

**Northern Lights Library Network  
Governing Board**

**Minutes**

**December 13, 2008  
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Graystone Hotel, Lower Level  
Detroit Lakes, MN**

Present: Paul Bursik, Joyce Kalbakdalen, Joan Larson, Erika Rux, Stan Iverson, Walt Dunlap, Gay Galles, Lina Belar.  
Also Present: Ruth Solie, Deb Keena.  
Absent: Tom Peterson.

1. Meeting was called to order by President Paul Bursik at 10:00 AM.
2. Agenda was approved as presented.
3. The Minutes for October 18, 2008, meeting were approved as presented. Kalbakdalen/Rux. MCU.
4. Financial Reports: Financial reports for October and November, 2008 were approved as submitted. Kalbakdalen/Galles. MCU.

There was additional discussion about account 5107 which is a board-set amount given to employees in lieu of a health insurance benefit. In fact, it is simply an additional (taxable) compensation to the employees. It is now being listed as “additional compensation” but we may want to categorize it differently next year.

5. Old Business:

A. Professional Engagement Funds: Policy is now ready to be publicized. Joan voiced opinion that professional development funds are a good way to thank and further engage those librarians who contribute to all libraries in the region. How to advertise professional development money? Webpage, blog, email list and newsletter will be used.

B. Mobile Laptop Computer Lab: MaintainIT provided a national webinar on setting up a mobile laptop computer lab with Brenda Hough as the facilitator. Ruth got some good ideas from this short program on how to proceed with the selection and implementation of a laptop lab to be used for training purposes, workshops, and perhaps meetings.

C. North Star Library Consortium continues to consume much of Ruth’s time. Fourteen more libraries were added in December, bringing the total number of participating libraries to 126. After the first of the year, the Consortium will be open statewide to any interested library and this will be a time-consuming but worthwhile effort.

6. New Business:

A. MLA conference: Walt reported the programs were good; vendor conversations were helpful; networking very useful. Joan noted that 2009 conference is in St Cloud. Erika agreed it was a great conference and a great opportunity to recharge. Ruth reported the multitype systems had done a number of programs at MLA and hosted a “23 Things on a Stick” party that was fun.

Ruth reported that the MEMO conference in Oct had gone well and that the multitypes had sponsored a popular Internet Café as well as done programming related to 23 Things.

The Board was reminded that NLLN funds can be used by Board members to attend Conferences such as these.

B. Continuing Ed: NLLN continues to provide many opportunities: January: Meet Your Destiny/ Games & Gadgets; April – Spotlight on Books; Feb-Mar-Apr: Teleconferences.

More Things on a Stick: Will launch January 20, 2009 and run til May 20, 2009. 1600 library staff and friends did this program last year and more than 500 completed the entire course. We anticipate good participation this year, but perhaps not quite so many as last time. The Board expressed interest in doing some of the “Things” at its Feb meeting.

C. State Financial forecast: Discussion of the current and future economic situation in MN which does not bode well for libraries, particularly public libraries that rely on local government aid to cities or aid to counties. Ruth will keep the board informed and provide the Board with some possible contingency plans or future scenarios at the February meeting.

E. Annual Meeting: What kind of Annual meeting we might want for this year was discussed. April 18 will be the date and more discussion needs to take place regarding the format and focus of the meeting. “Tech for Luddites” was suggested, as were “revisiting the NLLN goals”, “hearing from members”, “prioritizing budgets”.

F. Director’s Report: Ruth reported on the Internet Librarian conference as the best conference she has ever attended and certainly one where all participants were highly engaged. The State librarian has distributed a “State Plan for MN Libraries” which was shared with the Board.

G. Other: Joan announced a \$540,000 bequest to the MN Association of Libraries Friends! Walt and Lina attended the LSTA grant writing workshop recently held and reported on that event.

H. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Erika Rux, Secretary