

Northern Lights Library Network

Director's Report June 20, 2009

Meetings/Events

Apr 18	NLLN Governing Board Meeting
Apr 20-21	Multitype Library System Directors' meeting, St Cloud
Apr 23	Becker Co Early Childhood Initiative interview, Detroit Lakes
Apr 27	Minitex webinar on Information Management 2.0, online
Apr 27	Broadband Taskforce video interviews with Vint Cerf and Robert Stephens, online
Apr 30	Claire Harper Solie, my first grandchild, was born in Minneapolis. A perfect little May basket.
May 1	Meeting with Ann Treacy re: Broadband Coalition; Blandin Foundation and Minnesota Voices Online, St Paul
May 5	Enhancing Quality Staff workshop, U of MN, Minneapolis
May 6	MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee, online
May 11	Planning meeting for Sept 18 "Back in School" event, online
May 12	Ready 4 K Board of Directors meeting, telephone conference
May 13	NLLN Governing Board Executive Committee meeting
May 19	Minitex ILL Conference, U of M, St Paul
May 27	Meeting with Ann Treacy and Ann Walker Smalley regarding partnerships between multitype systems and other agencies
May 28	Pick up Mn Book Award books for distribution, St Paul
June 3	MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meeting, online
June 3	Meeting with Lori Thompson re: evaluation of E2T2 grant, Detroit Lakes
June 4-5	North Star Library Consortium training in St Cloud
June 5	Minitex Policy Advisory Council meeting, U of M, Minneapolis
June 5	Pick up more Mn Book Award books for distribution, St Paul
June 8-9	North Star Library Consortium training in Alexandria
June 8	MLA Public Library webinar on Library Budget Shortfall, online
June 8	Meeting with Patricia Post and Ann Walker Smalley on multitype library systems CE programs/web presence, Hutchinson
June 9	Meeting with 5 multitype directors, Bob Wheeler, and Mary Mehsikomer regarding expanding the North Star Library Consortium into new regions, Hutchinson.
June 17	Vacation day
June 20	NLLN Governing Board meeting, Detroit Lakes

Continuing Education events/activities

1. The "More Things on a Stick" program is ending June 20 and we expect to have about 10 finishers from the 51 participants in the NLLN region. Each person who completes at least 10 new "Things" will receive an eye-catching bag. This program will remain available on the wiki for those who would like to continue on

- their own, adapt the program for other purposes, or would like to refer back to something they already learned.
2. The multitype systems are working together to create a web presence for library news, continuing education, and communication. We are also looking at areas of continuing education we currently do locally that can be shared or replicated statewide. We are looking for more cooperative programs statewide, as well as replicating successful programs created by individual multitype systems. The individual and collective multitype systems will be investigating new partnerships for the coming year.
 3. With the new additions/renewals of the ELM (Electronic Library for Minnesota) resources, NLLN will look to partnering with Minitex to provide training in the NLLN region for these critical resources.
 4. NLLN will begin promoting the MnKNOWS portal to information services provided to the residents of Minnesota. These include ELM, MnLINK, Minnesota Digital Library Reflections project, Research Project Calculator, and AskMN (online reference service available 24/7) – all available via one site.
 5. NLLN and CMLE arranged 4 days of Destiny training for the newest members of the North Star Library Consortium. We are adding 35 new libraries to the Consortium this summer, bringing the total of participating libraries to over 150. The NSLC has doubled in size over the past year.
 6. The North Star Library Consortium is expanding to all areas of the state. Patricia Post (CMLE Director) and I, along with Bob Wheeler and Mary Mehsikomer of Region 1, Moorhead, have met with multitype directors from the SMILE, SAMMIE, and Metronet regions to plan for expansion in those areas. As more schools join from those regions we anticipate we will be able to share responsibility with other multitype regions for setting up the Destiny training events. We have not done serious promotion of the NSLC in the SELS or North Country Library Cooperative region. Although Destiny is available to schools in those regions, many of them have chosen to join the SELCO or Arrowhead library automation systems.
 7. We are planning a marvelous “Back in School” workshop, Sept 18, in Alexandria, for the North Star Library Consortium members and other Destiny users in Minnesota. It will focus on 21st Century Library Media Centers.
 8. I am planning a basic Destiny training session for new staff members in the current North Star Library Consortium sites who are not familiar with Destiny.
 9. Spotlight on Books 2010 is being planned. A meeting in late July or early August will help us widen the circle of volunteers who help make this Conference such a success.
 10. We provided 28 NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships this year and have already begun to receive applications for events in FY2010. Also, we have provided 3 Professional Engagement Funds awards. Reports from both groups are found on the NLLN webpage at: <http://nlln.org/CEreports09/index.html> . The NLLN CE Scholarship program is growing and becomes more important as local travel and training funds decrease.

ADVOCACY

1. Legislative engagement: the legislative session ended and NLLN is so far anticipating funding shifts, but no cuts. Until the Governor’s unallotment process is complete, however, we will not know what the funding shift will be or whether

- we will see any reduction in funding. We have 10% of our FY2009 Operating Grant yet to receive and are hopeful that we will see little or no reduction in our biennial funding. Who knows.
2. I continue to share the quarterly reports of the 7 multitype systems with our MLA lobbyist, Elaine Keefe. This helps her to understand our activities and the breadth of our work with all types of libraries. That, in turn, allows her to lobby more effectively on our behalf. That has had been beneficial on several counts.
 3. The MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee continues to meet monthly and to share information about the legislative session, funding for all types of libraries, the updates on public library Maintenance of Effort work, and reports on the "Legacy Amendment Funding" that will be coming to the regional public library systems in the coming year.
 4. In summary – there is still a lot of unfinished business related to the legislative session. Some of that will not be resolved much before the new session of the legislature meets next February.
 5. Attached is the lobbyist summary of the 2009 Legislative session.
 6. The MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum is scheduled for July 21 in St Cloud. The upcoming session will be a bonding session so much of the platform will be concerned with capital projects, however, funding questions may be addressed as well, depending on the state of the state's financial situation.
 7. I have been participating in the MN Broadband coalition, Minnesota Voices Online, e-democracy community forums and Minnesota Rural Partnership. I feel it is important to keep libraries at the table in these venues, plus we have a lot of online experience with community building and social networking to share.
 8. Early Childhood Education: Thanks to the work of Ready4K and many partner agencies, cuts to early childhood programs were not as severe as anticipated. I continue to participate in these efforts and to represent libraries as community agencies that provide direct services to families with young children.
 9. I have received about 1200 books from the Minnesota Book Award Committee to distribute to public libraries in the NLLN region. These can be added to collections, used as prizes or perhaps some will be donated for book sales. I have yet to determine how to easily get the books distributed – but it is a fun challenge.

Communication: All the channels continue to be used: electronic, print, telephonic, and face-to-face. Social networking tools continue to be an important way we connect – and they are all getting a good workout! New tools are always becoming available. I find that keeping abreast of these tools and implementing them in appropriate ways is both challenging and rewarding.

I am hoping that this summer we will be able to produce a print document that will showcase some of the major programs of NLLN that individuals and libraries can take advantage of for professional development and support.

Other: We received requests from all four of the regional public library systems for Delivery Demonstration Projects. These reports will be distributed at the Board meeting. They certainly show the dramatic increase in cost and materials that are involved in interlibrary loan in the NLLN region. We will distribute \$20,000 to the regional systems in FY09.

Ruth Solie - June 20, 2009