

MINUTES
Northern Lights Library Network
Governing Board Meeting
December 9, 2023
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Comstock Memorial Union
and Online

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative, Media Specialist Roseau Community School
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- George Deiss, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS), Mayor, Wadena
- Bethany Hait, NLLN Public Library Representative, Branch Librarian, Thief River Falls
- Kevin Baggett, Treasurer, NLLN; Academic Library Representative; Business & Outreach Librarian, Concordia College
- Charlie Lindberg, Northwest Regional Library Representative (NWRL)
- Nanette Albright, Viking Library System Representative (VLS); Children & Young Adult Librarian, Pelican Rapids Public Library
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Lynn Eaton, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Lina Belar, Special Library Representative
- Aleta Sanford, Minute-taker, NLLN

1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:01 A.M.
2. Review and approve Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports.
 - a. Approve the agenda.
 - i. Linda S, Charlie MCU
 - b. Approve the Minutes and the Financial Reports.
 - i. Financially, NLLN is doing very well thanks to Senator Mary Kunesh, who increased our budget by two-thirds. Prior to the increase, NLLN had cut every expense possible, so now we are in a great financial position. Thank you to the Minnesota Legislature, which brought us into existence and provides 100% of NLLN's funding.
 - ii. Linda S, Charlie MCU
3. Old Business.

- a. American Indian History and Culture Literature free online course by Dr. J., Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and Gina Drellack, Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC). Thank you, Dr. J. and Gina.
 - i. Dr. J. designed a course based off the presentation at the “Better Together” workshop and Gina turned it into an online course available at <https://nwsc-learning.teachable.com/p/native-american-literature>
 - ii. Currently, 483 people have taken the online course. This is the most people who have taken any course through NWSC.
 - iii. Gina is seeking to get the course approved for licensure to help educators in Minnesota meet the new standards on Native American literature, which go into effect next year.
- b. Tri-College Library Workshop *Libraries and Indigenous Nations: Celebrating Cultures, Empowering Communities, Honoring Traditions*. November 2, 2023. Thank you, Tri-College Library Directors.
 - i. NLLN members were invited, and several people from across the region did attend. The workshop focused on sensitivity to Native American literature, how to catalog it appropriately, preserve it, and make it accessible according to broadly used standards across Native American cultures.
 - ii. Special thank you to Laura Probst, the Library Director at Concordia, who extended the invitation.
 - iii. NLLN contributed \$500 toward the event so free snacks and a free lunch could be provided.
- c. Destiny Workshop November 11, 2023. Thank you, Glenn Heinecke.
 - i. Glenn held the workshop in the MSUM Comstock Memorial Union. Three people attended in-person, and approximately seven attended on Zoom. It went very well and Glenn has received several thank you notes and invitations to visit schools to offer assistance.
- d. Jill Kandel’s Presentation. Thank you, Jill Kandel.
 - i. NLLN asked librarians to share this opportunity with their patrons and many of the attendees of this event were library users. They had a wonderful conversation with Jill.
- e. Historic Wesley Hospital Building. Thank you, Lina Belar.
 - i. At least two commercial businesses have expressed interest in acquiring the building. At this point, we are unsure what will happen or if the Historical Society will have a place in the building. However, the building does have an archive area where the hospital keeps patient records on microfilm, which the Historical Society could use. Commercial interest may be helpful to support necessary investment in the building.
- f. Library Director Luncheons. Thank you, Laura Probst.

- i. Laura invites local Library Directors to gather together, and prior to the pandemic, NLLN sent the invitations out across the region. Kathy recently attended a meeting and it was very good.
- g. \$1M Appropriation to support a media library specialist census and to bring more licensed media specialists into Minnesota schools. Thank you, Senator Kunesh.
- h. Membership List.
 - i. Updates are almost completed. The school list is up-to-date, and the public library list is nearly done.
 - ii. The updated list to be posted on NLLN's website may exclude contact information, as most schools in our region no longer put contact information on their websites.
 - iii. As things are progressing with the additional funding to support media specialist certification and other funding disbursements, it's important to know who to contact at each library in our region.
- i. 134.351.
 - i. This is the statute that created the Multicounty, Multitype (MCMT) systems in 1980. It has not been amended since then. There is an ongoing effort to change the statute. Earlier, the Legislative Audit Report of 2010 sought to eliminate the MCMT systems; in 2017, both the MCMTs and regional library directors met and proposed changes the statute that removed much of the language in the statute; in 2021, a bill was introduced to eliminate the multicounty, multitype systems, but retain the MCMT funds. NLLN and Kathy have been vocal dissenters to changing the statute, as it could result in the current funding eventually being dispersed to regional library systems (as has already occurred with three MCMT systems) instead of the MCMTs dispersing the funding to all types of libraries in the regions served by MCMTs.
 - ii. Kathy will continue to work to preserve the statute and the existence of MCMTs, as they are a democratic institution supporting rural Minnesota communities. However, Kathy will step back from being a vocal critic of efforts to change the statute as it has the potential to tarnish her professional reputation and NLLN's reputation. She will continue to speak with legislators and our region's representatives. She recently spoke with the lobbyist, who lobbies on behalf of Minnesota libraries and has been an advocate for changing the statute, and he suggested incorporating into the statute the recent legislation regarding school libraries and media specialist certification so it can operate in perpetuity. However, since he reached out to the other MCMTs with the proposal, there has been no movement or cessation of efforts to eliminate the MCMTs.

- iii. Board members received an email on November 28, 2023, regarding a separate piece of legislation on the disbursement and use of \$1,000,000 to conduct a census of media centers in Minnesota and to provide scholarships to individuals seeking to become certified media specialists. A committee has been created to complete a census and then oversee the use of the funds. Board member Sheri Levasseur is a member of that committee. Kathy is speaking with legislators about making media centers an integrated part of school curricula where students receive grades, like art or music classes. This will increase literacy rates, as many students and adults are not able to read above a third-grade level.

4. New Business.

- a. eBook support for the four regional library systems.
 - i. NLLN will continue to provide this support. LARL informed NLLN that they no longer need the \$5,000 for eBooks due to the recent increase in funding. NLLN will increase KRLS's eBook funding to \$7,500 and will inquire if NWRL would like an increase in funding as well. The \$5,000 for VLS funds their bookmobile.
- b. Hoopla support for the Browns Valley Public Library.
 - i. NLLN has contributed \$700 per year to the Browns Valley Public Library's Hoopla subscription. The area they serve is very rural with little access to books. They also serve a Dakota population. The Hoopla subscription allows people to access books they otherwise would not be able to.
- c. Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference August 14 and 15, 2024.
 - i. NLLN is on the planning committee.
- d. "Better Together" June 10, 2024, at Lakes Country Services Cooperative in Fergus Falls. Thanks to Lynette Schwagerl and Glenn Heinecke.
 - i. Mark Mindt, who has published four books and is writing another, has been invited to speak. He recently visited Roseau and Warroad schools and the students really liked him. Glenn can't keep his books on the library shelves.
- e. Meetings with lobbyist and legislators.
 - i. See information above under 3.i
- f. Selection policies subcommittee.
<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>
 - i. If you are interested in joining a subcommittee to work on compiling information on library selection policies to present to school boards, please email Kathy.
- g. Social Emotional Learning resources subcommittee.

- i. If you are interested in joining a subcommittee to work on compiling resources on Social Emotional Learning, please email Kathy.
 - ii. NLLN will form one subcommittee to address both the selection policy resources and Social Emotional Learning resources.
5. Reports from NLLN Governing Board members. Thank you for your ongoing support of libraries in the NLLN region!
 - a. Bethany spoke about a recent group of dancers from Cass Lake and White Earth who performed in a pow-wow-like event at a Thief River Falls school. The event was supported by both the schools in the area and by the library. Bethany will ask if she is able to share their contact information so others can explore inviting them to their areas, as well. Glenn noted that Mark Mindt, who will be at the next Better Together workshop, also visits schools. If anyone is interested in reaching out to Mark, contact Glenn for his contact information.
 - b. Charlie stated that they have completed the updates to their personnel policies manual to incorporate up-to-date laws and generally update the material. She will share the document with Kathy.
 - c. Nanette noted she has observed a new scam where scammers ask libraries to print letters for specific patrons who may not be otherwise accessible by email or phone. These letters appear to be from Publisher's Clearing House about sweepstakes prize money and state that to access the supposed sweepstakes money, the person must pay fees using a cashier's check sent to an address on the letter. Nanette would like librarians who frequently print documents for patrons to be on the lookout for letters like this.

She also noted that the summer reading program in Pelican Rapids was a huge success. They received a \$2,000 grant from Dollar General, courtesy of grant-writing done by the Friends of the Library. They spent \$1,000 on incentives to participate in the summer reading program and the remaining \$1,000 to purchase Kindle Fires for the teen bookclub Nanette hosts. Currently nine kids attend.
6. Adjourn.
 - a. 11:09 A.M.