

Superiorland Library Cooperative

Director's Report for March 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

- The Spies Public Library has hired a new library director, Tarra Gamelin, and she started in January. Tarra and I met and I provided an overview of SLC and UPRLC services.
- In January I participated in an MLA Advocacy Hour virtual event on best practices in collection development policies and handling material challenges.
- Our January MeL training in Menominee was cancelled due to weather. We've rescheduled for later this month and I look forward to presenting on First Amendment considerations in public libraries.
- In February, Amanda Griggs of the Dickinson County Library and I participated in MLA's new podcast, *Chapter and Verse*. MLA Director Debbie Mikula and I interviewed Amanda about her career in libraries and the meaningful impact her work has on the community.
- Also in February, MLA hosted a meeting between our new 109 House District Representative Karl Bohnak and several library directors in the region. I was out sick and unable to attend, but it sounds like the meeting was a pleasant introduction for all.
- On February 11 Superiorland hosted a training event at the Portage Lake District Library with a focus on frontline workers, circulation and technology. Gordon, Josh, Jeremy and Ellen were all on site to present. Staff from the Munising School Public Library attended as well. We are looking forward to hosting this as an annual event in the western U.P.
- I'm participating in a group of library directors and other stakeholders from partner organizations in Michigan that is strategizing on how to address the possible loss in federal funding earmarked for public libraries. We first met in February and will continue our discussion at an April meeting.
- I organized a meeting, hosted last week, with Michigan's cooperative directors and Hoopla representatives regarding concerns about costs, sustainability and privacy with their product.
- I'm working on an outline for a strategic planning process with the Wakefield Public Library. I'm excited to facilitate the strategic planning process with them, possibly over the course of the next several months.
- Gordon, Pam and I have been working with our Erate consultant on the awarding of bids for FY25 Category 2 services and recently executed contract extensions for our two internet consortiums.

Great Lake Talking Books

- Mia recently finished the GLTB winter newsletter. She also attended an outreach in Escanaba where she presented to a support group of the visually impaired.

Tech Support

- Gordon and Josh recently finished an email migration for the Portage Lake District Library. They've both been busy with PC deliveries and installs after facilitating a discounted order of Dell machines for libraries in December.
- Gordon and Josh have made site visits for the above-mentioned work and other troubleshooting at Munising, Crystal Falls, Escanaba, Dickinson and additional libraries over the last few months.

ILS & Database Support

- Jeremy continues to work with myLIBRO to troubleshoot issues within the app. After a January LunchBunch event and a presentation at the CircTech event in February that focused on myLIBRO, several libraries have launched use of the app with their patrons.
- Ellen published another cataloging blog post in January, regarding how to flag bad cataloging records in SmartPort.
- Ellen and Jeremy will both be attending the COSUGI conference in April, along with Heather Harris, Director of the Menominee County Library.