

President's Message & Annual Report, May, 2020

If someone had told me a year ago that I'd be writing this report from home because a worldwide pandemic had sent us into quarantine, I would've chuckled with disbelief. But here we are. Our personal and professional lives have been disrupted in ways we probably never anticipated and many of us are wondering if this is the start of a new normal. I wish I could summon some sort of Harry Potter-esque divination superpowers to predict the future but sadly I can't, so I look to the present to anticipate the future and count myself lucky and grateful. Lucky to have a steady job that lends itself to working from home. And grateful that I am part of a profession that is adaptive to disruption and that thrives on collaborative problem solving.

The last few months have been chaotic and difficult for libraries and librarians, but we've come together to problem solve, share ideas, provide encouragement, and even lend emotional support. I don't remember a time when there was so much activity on professional listservs, with much of it intended to help us cope and move through this difficult time. The outpouring of support has made me appreciate and consider the important role that professional organizations, such as MichALL and AALL, play in facilitating this type of communication and support. I am grateful for the talented network of librarians I can tap into as a member of MichALL and I want to thank you for your continued membership in this organization. There is so much we can do together, especially in difficult times like this, and I hope you will continue to be a part of this great organization in the future.

I think there is much to look forward to in the next year, starting with our incoming executive board. So, congratulations to **Brent Domann** who will be serving as our new Vice-President/President-Elect; **Lillian Steuben** who will be serving as our new Treasurer, and **Daryl Thompson**, who will be representing all of you as one of our Members-at-Large. Also, special thanks to **Jessica Fields**, who graciously agreed to fill our vacant Secretary position. We have an enthusiastic team of new and incumbent board members leading us into the next year.

Our new board members will officially transition into their positions at the MichALL annual board meeting which is set to take place in May. Unfortunately, our spring education meeting has been postponed for now, but we are exploring the possibility of a summer education meeting or a more robust fall education meeting. More information will be provided in the upcoming months.

Finally, it's been an honor to serve as MichALL President for the last year and a half. During that time, I've learned much about leadership, collaboration, and organization. While I'm far from mastering these three skills, I do feel confident with the insight I've developed and I look forward to sharing it with incoming President, Robin Linkowski.

Thank you,

Jane Meland

Congratulations to our newest board members:

Brent Domann, Vice President/President-Elect: Brent Domann

Lillian Steuben, Treasurer

Daryl Thompson, Member-at-Large

Jessica Fields, Secretary (appointed after Brooke Minore's resignation)

Continuing board members:

Robin Linkowski, President

Kathryn Polgar, Member-at-Large

Jane Meland, Past President

Many thanks to those who have served our board:

Joel Scheuher, Treasurer

Marlene Coir, Member-at-Large

Alicia Dyer, Past President

Highlights from 2019-2020

ORALL & MichALL 70th Annual Meeting and Conference

The ORALL and MichALL joint conference held in October at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio was a tremendous success. The conference was well attended and included librarians from across the mid-west, even some coming from as far away as Iowa. The two-day conference featured plentiful networking opportunities and excellent programming. One of the highlights of the meeting was the keynote address by Professor Joshua A. Douglas from the University of Kentucky who spoke on election voting rights. His presentation featured real life narratives from his book, *Vote for US: How to Take Back our Elections and Change the Future of Voting*. Of interest to Michiganders, was his discussion of Katie Fahey, the activist who helped get Michigan's anti-gerrymandering amendment on the 2018 ballot.

Spring 2019 Education Meeting

The 2019 Spring Education Meeting took place on May 17, 2019 at the Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing, MI. The theme for this year's program was *Sharing and Access*, and we put together an agenda that included timely topics and top-notch presenters. Our featured speakers were: Michelle Wu, Associate Dean for Library Services and

Professor of Law at Georgetown University, who spoke on controlled digital lending; Clare Membiela, from the Library of Michigan, who discussed Michigan library laws; and AALL executive board member, Greg Lambert, Chief Knowledge Services Officer at Jackson Walker, who provided updates on what's happening at AALL.

MichALL Membership as of 4/17/20 – 41 members