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MARSP GUEST SPEAKER Members gather for meeting

COLDWATER — Yvette Atkin, director of the Branch District Library, was the speaker at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP).

The library is a hub of information for both children and adults, with printed books, e-books, e-books, computers, workshops and programs.

Atkin cited these 2012 statistics: 154,555 total visits to Branch District libraries; 21,600 active patrons; 1,310 new library cards issued; 108,850 checkouts; 5,228 e-book checkouts; 438 children's programs; 292 young adult programs; 78 adult programs; 3,810 free resumes printed; and 53,725 computer users.

Unfortunately, during this time the library's



Above, Yvette Atkin, Branch District Library Director, (left) and Mary Robey, vice president/programs of MARSP. COURTESY PHOTO

revenue has decreased 20 percent. Book purchases decreased 60 percent, and hours throughout the district have been reduced.

The Branch District

Library will be asking voters in 2014 for a .5 millage to ease these programs. MARSP members were asked for their support in passing this millage.