TLN ARPA Capacity grant, TLC Kits project, 255 libraries in Michigan requested materials (55 TLN member libraries). Materials being sent out to TLN libraries from the TLC Kits project total $195,273 in value. For the Lakeland Library
Cooperative ARPA Capacity grant, for OverDrive e-book content, TLN libraries are expected to receive a total of $181,225 in e-content. Additional ARPA funding totaling $183,363 was granted directly to TLN libraries (Dearborn Public Library, $44,785; Hamtramck Public Library, $94,688; Wayne Public Library $43,890) for various projects.

TLN is in the ordering and delivery stage of our grant, with materials for our TLC Kits project going out statewide to libraries, January – May. Informational flyers and videos are currently being created for distribution with materials and I presented to several libraries virtually about using the resources we are sending to libraries. Work has begun on the statewide marketing campaign as well, with Blohm Creative Partners.

**Training, Meetings, and Conferences**

The TLN Directors continue to meet monthly with each other, and at Library of Michigan sponsored director meetings. Additionally, I have been attending the MINDS (Michigan New Directors Meetings) along with several new TLN library directors.

October was busy with conferences, including MERS (covering TLN’s retirement offerings from the state) and the Michigan Library Association annual conference (virtual) at which I participated in welcoming conference attendees at the virtual MCDA booth (for the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association). Various TLN staff attended MLA as well as the TLCU conference from our shared system (CARL) vendor, The Library Company.

I was able to also attend training on EDI work from the state and through the MLA Think Space conference held in Grand Rapids.

**TLN Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Initiatives**

I was able to attend an EDI session sponsored by the Woodlands Library cooperative and invited them to view the recording of the session TLN held at our member forum: “Equity Vs. Equality: A Facilitated DEI Discussion.” Several members participated in the TLN learning event. The presentation from the event was later recorded and posted with related materials for members and others to use.

A staff in-service training day was held in November where the staff participated in discussion and learning about micro-aggressions. This Conscious Leadership session was facilitated by Volar Consulting, the same company working with the Board.

In January, TLN held its first support group meeting for TLN member library people of color. The initial meeting was well received, and the group intends to meet monthly. I will continue to consult and meet with the group to provide the support they are looking for from TLN.