

## MINUTES

**Northern Lights Library Network  
Governing Board Meeting  
March 18, 2023  
Minnesota State University Moorhead  
Comstock Memorial Union Room 203  
and Online**

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- George Deiss, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Sheri Levasseur, Secretary, NLLN; School Library Representative
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Lina Belar, NLLN Special Library Representative
- Bethany Hait, NLLN Public Library Representative
- Nanette Albright, Viking Library System Representative (VLS)
- Lynn Eaton, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Deb Keena, Office Manager, NLLN
- Aleta Sanford, Minute-taker and Friend of NLLN

1. Call to Order.
  - a. 9:59 A.M.
2. Oath of Office: Welcome Lynn Eaton, Kitchigami Regional Library (KRLS) Representative.
3. Vote for a Vice President, replacing Reed Olson, former Kitchigami Regional Library System representative. A special note to thank Reed for his service.
  - a. Nomination of George Deiss.
  - b. Linda H., Linda S. MCU
4. Agenda. Vote to approve.
  - a. Sheri, Lynn MCU
5. Minutes. Vote to approve.
  - a. Linda S., George MCU
6. Financial Reports. Vote to approve.
  - a. As of February 28, 2023, NLLN is ahead by 1.39%.
  - b. However, the checking account balance is \$16,000 lower at this time than it was last year.
  - c. This year may have a small cash deficit due to 15 years without a funding increase from the State of Minnesota. Legislation is pending for a \$700,000 increase in funding that would be split among the 7 multitype systems. NLLN,

with the largest geographic region, would receive a fair portion of that, if it passes.

- d. Linda H., Nanette      MCU
- 7. 990. Vote to approve.
  - a. The report for 2021 is complete and submitted. It is available to view on NLLN's website.
  - b. George, Linda H.      MCU
- 8. MSUM Lease Renewed. A special thank you to MSUM President Anne Blackhurst, as she retires. Vote to renew lease 7-1-2023 to 6-30-2024.
  - a. Rent is low, between \$500-600 per month; MSUM has been very generous with its resources over the years.
  - b. Bethany, Linda H.      MCU
- 9. IRS Mileage reimbursement at 65.5 cents.
  - a. This increase is in effect.
- 10. Superior Point Workers' Compensation Assigned Risk Plan (MWCARP) Audit completed electronically 3-1-2023. Vote to approve.
  - a. Each year, NLLN submits an audit electronically. This year's submission has been received.
  - b. Deb will email the audit to the board.
  - c. Linda S., Linda H.      MCU
- 11. U.S. Dept. of Commerce U.S. Census Bureau 2022 Economic Census completed electronically 3-4-2023. Vote to approve.
  - a. Deb will send a copy to the board.
  - b. Lynn, Linda H.      MCU
- 12. Old Business.
  - a. ARPA Funding Reports from KRLS, LARL, NWRL, and VLS.
    - i. NLLN received \$10,000 last year, and \$10,000 this year. Those funds were distributed to the regional public library systems to be used for eBooks, eAudio books, and bookmobile service to Campbell. The four systems have sent reports to NLLN detailing how the funds were used.
    - ii. Thank you to all four systems, as these reports will be crucial to show that the funds were properly used.
  - b. Hoopla funding for the Wheaton Community Library renewed (\$1,000).
    - i. NLLN supports Wheaton's eBook platform, Hoopla. The program has seen increased circulation: in 2022, 184 eBooks were checked out; in 2021, 167 eBooks were checked out; in 2020, 158 eBooks were checked out.
  - c. Update on the Historic Wesley Hospital Building in Wadena. Lina Belar. Vote of support.

- i. The new hospital building's ribbon-cutting ceremony is today, leaving the historic building open.
  - ii. Lina has been working on this project for a number of years, and she is aiming to make the historic building a center for history, arts, and community events.
  - iii. NLLN and the Wadena County Historical Society are working together to apply for a grant through Sourcewell to fund this project.
  - iv. Vote to approve an addendum where the board resolves to fully support this initiative.
  - v. Linda S., Linda H. MCU
- d. Thank you to Deb Keena for the updated NLLN Legislative Directory, see: <https://nlln.org/pdfs/Legislative-Directory-2023.pdf>
- e. Prairielands *Coping with Complaints and Challenges Workshop*: Free Prairielands Library Exchange, The First Friday in February Online Conference. Open to all.
  - i. This was an event in another Minnesota multitype system that they generously made available to all the multitype library systems for their members to attend. It was a great example of how collaboration between the systems leads to richer opportunities for all.
- f. Scholarships.
  - i. This fund was expended very quickly, with many given for the MLA conference last fall, and also one other for a conference in Kentucky this March.
  - ii. Linda S. would like to thank NLLN for the scholarships LARL received. The recipients had a great experience at the conference.

### 13. New Business.

- a. Moving Words.
  - i. This program brings Minnesota authors into the region.
  - ii. NLLN supported events at the Moorhead Public Library, Park Rapids, and the New York Mills Cultural Center.
- b. June 13 "Better Together" Workshop.
  - i. Registration is open to all the Minnesota multitype systems.
  - ii. Planned events as of now include the new MDE Language Arts Academic Standards, Native American Literature, and Book Repair Techniques, among other great opportunities for conversation and collaboration between library professionals across Minnesota.
- c. Denise Lajimodiere May 5th presentation.
  - i. Denise will be hosting a Zoom presentation on her books, including *Josie Dances*, a story about Jingle Dancing, and *Stringing Rosaries*, which contains interviews from residential school survivors and a great map of all the schools across the whole country.

- ii. Please see the Director's Report for the meeting invitation information.
- d. Denise Lajimodiere nominated for North Dakota Poet Laureate. Testimony at the ND Senate Education Committee.
  - i. Kathy testified in support of Denise's nomination in Bismarck on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this year.
- e. Capital Funds Project (CPF).
  - i. The Assistant Commissioner at MDE, Bobbie Burnham, reached out to library leaders across the state seeking support for a proposal MDE has submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department.
  - ii. If secured, the program would provide money to be used for capital projects (e.g., school or library buildings), which it is rare to receive dedicated funding for.
  - iii. Kathy will forward the contact to the board if they would like to support the proposal.
- f. *Internet for All.*
  - i. This program aims to increase access to internet services for all citizens in Minnesota.
  - ii. Kathy attended their conference in January.
  - iii. If you would like to participate or learn more, you can contact Hannah Buckland, Digital Equity Program Lead, at [Hannah.bucklands@state.mn.us](mailto:Hannah.bucklands@state.mn.us) or (651) 259-7267.
- g. Legislative update.
  - i. Kathy and other multitype library leaders met with Minnesota Senator Mary Kunesh to discuss school library funding.
  - ii. She has sponsored a bill to give \$1,000,000 to school libraries. It has passed her committee and has now been added to an omnibus bill that is going to the floor this week.
    - 1. The additional \$700,000 in funding for the multitypes library systems will also be going to the floor this week.
  - iii. Please consider contacting your legislators to tell your stories of how libraries have impacted you, your family, your students, and your communities as these bills go to the floor.
    - 1. You can use the NLLN Legislative Directory to find up-to-date contact information for your legislators.
  - iv. If the bills pass, NLLN will be forming an advisory group to strategize how to ensure the funding actually reaches school libraries and is not directed to other projects or other library funding is not pulled due to this influx from the state.

#### 14. Reports from the Region.

- a. Sheri's students will be voting for their favorite book out of 10 choices in this year's Minnesota Youth Reading Awards. Denise Lajimodiere's book, *Josie Dances*, is one of the options. All of her K-2nd graders have read the book.
  - b. Nanette will be taking a group of students to Teen Literature Conference in the Cities this year. It will be held on April 29th from 10-3 and is free to attend because the event is funded through legacy grants.
  - c. Bethany reports that NWRL has opened a new site in Middle River. In the first three and a half hours it was open, 45 items were checked out.
  - d. Linda S. would like to recognize that in the absence of state funding increases in the last 15 years, cities and counties have been asked to help fund their local libraries, and many have. Additionally, newly elected and reelected commissioners and councilors are asking to be appointed to library boards and are becoming great advocates for libraries in their communities.
15. Adjourn.
- a. 11:20 A.M.

*The next NLLN Governing Board meeting is Saturday, June 17, at 10 a.m. in the Comstock Memorial Union on the campus of Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and via Zoom.*