Executive Director’s Report

Steven K. Bowers
2023 January (10/2022 - 1/2023)

**Member Engagement**: The newly approved TLN Member Engagement Coordinator position has been hired and an announcement of the appointment is forthcoming. This new member of the TLN administrative team will work closely with Steve and will engage with member committees heading TLN event, marketing, and promotion efforts. The position will also begin work on a new annual call for volunteers and programming.

**Michigan Library Association**: TLN participated in the MLA Annual Conference in October at a shared exhibitor’s booth with the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association. Promotional materials for TLN were distributed and members were able to meet with Steve. Steve attended educational programs and supported speakers from several member libraries. In December Steve and several member library directors were also able to attend the MLA Think Space event to discuss and take in programming on Intellectual Freedom.

**Technology Services**: TLN’s new Technology Services Manager, Damon Dye, has successfully completed work to reorganize the department’s key positions and new appointments. Justin Walker was promoted to the position of Senior IT Systems Administrator. Alex Norman was promoted to the position of Network Administrator. After completing numerous interviews an announcement of the appointment of two new individuals as Systems Administrators is forthcoming.

**Shared Automation Services**: Several staff members were able to attend the virtual TLCU users’ conference in November to learn more about the Shared Automation System used by TLN. With a completely virtual conference TLN and member libraries were able to have many more individuals participate than typically would be possible, all for one low registration fee for the entire cooperative. TLN employee, Andrea Polsgrove and TLN contractor, Celia Morse, presented at the conference on a panel discussing the implementation of our new FRBR interface on the shared catalog, which allows users to search for materials and see results of all like titles grouped under one record. Celia and Andrea have also been working together to disseminate multiple surveys to member libraries to assess the feasibility of renewing the contract for our current shared system.
**Michigan Activity Pass (MAP):** TLN’s Brigette Felix and Jim Flury continue work on project plans, with vendor LocalHop, on implementation of all-new software for the MAP program, which TLN runs for all libraries statewide. The project includes new enhanced functionality and rebranding, with anticipated launch this coming spring, the start of the new MAP season.

**Steering Committee:** The TLN steering committee has completed charges for four new committees this year to work on several tasks including reviewing the TLN Reciprocal Borrowing policy, design a new service for a TLN Substitute workers pool, develop an RFP for doing a TLN-wide workplace climate study, and establishing the new TLN Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee. They are also working on annual event programming.

**Delivery Fleet:** TLN was excited to finally procure 4 new delivery trucks to replace aging leased vehicles. Supply-chain issues delayed acquisition of the vehicles for over a year. A fifth vehicle was separately acquired for our St Clare County operations. The trucks will all feature new TLN branding, and two vehicles will feature full-side billboard ads promoting TLN and local libraries.

**Metroparks Partnership:** TLN is extremely excited to begin 2023 with continued commitments from our partner, Huron-Clinton Metroparks, to participate in the MAP program and to continue sponsorship of 80 hotspots for library checkout at TLN libraries. Metroparks locations continue to be the top MAP destination, monthly, and there was an estimated total of 4,774 days of free internet access for the public provided by our partner through participating TLN libraries. Below is a testimonial from one library:

> "We have been busy with schools starting up this month. One mother visited the library and asked for assistance for her daughter who was trying to use the laptop provided by her school. She thanked us for showing her how to use it and then said it was still no good since they didn’t have Internet at home. She was more than thrilled when we told her she could check out a free Hotspot, provided by Metroparks. The next week her daughter came in and thanked us for all of our help and let us know that the hotspot allowed her to do her schoolwork. She was so happy to not be left out since the hotspot provided through the Metroparks program allowed her to be included. The partnership between Metroparks and The Library Network is making a difference in our community."

**The Conversations on Race Library Series:** TLN is partnering with Conversations on Race (ConR) to present a series of guided conversations to build awareness of, and skills for, talking about race and racism. These events are directly related to the TLN mission and annual goals and support our stated values of embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion for providing equitable library services to all. Information and registration for this public event is online at: [https://tln.org/specialevents](https://tln.org/specialevents)