

# Director's Report

## Northern Lights Library Network

---

April 18, 2015, Governing Board Meeting for Fiscal Year 2015

The Director's Report is based on the April 18, 2015, Strategic Plan Work Plan

**Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative network of members in academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties of North-central, North-west, and West-central Minnesota. We work at the grassroots level to bring together all types of libraries and collections in the region to discover, enhance, and share resources through administrative, technological, and educational support.**

*Northern Lights Library Network is funded by the Minnesota State Legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education*

## **Traveled to libraries throughout the NLLN region:**

February 21: MSUM, Governing Board meeting and *Library Luncheon with Legislators*.

February 25: Moorhead, meeting with Dr. David Wahlberg to discuss library public relations.

February 26: Moorhead, phone meeting with David Crutchfield, architect, North Dakota State University, concerning renovation of the Laporte School Library. Architectural services will be donated.

February 27: Moorhead, meeting with Townsite landlord to close office.

March 3: Meeting with poet professor Kevin Zepper to discuss the mission of Poets Across Minnesota.

March 4: Laporte, meeting with Laurie Conzemius (Technology Integrationist, Park Rapids Schools), Charlie Lindberg (media specialist, emerta, Kittson County Public Schools), Dana Woods (Technology Integrationist, Laporte Public Schools), Dory Zothman (Media Assistant, Laporte Public Schools) to discuss media center renovation.

March 22: Warroad, retirement party for Barbara “Babs” Larson, public librarian in Warroad for thirty-three years. Ruth Holmgren of the NLLN Governing Board, presented Babs with NLLN’s Life Achievement Award; along with the Friends of the Warroad Public Library, NLLN sponsored the retirement party.

March 26: Moorhead/White Earth, conference call to discuss IMLS grant.

March 27: Fargo, meeting to discuss strategic planning process for the River Cities Literary Arts Center.

April 4: Mahnommen, Festival of Fathers. NLLN sponsored three books and two children’s birch bark canoes as door prizes.

April 14: Mahnommen, Week of the Young Child event. NLLN sponsored children’s author, Bob Fulton.

April 17: St. Cloud, quarterly multitype director’s meeting

April 18: Fargo, planning meeting for the River Cities Literary Arts Center.

April 20: Cass Lake, Leech Lake Tribal College, first meeting of the tribal college library directors in the NLLN region: Hannah Buckland, Leech Lake Tribal College; Cassy Keyport, Red Lake Nation College; Claudia West, White Earth Tribal and Community College.

## **Provided added civic support for citizen engagement activities for member libraries :**

The Second annual *Library Luncheon with Legislators* was held in Room 101 at MSUM on February 21, 2015, 11:30 A. M. – 1 P. M. Librarians from the region briefly described their work to legislators in order to prepare legislators for Minnesota Library Legislative Day, March, 2015. Thirty-four invitations were sent to legislators in the region and twenty-eight invitations to librarians. Eleven librarians spoke: Duane Arnold, Moorhead Public Schools; Hannah Backland, Leech Lake Tribal College Library; Gloria Collyard, Red Lake Middle School; Terri Darco, White Earth Early Childhood

*This document is not subject to copyright in the United States and there are no copyright restrictions on reproduction, derivative works, distribution, performance, or display of the work. Anyone may, without restriction under U.S. copyright laws: reproduce the work in print or digital form; create derivative works; perform the work publicly; display the work; distribute copies or digitally transfer the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending.*

Development; Gina Drellack, Bagley Public Schools; Kristi Hanson, Northwest Regional Library; Liz Lynch, Lake Agassiz Regional Library; Laura Probst, Concordia College Carl B. Ylvisaker Library; Larry Schwartz, Minnesota State University Moorhead; Peg Werner, Viking Library System; Perry Werner, Minnesota State Community and Technical College and 3 legislators are speaking: Senator Kent Eken, Representative Ben Lien, Representative Bud Nornes. twenty-eight people attended.

Second annual *Life Achievement Award* awarded to Barbara “Babs” Larson, Public Librarian in Warroad for thirty-three years, received the second Life Achievement Award from Northern Lights Library Network. Babs dedicated her life to serving rural Minnesotans and making life better for the citizens in her community. She not only maintained and managed a stellar library, but she also empathized with the people she served, and made it her mission to ensure members of her community thrived. One time, Babs stored a child’s bike in the back of the library after the child’s bike was vandalized. She stored and distributed food to people who came into the library hungry. She gave everything she could to people she loved. Babs retired from library service April , 2015. NLLN sponsored Bab’s retirement party on March 22, 2015, and gave her a copy of *Illuminating the Word: The Making of the Saint John’s Bible* by Christopher Calderhead. The book cover was inscribed with: “Life Service to Minnesotans, Barbara “Babs” Larson, 2015”. NLLN Governing Board member, Ruth Holmgren traveled to Warroad to present Babs with the award.

Language for “*The Life Achievement Award* from Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) signifies a contribution to citizens in the NLLN region from a librarian who has given extraordinary service throughout a career. The award is given once a year upon the recommendation of the executive director or a governing board member.”

### **Developed activities that bring libraries together:**

Katelyn Ostby is working as an intern with NLLN from January 2015 through June 2015, and applying to graduate schools of Library and Information Science. She assumed duties of the Communication Specialist and completed the data collection for comparing reading scores with schools that have media specialists in the region. Katelyn created an *iPad Application Pathfinder* that will be placed on the NLLN website. She will provide training on the apps. Saturday, May 16, from 10-noon and Monday, June 15, from 10-noon in the Faculty Development Center at MSUM. Katelyn may also assist Campbell-Tintah Schools as they automate their card catalog to Destiny. Katelyn completed her undergraduate degree in English, with honors, from NDSU, December, 2014.

An ad hoc committee was formed to address the needs for *renovation at the Laporte School Libray*. The following people are on the committee until the task is completed: Dana Woods, Technology Integrationist, Laporte Public Schools; Dory Zothman, Librarian, Laporte Public Schools; Harvey Johnson, Superintendent, Laporte Public Schools; Kim Goodwin, Principal, Laporte Public Public Schools; David Crutchfield, Professor & Architect, North Dakota State University; Adell Bridgeford, Media Specialist emerita, Walker Public Schools; Gloria Collyard, Media Specialist, Red Lake Middle School; Laurie Conzemius, Technology Integrationist, Park Rapids Public

Schools; serves on national professional committees, long-term media specialist in Minnesota schools. Kathy Enger, Executive Director, Northern Lights Library Network; Charlie Lindberg, Media Specialist emerita, Kittson County Schools; on the board of NLLN, NWRL, and the Hallock Public Library. The first meeting was held on March 4, 2015, addressing the following outlined by David Crutchfield, Architect at NDSU:

- What is the existing facility currently doing right - and wrong?
- What exactly are problems - and goals/aspirations?
- What is needed - vs. wanted? Prioritize.
- Technology is always a big question - and budgeting for change (and tech maintenance).
- Beware of the 'Digital Divide'.
- Rather than investing in desktop stations - plan for central wireless and mobile TABLETS to check-out.
- Digi-projectors and pull-down screens for configuring for educational demonstrations and programs/movies.
- I always recommend 'flexible' layouts, systems, and furnishings - planning for change.
- Low rise all-wheeled furnishings (with breaks) helps with 'movie nights' and/or 'reading/program assemblies'.
- Can some furnishings be refinished, or refurbished, or bought used and refurbished?
- Community/group engagement, meeting rooms, etc., for student/teacher groups.
- Centralized desk with visual connections to all areas and doors.
- Supervision, security and control points (and systems).

Construction/Budget Considerations:

- Sounds like this is mostly just an interior renovation – with finishes and furnishings, lighting, electrical, data.
- Be aware of fire/egress and (Children's) ADA code requirements.
- Windows/daylight/views - good for reading areas (watch for glare).
- Construction schedule (disrupt summer programs?)

The NDSU architect will meet at Laporte School Library on July 15, 2015, to plan the renovation and work with Kathy and Dana Woods, Technology Integrationist, Laporte Schools to write an LSTA grant to fund the renovation.

***A meeting of the tribal college librarians*** in the region will be April 20 at Leech Lake Tribal College Library.

The following librarians are meeting (including Kathy Enger, NLLN):

Hannah Buckland  
Director of Library Services  
Leech Lake Tribal College  
6945 Little Wolf Rd. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

*This document is not subject to copyright in the United States and there are no copyright restrictions on reproduction, derivative works, distribution, performance, or display of the work. Anyone may, without restriction under U.S. copyright laws: reproduce the work in print or digital form; create derivative works; perform the work publicly; display the work; distribute copies or digitally transfer the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending.*

[hannah.buckland@lltc.edu](mailto:hannah.buckland@lltc.edu)  
(218) 335-4240

Cassy Keyport  
Red Lake Nation College  
23740 Highway 1 E  
PO Box 576  
Red Lake, MN 56671  
[ckeyport@gmail.com](mailto:ckeyport@gmail.com)

Claudia West  
White Earth Tribal and Community College  
102 3rd St. NE  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
[claudia.seymour@wetcc.edu](mailto:claudia.seymour@wetcc.edu)

The following items will be discussed at the Tribal College Library Director meeting:

- Promoting reading and increasing circulation -- strategies.
- Magazines and journals -- Are browsers worth the money?
- Archived documents, collectibles, cultural treasures - Developing
- guidelines for what's accepted, and whether to catalog/inventory/both.

Kathy wrote a *service project request to Thrivent*, along with Kari Anderson, to improve the library at Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria and will visit the library April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss collection management.

### **Conducting research:**

Kathy conducted qualitative, grounded theory research to determine what multitype library systems do. *The Function, Responsibilities, and Duties of Multicounty, Multitype Library Systems in Minnesota* research is completed and currently in use by the multi-type systems in Minnesota as an infographic to ask for increased funding from the legislature. Kathy presented the research to the House Education Finance committee on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Comparing reading scores with schools that have library professionals managing media centers in the region* data collection for has been completed and the correlation is being conducted by Curt Doetkett, a statistical analyst at North Dakota State University. Many media centers across the country have lost their qualified media specialists and NLLN is determining the impact on schools in the region.

### **Participated library advocacy activities:**

Kathy testified at the House Education Finance Committee meeting at the Minnesota Legislature on February 19<sup>th</sup> in support of a funding increase for multitype and regional library systems.

## Career development, professional engagement scholarships, and library service funding:

Thirty-nine scholarships are committed for MLA and ITEM conferences; the Association of Rural and Small Library meeting; online courses, including *Explore the World* and *Teaching with Technology*; Lifetime Arts: Library Training; MnPALs User Group Meeting; TIES 2014; *Spotlight on Books*; ALA Annual conference; 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Minitex Conference; Rural Arts & Cultural Summit.

### Scholarships

<b>NLLN FY15</b>		
<b>LIBRARY</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>AMT. APP FOR</b>
Concordia College - Moorhead	Inaugural European Conference	\$1,000.00
Bemidji Schools	Explore the World, 4/14 to 8/14	\$190.00
Brainerd Public Library	MLA Annual Conference	\$500.00
Mahnomen Public Library	Assoc. of Rural & Small Lib Conference	\$500.00
Brainerd Public Library	MLA Annual Conference	\$500.00
Bagley Schools	ITEM Fall Conference	\$500.00
Brainerd Schools	ITEM Fall Conference	\$270.00
NW Regional Lib - Warren	MLA 2014 Conference	\$350.00
NLLN Gov Board Member	MEMO-ITEM Conference	\$640.00
Elbow Lake Public Library	Lifetime Arts: Library Training	\$259.48
LARL - Detroit Lakes	MLA 2014 Conference	\$500.00
Hallock Public Library	MLA 2014 Conference	\$407.00
Warroad Public Library	MLA 2014 Conference	\$350.00
MSUM Library	MnPals User Group Mtg. 10/2014	\$172.00
Bemidji Schools	Teaching with Technology - online	\$190.00
Thief River Falls Schools	TIES 2014	\$500.00
Thief River Falls Schools	TIES 2014	\$500.00
Pelican Rapids schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$262.00
Viking Lib System - Alexandria	ALA Annual Conference	\$1,000.00
LARL - Moorhead	Library Technology Conference	\$384.90
Concordia College - Moorhead	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$341.56
LARL - Ada	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$398.78
MSUM Library	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$442.25
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$264.65

*This document is not subject to copyright in the United States and there are no copyright restrictions on reproduction, derivative works, distribution, performance, or display of the work. Anyone may, without restriction under U.S. copyright laws: reproduce the work in print or digital form; create derivative works; perform the work publicly; display the work; distribute copies or digitally transfer the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending.*

Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$341.00
MN State Univ Moorhead	24th Annual Minitex Conference	\$507.50
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$315.15
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$315.15
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$315.15
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$229.00
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$150.00
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$241.19
Retired Media Specialist	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$321.00
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$343.65
Moorhead Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$164.65
Waubun Schools	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$372.75
Holy Rosary School - DL	Spotlight on Books 2015	\$177.19
LARL - Detroit Lakes	Rural Arts & Cultural Summit 6-2015	\$339.40
Leech Lake Tribal College	ALA Annual Conference	\$900.00
	TOTAL:	<b>\$15,455.50 committed</b>

**Ongoing library administrative and technical support** for the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program (WECC/ECP) as they prepare a new community library, *Maamigin Achigaazo*:

*The online catalog is reactivated* and White Earth is in the process of acquiring materials and books described in the \$121,000 IMLS grant for the community library, Maamigin Achigaazo;

*NLLN donated three children's books and two children's birch bark canoes* for door prizes for White Earth Early Childhood's Festival of Fathers in Mahnomen at Shooting Star Casino, April 4<sup>th</sup>;

*NLLN sponsored Bob Fulton, children's author of the book, Pickle Bumps for Baby Dill* for the April 14<sup>th</sup> Week of the Child event in Mahnomen at the Shooting Star Casino. Several of Fulton's books were given to children as door prizes.

**Poets Across Minnesota encourages the love of reading**, literature, and the spoken word by sponsoring poetry readings and events for regional poets in and through libraries in the region. Sponsoring poetry in and through libraries promotes the value of libraries:

*Thirty-five broadsides* each of poets in the NLLN region, Belar, Bennett, Dolence, Lajimoidiere, Vinz, and Zepper have been created by Patrick Vincent, professor of visual arts at MSUM and will be for sale at \$25/each to raise funds for NLLN's scholarship fund. The broadsides are on display at an exhibit of area collectors' broadsides at the Spirit Room in Fargo from March 12 – May 15, 2015.

***NLLN's Annual Meeting*** will be held at the Pavilion in Detroit Lake's City Park, to be followed at the City Park Band Shell by "**Poetry and Jazz in the Park**" by ***Just Friends***, Poet Mark Vinz and jazz musicians Ferreira and Law. The schedule is as follows:

4-5 P. M. NLLN's Governing Board meeting in the Pavilion at D.L.'s City Park

5-6 P. M. Picnic Lunch (sponsored by Habitat for Humanity)

7 P. M. "Poetry and Jazz in the Park by *Just Friends*, Vinz, Ferreira, and Law

Kathy is serving on the planning committee for the new ***River Cities Literary Arts Center*** and designed an outline for the strategic planning process meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Technology training for librarians in the region** assists them in keeping up with rapidly changing technology:

A core group of librarians from the Train-the-Trainers team visited the Laporte School Library to assist with reorganizing the library. An architect from North Dakota State University was secured to assist with the reorganization.

Katelyn Ostby created an iPad and iPhone Application Pathfinder for librarians that will be posted to NLLN's website. Katelyn will be providing an "iPad and iPhone Apps. for Librarians" workshop from 10 - Noon on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Support *Spotlight on Books*** conference for people interested in youth literature from around Minnesota:

NLLN continues to be the fiscal agent for Spotlight and the office manager manages registration. The 27th Annual Spotlight on Books Conference was at Chase on the Lake in Walker, Minnesota on April 10 and 11, 2015. Seventy-nine people registered.

Featured authors:

Avi <http://www.avi-writer.com/about/about01.html>

Helen Frost <http://www.helenfrost.net/section.php?section=bio>

Jennifer A. Bell <http://www.jenniferabell.com/about/>

Lisa Von Drasek, curator of the Children's Literature Research Collections at the University of Minnesota, which includes the Kerlan Collection, is slated to present the Friday afternoon workshop.

**Support existing catalogs throughout the region:**

***NLLN granted \$25,000.00 from reserves*** to cover part of the cost of the shared automated catalog system (Evergreen). Partnership for a shared LARL/NWRL automation system provides library customers access to over 444,000 items in thirty-one communities.

*This document is not subject to copyright in the United States and there are no copyright restrictions on reproduction, derivative works, distribution, performance, or display of the work. Anyone may, without restriction under U.S. copyright laws: reproduce the work in print or digital form; create derivative works; perform the work publicly; display the work; distribute copies or digitally transfer the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending.*