



# Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

July/Aug 2002

## NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Available

**Exciting news! The continuing education scholarship fund is now available!**

In support of the high value NLLN places on continuing education, the Governing Board recently established the *NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Fund*. The purpose of this fund will be to provide financial assistance to staff in NLLN member libraries who wish to participate in continuing education programs related to their work. Scholarship funds will supplement member library CE budgets in order to encourage individual growth and development of job skills.

Applicants may request up to \$300 to cover the cost of registration, lodging, meals, travel, and a substitute, in cases where a position would be needed to be covered while the applicant attends the event.

Enclosed is an application form and guidelines for making an application. Individuals who would like to apply for a scholarship are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible. The first review of applications will take place September 12 and notification of awards will be made immediately. Reviews will take place on a monthly basis.

This first year we will begin the application/award process on a first come, first served basis. The review committee will meet once a month to consider applications and make awards. At the end of the first year, the review committee established by the Governing Board will assess the success of the Fund and make recommendations for the next year.

Please call or email the NLLN Office if you have questions about any aspect of this new opportunity. Your feedback will be appreciated. The Governing Board is confident, based on the needs assessments, that continuing education is a central part of the Northern Lights mission and that the continuing education scholarship program is one way in which NLLN can support this vital activity.

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## Introducing the 2002-2003 NLLN Governing Board

The NLLN Governing Board will hold its first meeting of 2002-2003 in Detroit Lakes on August 17. New officers will begin their duties and the Board will address a full agenda in the coming year.

### Officers:

President: **Linda Unruh**, Alexandria, Special Libraries representative  
 Vice-Pres: **Merlin Melby**, Barnesville, Lake Agassiz Regional Library  
 Treasurer: **Mike Odland**, Alexandria, Viking Library System  
 Secretary: **Norman Ellingson**, Crookston, Lake Agassiz Regional Library

Regional Library Representatives: **Sherrie Syverson**, Herman, Viking Library System;  
**Marj LaValier**, Thief River Falls, Northwest Regional Library, **Dan Olson**, Park Rapids  
 (Kitchigami Regional Library) (One vacant position is waiting to be filled)

School Library Representative: **Brook Berg**, Nevis, Detroit Lakes Middle School Media Center

Academic Libraries: **Dianne Schmidt**, Moorhead, Minnesota State University, Moorhead

Public Library workers: **Barbara Jauquet-Kalinowski**, Thief River Falls, Northwest Regional Library System.

These eleven dedicated representatives meet 6 times a year to guide the Northern Lights Library Network, to share news and happenings from the libraries and people they represent, and to improve library cooperation throughout northwestern Minnesota.

Our thanks to them for their dedication and contribution to libraries!

### Changing, changing, changed?

Many, many changes are taking place in library structures in Minnesota. Budget reductions in the department of Children, Families and Learning have resulted in a major loss of staff in the Office of Library Development and Services, the closing of the CFL library, and uncertainty about many of the programs and services, including the federally funded grant programs, for which LDS has had responsibility in the past.

As of this writing, the future of the CFL library collection is being considered, the state's five year plan for LSTA funding is being written, and discussions are addressing the need for library leadership in Minnesota. The Minnesota Library Leadership Coalition, an ad hoc group open to anyone in the library community, is meeting with the newly appointed Chief Library Officer for Minnesota, Ken Hasledalen, as well as legislators, congressional members, and representatives from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), our federal library agency..

Also at this time, representatives from the Minnesota library community are gathering to discuss "Next Steps" — a follow up to the state-level structure study that was begun in 2000. Because the situation at the state level has an impact on all types of libraries in the state, the "Next Steps" process is an opportunity to propose structural changes for libraries in Minnesota—and this may be the Phoenix arising from the ashes. Watch for further developments on this wide-ranging issue and make contributions from your particular vantage point..

### NLLN Offices on the Move

In early August the NLLN office will be moving from its current location in Perham to new office space in Detroit Lakes. Our 14 months in the Perham Technology Center have been productive as we took advantage of the special features of the PTC and got to know the friendly people of Perham. With new uses planned for the PTC, however, the NLLN Governing Board decided it made sense to relocate the office to Detroit Lakes.

For history buffs, our "new" location in Detroit Lakes will be the same building, the historic Greystone Hotel complex, that housed the first NLLN office in 1979. After twenty four years, we have come full circle: Detroit Lakes-Alexandria-Perham—and now back to Detroit Lakes.

The new address will be:

103 Greystone Plaza  
 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

More later on the new telephone numbers.

E-mail and 800 number remain the same:

nloffice@nlln.org  
 rsolie@nlln.org  
 dkeena@nlln.org  
 1-800-450-1032

## Quick Notes . . .

- ◆ Roseau Public Library staff, Friends of the Library, Northwest Regional Library staff, and community members all pitched in to salvage a large part of the Roseau Library which suffered flood damage in June. Working together, and receiving assistance from other parts of the state, the Roseau Library is back in business, in a borrowed bookmobile, serving its ravaged community. Many decisions are yet to be made in the city of Roseau, but a strong regional library system has made it possible for the return of library service in record time. It has been a heroic effort on the part of many. Although it will be a long road to full recovery in Roseau, libraries across the NLLN region and state offer their assistance in whatever form possible and wish them well for a speedy recovery.
- ◆ Congratulations to Moorhead Senior High School and Bagley High School for being award 3M Library Security systems as part of the 3M Salute to Schools program. The 3M Detection System will help schools with limited resources reduce the lost of valuable library materials.
- ◆ When the online census of Minnesota school library media centers was completed in May, 1078 schools had submitted completed surveys. This is a wonderful response — and thanks to all who participated. To view the survey for any individual school or to see the preliminary totals for the state, go to: [metronet.lib.mn.us/survey](http://metronet.lib.mn.us/survey).
- ◆ Poster sessions are being sought for MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Fall conference in Fargo. The theme of the conference is: *Exploring New Pathways to Information* and the dates are Oct 2-5. More information is available at <http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/02postersession.htm>.
- ◆ Congratulations to the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities libraries and the MnLINK Implementation staff who made a successful switch to the Ex Libris Aleph 500 system.
- ◆ Posters are invited for the 2002 U of M Libraries/MINITEX Symposium on the Changing Face of Reference to be held Oct 14. For more information contact Kay Kane ([k-kane@umn.edu](mailto:k-kane@umn.edu)) or Virginia Gunville Bach ([v-gunv@umn.edu](mailto:v-gunv@umn.edu)).
- ◆ Congratulations to Pam Westby, Director, Pelican Rapids Public Library, who spoke at ALA on her library's experience with diversity. Their success in handling a 25% increase in population, 11 different languages, and a growing immigrant population is something to be proud of!
- ◆ Congratulations to all the libraries and schools in NW-LINKS for the successful conversion from the Onvoy network to 702 Communications Network. Switching that much telecommunications is awesome!

### Is Your web Site Accessible?

The number of people using the Web is steadily increasing. Access to the Web may be more critical for people with disabilities, who cannot easily use traditional information sources. Having your web site accessible is an issue of fairness, of course, but it is also good business. Between 10 percent and 20 percent of the population has some type of disability. As we age, the probability of developing a disability increase. Our eyesight and hearing may diminish and injury or illness may limit our mobility.

Phil Kragnes, the Adaptive Technology Specialist for the University of Minnesota, says that the design of an accessible Web site should differ little, if any, from a less accessible version. **Web sites merely need to be designed for flexibility so that users can operate/navigate them in different ways and so the sites transform gracefully into intelligible and useful pages when assistive technology is used to access them.**

Phil maintains that improving Web site accessibility for people with disabilities will actually improve the usability of Web sites for all users. He says, "Improving the accessibility of Web pages should not be viewed as a barrier to creativity, but rather a challenge to be more creative."

For more information about Web accessibility including resources and tools, go to <http://cap.umn.edu/ait/Web/ResourcesAndTools.html>. (From the Mn Star Program publication, *Constellations*, Spring 2002).

## Librarians on the move. . .

In the past few months, and especially over the summer, workers in many libraries have changed. We will be seeing new faces in new locations this fall at meetings, conferences, and in libraries across the region. If you have changes in your staff (or changes in location, hours, telephone numbers, street addresses, or web site), please take a moment to report your updated information on the online library directory. Go to: [mnlb.org](http://mnlb.org), select the Library Directory, find your library listing and submit the updated information.

The online library directory is maintained by the multitype library systems in Minnesota and provides a convenient way to locate current information about any type of library. *Thanks for your help!*

## Keeping in the information loop . . .

If you feel like a lot is going on but you aren't always sure you're getting all the information or getting it in a timely fashion, consider subscribing to some of the library Listservs that routinely disseminate information via e-mail and often allow subscribers a quick and easy way to get the word out, ask a question, or make a contribution to an on-going discussion.

The following are organizations with lists of interest to Minnesota librarians. Most will have subscription information on their website and you can subscribe to those that have the most interest for you. Please contact the NLLN Office if you need additional information, or have additional suggestions to make:

- NLLN
- LDS (Libdev list)
- MINITEX
- MEMO
- MLA
- SSPiN (Support staff/paraprofessionals)
- ALAwon
- Metronet
- Tourbus

## Electronic Library for Minnesota. . .

MINITEX/LDS have announced that the Electronic Library for Minnesota continues to be available to academic, public and school libraries across the state and that usage statistics show a growing use of these rich resources.

Although the ProQuest Newspaper database has been dropped due to budget reductions, the 14 GaleGroup databases and the OCLC FirstSearch databases continue to be available.

MINITEX is developing an ELM webpage for easy access via the Internet, as well as several new training tools. MINITEX Reference staff are also offering training sessions throughout the state similar to what they did last year.

NLLN will be scheduling training sessions throughout the region. If you would like to have a training session in your area, contact the NLLN Office or go to the MINITEX web page.

**NOTE:** With the June change in telecommunication vendors, many libraries in the NLLN region will need to update their ELM registrations.

## “No Child Left Behind” \*\* “Improving Literacy Through School Libraries”

The newly authorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act includes 12.5 million dollars for improved literacy through improved school libraries. Eligibility for this competitive grant is based on the poverty rate of individual school districts. Of the 43 eligible school districts in Minnesota, 24 are located in the NLLN area and 12 of those districts are in the process of preparing to submit grant applications.

The grant application asked school media centers to address four absolute priority areas: library media specialists to collaborate with teachers and work with students; acquisition of books and other resources to support the collaboration; library technology to expand the media center's reach to classrooms or other libraries, or both; and school library media centers will provide expanded hours to give students more access.

These are priorities in all our school library media centers and so it is especially timely to have a grant that specifically addresses them in schools with greatest need. In gathering data for the application, the recently completed census of school media centers provided easily accessed, up-to-date information about individual schools, districts, and the state as whole. What a great resource to have just when it was needed!

We wish these districts success in their applications.



**NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY NETWORK**  
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## Calendar

July 30-31	Next Steps—State Library Structures Study meetings
Aug 1	Minnesota Library Association Foundation Enhancement Grant application deadline Lerner Scholarship Application deadline Nominations for MLA awards deadline
Aug 4	MLA Night with the Minnesota Lynx
Aug 17	NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes Public Library, 10:00 AM
Aug 21-22	2nd Annual Communities Collaboration Conference, “Influencing Brain Development”, Mahanomen
<b>September</b>	<b>Library Card Sign up Month</b> <a href="http://www.ala.org">www.ala.org</a>
Sept 5	Spotlight on Books conference committee meeting, Bemidji Public Library, 4pm
Sept 12	First review date for NLLN Continuing Education scholarships
Sept 21-28	Banned Books Week <a href="http://www.ala.org/books">www.ala.org/books</a>
Sept 24	Voluntary Certification Day 1, College of St Catherine, St Paul
Sept 25-27	Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference, St Paul, “Old Friends, New Partners”
Sept 27-Oct 2	Midwest Chapter/Medical Library Association, Minneapolis. “Staying in the Current— Navigating the Future”
Oct 2-5	MPLA/NDLA/SDLA Fall Conference, Fargo “Exploring New Pathways to Information”
Oct 3-5	MEMO Fall Conference, Bloomington <a href="http://www.memoweb.org">www.memoweb.org</a>
Oct 13-19	<b>Teen Read Week</b>
Oct 14	University of Minnesota/MININTEX Reference Symposium