



Northern Lights Library Network

Director's Report Kathy B. Enger, Executive Director June 13, 2020

The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2020 (Fiscal Year 2021). The new fiscal year brings a new budget, state operating grant, and election of officers. The budget is the same as it has been since 2008, when the last budget increase was passed by the legislature. Over the last twelve years, new programs have been introduced and ongoing programs and services have been maintained.

Northern Lights Library Network supports **\$5,000/yr. in eBooks and eAudiobooks for Kitchigami Regional Library (KRLS), Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL), and Northwest Regional Library (NWRL).** Electronic material usage went up 15% in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library region and 139 titles were purchased with the funds donated to Northwest Regional Library system, totaling \$5003.28. Electronic access to materials is especially important for public library systems during the COVID-19 pandemic when many rural public libraries were closed. Sometime ago, NLLN also contributed \$25,000 to LARL and NWRL to implement a new online catalog.

Each year for over a decade, Northern Lights Library Network has supported **\$5,000/yr. in interlibrary loan services for the Viking Library System (VLS).** Six years ago, NLLN added \$600/yr. to **bring the Viking bookmobile to Campbell School.** Campbell is in the Lake Agassiz Regional Library System, so external funds were necessary to bring the bookmobile across regional lines. The joint program between public library bookmobile services and rural schools has been very successful over the last five years, with careful attention to student and curricular support, which has increased circulation at Viking Library System, overall. Last year, NLLN donated \$25,000 from reserves so VLS could purchase a new bookmobile.

This year, the planning committee collaborating the annual “**Better Together**” workshop scheduled for June 11, in Fergus Falls, decided to cancel, due to social distancing measures in place and the physical attention required to keep the pandemic under control.

The “**Becoming an Author**” writing workshop led by Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative will take place online on July 25th, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The seminar includes multiple Zoom meetings between scheduled personal writing time in people’s own home, with the focus of the seminar on individual work. Participants will also be taught how to use the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project, which is sponsored by Minnesota’s Regional Public Library systems and Academic Libraries. Northern Lights Library Network and Northwest Service Cooperative are sponsoring the workshop free of charge. Contact Gina Drellack to register: gdrellack@gmail.com.

Every year, **NLLN sponsors continuing education opportunities for members** in academic, public, special, and school libraries. A total amount of \$8,078.78 was paid in FY20 for online classes, such as the “Basics of Cataloging” and “Fundamentals of Electronic Resources”, along with support toward tuition for a Master’s in Library and Information Science. Many members were able to attend regional, national, and international conferences with the support of Northern Lights Library Network.

Focused Online Training for Youth Service Professionals from the Young Adult Library Services Association and State Library Services: The earlier training would have taken place in our region, in-person, in Blackduck, but Leah, Andrea, and others are now bringing it to you, online:

We’re bringing YALSA’s Transforming Teen Services training on Connected Learning online! It will be a five week course running from the week of June 22 through July 30. There will be weekly Zoom meetings at a time of participants choosing, and roughly two hours of out-of-class work between each session. You will learn a new model of teen services based on interest, relationships and real-world application. You can register by June 14 to help choose the meeting times or anytime before the first meeting (week of June 22) until the course fills!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIRffWhc2FOcGY3k7KV_oZo8PYzYAIPdwolyV_VYo85JCRR0g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Contact Leah for more information – leah.larson@state.mn.us

The trainings modules we're bringing will introduce a new framework for working with teens and older school-aged students. It will bring together elements that librarians already use: relationships, student interest and real world application. These workshops were designed by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) and are being delivered nationwide. We will also be giving a "refresher course" on teen development as many of us have only had that in college and with a focus on younger kids. It is an interactive workshop with a focus on application. Here are the objectives and a blurb we used for the training Jayne attended (same content).

In order to work effectively with youth, we need a basic understanding of how they develop, their needs and assets. This workshop summarizes key research into child and youth development with a focus on how to create programs that are appropriate for the young people you work with. Then we will focus on Connected Learning.

Workshop Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Identify the various ages and stages of youth development.
- Design developmentally appropriate activities and learning environments.

- Understand the philosophy of Connected Learning as it relates to Educational and Career opportunities.
- Explore the Six Principles of Connected Learning.
- Think about how to translate Connected Learning theory into practice.
- Learn about how a library has incorporated Connected Learning into a production-centered site.

