

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report April 26, 2008

Meetings/Activities

March

- Mar 5 MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee, Pelican Rapids, ITV
- Mar 7 MINITEX Policy Advisory Council, Andersen Library, UM-Twin Cities
- Mar 12 Meeting with Barb Fabre, White Earth Child Care Programs, Detroit Lakes
- Mar 13 Meeting with Carrie Johnston, Becker Co Historical Society/Museum, DL
- Mar 14 Ready4K Grassroots Leaders Conference Call, Telephone
- Mar 19 Multitype Director's Meeting, OPAL WebConferencing
- Mar 25 Presentation at Public Library Association Pre-Conference on
"Cultural Programming in Rural Libraries"
- Mar 26-29 Public Library Association Biennial Conference, Minneapolis

APRIL

- Apr 8 EBSCOHost/23 Things Workshop, West Central Area High School, Barrett
- Apr 10-12 Spotlight on Books Conference, Sugar Lake Lodge
- Apr 15 Meeting with Bob Wheeler/Patricia Post, regarding North Star Library Consortium
Expansion, Alexandria
- Apr 18 LibraryThing WebConference, OPAL auditorium (webconference)
- Apr 19-22 Boston Marathon, Boston – as a spectator only!
- Apr 26 NLLN Annual Meeting, Thumper Pond, Ottertail City, MN

Continuing Education

Soaring to Excellence: "Trends, Fads, or Folly", teleconference. Again we partnered with MSU-M and the tri-college libraries to host a downlink site at MSU-M Livingston Lord Library and provided registration/streaming information for those wishing to view the teleconference via webstreaming. It was, as always, a worthwhile update on an important topic. There were some difficulties with the webstreaming for this broadcast but a corrected archived edition is available for viewing.

EBSCOHost/23 Things: We held a workshop in Barrett, at the West Central Area High School, in partnership with MINITEX, EBSCO, and the WCA Schools. It was a great success with 20 attendees from all types of libraries. An EBSCO trainer spent the morning going through the many wonderful ways to use EBSCOHost for students, teachers, librarians, and general public, as well as giving us a preview of the new EBSCOHost soon to be released. In the afternoon we did best practices in school media centers related to the tools being discovered and used in the 23 Things on a Stick Project.

NLLN Scholarship program: We have had a busy scholarship year! Spotlight on Books and the Public Library Association National Conference account for the largest number of requests. All Scholarship reports for FY 2008 are being posted on the NLLN webpage. To date, we have received more than 50 scholarship applications.

Spotlight on Books 2008: What an adventure! For our 20th Annual Conference we had good registration numbers (135) and a wonderful program. In the end, we had many fewer attendees (74 folks made it) but did manage to get all the authors and presenters, and most of the displays to Sugar Lake Lodge. Stormy weather beginning on Thursday, cancellations, changes and many improvised plans were the story of the Conference. In the end, however, it was a terrific conference and those who attended felt like they had experienced a truly memorable event. Jim Trelease captivated everyone; Mary Casanova, Debra Frasier, and DJ MacHale were great individual presenters and together formed an engaging panel. DJ had a long and convoluted route getting to the Conference, but made it eventually (although his luggage didn't catch up with him until his return home). Our book sales, book signing, book showcases, networking and all the food were just great. By the time the Conference ended on Saturday, the snow and wind had stopped, and though much snow remained the sun made it feel like Spring – at last! There have been questions about registration refunds, but until we know our financial position we are abiding by our refund policy.

23 Things on a Stick: Be careful what you wish for! This project has been a great success. Well over 1000 people registered blogs statewide, and 261 completed the entire process by April 16 . In the NLLN region we had 110 blogs registered and 31 finishers who will be recognized at the Annual meeting. The enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment expressed by those who completed the 23 Things was really quite inspiring. How people will use these tools in their daily lives (both personal and professional) is still unfolding as people share ideas, network, and interact via new media and new tools. Prizes will go to all finishers and they will be eligible for larger prizes in a statewide drawing.

2008 Annual Meeting: Looking forward today's presentation/workshop by Brenda Hough on "TechnoFit: Technology and Learning to Change Your Life" – something for everyone! Also, we'll have a report from William DeJohn, Director of MINITEX, and recognition of the participants in the 23 Things on a Stick Project.

Communication

Constant Contact: We have used the NLLN subscription for Constant Contact to produce and distribute the electronic newsletters going out to all the participants in the 23 Things on a Stick project. 11 weekly Newsletters were sent out to 1085 people/per week during the project. Also, NLLN sent out additional electronic notices regarding 23 Things, the Annual Meeting, and workshops.

We purchased an archiving service to make these electronic messages/newsletters/announcements available on the web, and we link to this archive from the NLLN webpage.

Resource Sharing

North Star Library Consortium (NSLC): The big news on this front is that our recent grant application for an Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) was successful. It is in the amount of \$150,000.00. NLLN and the Central Minnesota Library Exchange (CMLE – our counterpart in the central part of MN) will be partners with Region 1 to expand the Consortium. There will be several major components of this grant and it will run from mid April 2008 to December 2009. We expect to expand the Consortium

membership by at least 30 sites, and possibly by as much as 70-100 in the coming 18 months..

Chris McArthur's work: Chris and I will develop a work plan for this summer's work with the North Star Library Consortium members in the NLLN region. The highest priority will be to help the Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs get their books into the system and begin using Destiny. We will also be working with new members, retrospective conversion in several locations, conversion of new members, and training. It will be a busy summer.

Destiny: We will be converting to the Follett "consortium" model of the Destiny software and be upgrading the software to version 8.5 during the summer. We will also be working with Follett to standardize billing procedures and obtaining discounts for local site subscriptions, such as Title Peek and Reading Program Services.

Staff Development: The new E2T2 grant will include a substantial amount of staff development programming in addition to Destiny training. I will be working with Patricia Post, Director of CMLE, to develop an overall staff development program for school media center staff that will be offered in the next fiscal year.

CatExpress: The NLLN Group Subscription for CatExpress is being examined and updated before renewal in June. NLLN has underwritten the cost of a CatExpress subscription for those libraries that are not part of a MnLINK Gateway site. The purpose of this subscription is to provide high quality cataloging in the shared catalogs of our region.

Ruth Solie
April 26, 2008