Executive Director’s Report

Steven K. Bowers
2023 July 2023

**Member Engagement:** TLN held its annual Jim Pletz Memorial Picnic this month, with 61 people in attendance. It was a nice time to visit, remember Jim and his advocacy for the MAP program, and to promote the new MAP website. The public event featured a guest author speaker, Dustin Dale. Copies of Dale’s book, Learn to Lead 2, were given to attendees and some additional copies will be available on the TLN website for anyone that is interested.

**Michigan Activity Pass (MAP):** The all-new MAP website ([MiActivityPass.org](http://MiActivityPass.org)) launched on June 21st, to rave reviews. New promotional materials have been distributed to libraries statewide. The MAP season is already off to a great start with nearly 2,000 checkouts in the first month alone!

Many thanks and congratulations to the TLN MAP project team: **Brigette Felix, Jim Flury, DJ Bond, Andrea Polsgrove, Steve Bowers, Alex Norman**, and our partners at [LocalHop](http://LocalHop)! So many others also helped test and prepare for the big launch!

**Advocacy and Promotion:** Libraries were well represented at the Motor City Pride parade on June 11. A total of 18 people from TLN and TLN libraries, including friends and family, walked under the TLN banner and we handed out 500 promotional items. It was great to hear the crowd cheering for libraries! I think TLN sent a great message that libraries are inclusive and for everyone!
We scheduled several *PRIDE @ TLN* activities this month, including marching in the parade march, providing the *Come Out in Detroit - Comic Book* at no cost, and hosting a webinar with the author and illustrator of the historical narrative comic (*June 27 at 11 a.m.*). There is a lot to celebrate in our libraries, workforce, and communities. We are excited to support everyone in TLN as we work together for a better, equitable, diverse, and inclusive future.

This was a month of celebration! TLN sent out information to [Celebrate Juneteenth](#). Along with our news article we also promoted activities for [the 5th Annual Farmington Area Juneteenth Celebration](#), co-sponsored by TLN partner [Conversations on Race (ConR)](#). This marked the first year that TLN officially was closed on June 19th in recognition of this important holiday.

The [Michigan Cooperative Directors](#) Association released new materials to support libraries this month. Materials included a sample *Anatomy of a Collection Development Policy*, and another was a pamphlet template to assist libraries in guiding parents on the Right to Read and the parent’s right to guide their children.

TLN also participated in the [WSU SIS Career Fair](#), with TLN member and Director of the West Bloomfield Township, [Cathy Russ](#), and TLN Executive Director [Steven Bowers](#) presenting on the work of public libraries and cooperatives.