

Director's Report April 22, 2026

Welcome! Thank you for joining us at Bridgeport Public Library! Thanks to Amber and her staff for hosting!

Happy National Library Week

Monday, April 20: [Right to Read Day](#), a day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read. The American Library Association (ALA) kicks off National Library Week with the release of its [State of America's Libraries Report](#), including the list of Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2025.

Tuesday, April 21: [National Library Workers Day](#), a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

Wednesday, April 22: [National Library Outreach Day](#) (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday, April 23: [Take Action for Libraries Day](#), a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

ADA Web Accessibility Important Update!

[Federal Register:: Extension of Compliance Dates for Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability: Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#)

On Monday, April 20, 2026, the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division issued an "Interim Final Rule" that extends the compliance date for the ADA Web Accessibility Rule (The Rule) by a year for all covered entities.

The new deadlines are:

- Entities serving populations of 50,000 or more- April 26, 2027
- Entities serving populations under 50,000, and Special District Governments serving any amount of population (which, for Michigan Libraries, means Cooperative Libraries and District Libraries). – April 26, 2028

Reasoning for the amended dates includes the agency's intent to reduce costs and account for the limited staffing available to accomplish required updates needed for accessibility. Educational institutions and small local governmental entities have indicated a need for additional time due to higher costs and larger staffing impacts than initially estimated.

The agency acknowledges the impact on people with disabilities who will be negatively impacted by the extension of time. The agency is balancing the need for accommodation and the impact to people with disabilities of a delay in compliance (and therefore the need to continue to obtain access via a sometimes lengthy accommodations request), and the impacts of consequences to a covered entity for non-compliance or incorrect compliance due to inadequate resources or time to comply.

Entities covered by this rule are still required to respond to requests for accommodations from people with disabilities to enable access to websites, documents, etc., in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

RIDES

Some members have been experiencing issues with Rides. One library has reported missing totes, while others have noted skipped deliveries or situations where drivers did not realize they also needed to pick up materials if they had nothing to drop off.

Tara Kanon and Scott Garrison attended our LCM meeting last week and shared that there have been significant challenges at the Flint Hub, which are directly contributing to these problems. They also explained that a driver shortage has required routes to be split, resulting in drivers covering more stops than usual. They assured us that all courier management staff at the Flint Hub are aware of the situation and are working with MCLS to resolve it.

I also inquired about a potential fuel surcharge due to rising gas prices. I was told that if prices reach \$5 per gallon, MCLS will be billed, and that cost will then be passed on to libraries. Additionally, they noted that new totes are purchased annually to replace worn ones; last year, 200 totes were added.

You should have already received, or will soon receive, information regarding your library's renewal. As a reminder, each library is responsible for paying its own renewal, as the Cooperative does not have access to individual MCLS accounts. In October, when the Cooperative invoices your library for services, the three-day delivery charge will be deducted from the total amount owed. For 2026–2027, the cost of three-day delivery is \$3,043.17. The total price increase this year for 48 members is \$8,300, compared to \$6,200 last year.

Molina Health Care Grants (I have a list and Grant topics if interested)

As you probably saw in the Weekly Update, there were 29 libraries that applied for the Molina Grant, four from our Cooperative, and all four were funded! Molina is holding a media event at the Fowlerville District Library on May 8 to showcase all the libraries that were funded.

Michigan Library Advocacy Day 2026: Libraries Light the Way

Libraries light the way! On Tuesday, April 28, the Michigan library community will gather at the Capitol in Lansing to meet with legislators, build relationships, and advocate for the funding and support our libraries need to thrive. **Advocacy Training:** You don't need prior experience to join us! Training for all advocates participating in Michigan Library Advocacy Day will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 10:00-11:00 AM. When you register for Advocacy Day, you will automatically be registered for the virtual advocacy training session. All Advocacy Day registrants are encouraged to attend the session to get an overview of MLA's talking points and be prepared to meet with legislators.

MLA Intellectual Freedom Summit June 10–11, 2026

AC Hotel Lansing University Area, Lansing, MI

Library leaders from across Michigan are invited to gather in Lansing this Spring for a two-day summit focused on intellectual freedom and shaping the future of policy, practice, and advocacy. Designed for those who are deeply committed to the right to read, this summit will create space for meaningful dialogue and collective action around today's most pressing intellectual freedom challenges. Thanks to generous support from the Mellon Foundation, attendance, accommodations, meals, and a travel stipend will be provided. Space is limited, and participation will be selective to ensure deep engagement and impactful outcomes. Save the date and stay tuned! More details and registration information are coming soon!

Library Cooperatives of Michigan Presented: Is a District Library Your Next Chapter: Empowering Directors and Trustees to Take the Next Step on March 9.

There were ten White Pine members who attended this webinar. There were four speakers, including Erin Schmandt from Caro, who spoke about their journey to becoming a District Library.

MI Right to Read-Reese Unity District Library, March 4, 11 am-1 pm

We had 27 attend the MI Right to Read with MLA's Amber Sheerin in Reese! We had great discussions as we learned more about MLA's MI Right to Read, explored best practices for policies, governance, and helped identify actions Library Directors, Staff, and Trustees can take right now.

Community Coalition Training with EveryLibrary April 14 Gaylord, MI

Community Coalition Training with MLA and EveryLibrary <https://www.everylibrary.org/>

I attended the Community Coalition Training this week, sponsored by MLA and EveryLibrary. This event made four stops across Michigan to build community support and help participants recognize and mobilize citizen advocates for libraries. John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary led the session and explained the distinction between advocacy (a long-term strategy) and activism (short-term, action-focused efforts), noting that both are rooted in shared values and identity.

He also outlined four types of supporters:

1. Relational Supporters – May not actively use the library, but are familiar with it and can be engaged if asked directly.
2. Ideological Supporters – Strongly aligned with library values; they may donate financially, use the library, and are especially valuable for advocacy efforts.
3. Aversion Supporters – Motivated when their values feel threatened; they will engage if presented with a clear solution. They often show up during activism efforts, but can be difficult to retain.
4. Access Supporters – Visible supporters (e.g., wearing buttons or shirts) who respond well to appreciation. They are more effective in advocacy than in activism.

In discussing crisis response, John introduced the concept of the “Four Dogs”:

- Watch Dogs – Serve as the moral compass of the community, monitoring policy adherence. They often form organized groups, such as “Fight 4 the First” in Lapeer

(<https://fight4thefirstlapeer.org/>).

- Guard Dogs – Coordinate allies and manage media relations. They are collaborative internally but assertive externally, often acting as spokespersons and helping to build coalitions.
- Bird Dogs – Focus on identifying and organizing supporters, especially through social media, and lowering barriers for involvement.
- Guide Dogs – Develop expertise in legal issues, provide mutual support, assist with fundraising, and promote solidarity. “MI Right to Read” is an example of this role in action.

He also described a Ladder of Engagement for activists, emphasizing the importance of meeting people where they are:

- Unaware → Observer
- Observer → Supporter
- Supporter → Activist

Additional takeaways:

- The term “inappropriate” is often paired with “obscene” to suggest criminality in challenges to materials.
- The right to petition is increasingly being used as a strategic tool in these efforts.

The slides should be available soon, and I will include them in a Weekly Update.

State Aid

Have you all received your State Aid? Payments were sent out in March.

Cooperative Conversations

Enjoyed the Traveling Librarians when we went to Bad Axe on March 25. There was a good group in attendance, and as always, we had a great time touring the host library and sharing information. Thanks to Christian for coordinating! Next location?

Met with a member library’s Board to discuss hiring a new director. Helped through the process and led the interviews for the Board.

Met with a member librarian to discuss a potential grant opportunity for libraries in their county.

LCM sent a letter to Governor Whitmer regarding literacy initiatives, as the MI Library Finder tool was mentioned in her press release. MLA is also talking with the Governor’s office and has asked that when she talks about literacy to also include public libraries in the narrative.

Share ALA Articles

[MI Library Finder](#)

If you have changes you need to make to the MI Library Finder site, please reach out to Amber at milibrarymaps@gmail.com

Discounts and Reimbursement Opportunities with WPLC:

Check out our website for information on discounts and reimbursable services for your library!
[Information here.](#)

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

Please add performers and contact information.

Your Library Policies

Reviewing and updating policies is important. Check out these resources if you need guidance.

LOM: [Niche Academy Library Policies](#). If this link does not work, go to the [Continuing Ed](#) page, click on Niche Staff Skills, and then search library policies. [Administrative Resources](#)

ALA: [Library Policies Guidelines](#)

Kent District: [KDL Policies](#)

MI Right to Read: [MLA's Intellectual Freedom Tool Kit](#)

Housekeeping Reminders...

Member Directory: Just a quick reminder that if your information has changed, like email, hours, etc., please let Alison know. [Member Directory](#)