

Director's Report
Kathy Brock Enger, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Northern Lights Library Network
December 16, 2017

To facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and resource sharing among libraries throughout the NLLN region and the State of Minnesota, I travel to libraries to attend local, regional, and statewide meetings and conferences. Strong support of libraries throughout our region and the State of Minnesota maintains and builds a strong library infrastructure in the state, communicates the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens of the region, and could result in continued funding.

Since the last NLLN Governing Board meeting on October 21, 2017, I attended the following meetings:

- October 21: Moorhead, NLLN Governing Board meeting.
- October 25: Thief River Falls, Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) Library/Media Workshop.
- November 3: Battle Lake, meeting with Kathy Kensinger at Battle Lake Public Schools to upload Ebooks Minnesota titles onto the Destiny catalog.
- November 4: Alexandria, meeting with Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl to plan the June 11, 2018, "Better Together" workshop.
- November 7: Fargo, meeting with area library directors.
- November 13: Cass Lake, Leech Lake Tribal College meeting with Kayla Gordon from the Maamagin Achigaazo, White Earth, and Hannah Bucklund, Leech Lake Tribal College to discuss library service at the tribal college libraries and at the Maamagin Achigaazo.
- November 16: Moorhead, phone conversation with Alayne Hopkins at the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library to discuss bringing award-winning authors to the NLLN region.
- November 20: Moorhead, phone conversation with Linda Bates at Parkers Prairie Public School to discuss starting mini-"Better Together" workshops in the region to be held at Lakes Country Service Cooperative.
- December 15: White Earth Maamagin Achigaazo, cataloging books with Kayla Gordon and Hannah Buckland.
- December 16: Moorhead, NLLN Governing Board meeting.

Please consider donating to NLLN's **John Wallace Ingersoll Memorial Fund:**

The John Wallace Ingersoll Memorial Fund was established December, 2016, in memory of NLLN President Wayne Ingersoll's brother, John Wallace Ingersoll, in order to honor current and past NLLN Governing Board members and to honor current and past NLLN members. Funds will be used to support the programming of Northern Lights Library Network. Donations will recognize those honored with a memorial biography in a memorial directory and special recognition when the funds are dispersed in support of programming at Northern Lights Library

Network. The fund continues to grow and was added to Summer, 2017, when a memorial was held in the Comstock Memorial Union on the campus of Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Former intern, Aleta Sanford, is volunteering at NLLN. Aleta is a Junior at MSUM, majoring in English and Business Administration.

I continue to serve as a reviewer for *College & Research Libraries*.

The Tribal College Library Directors continue to meet regularly. Funding for Ojibwe libraries is an ongoing concern.

We continue to support literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region through NLLN's *Minnesota Literacy Initiative*. From early reading activities to advanced literary discussions, library literacy initiatives bring people together to get to know books in enjoyable and satisfying situations. Literacy promotes personal improvement and enlightenment, ensures equity, dignifies, and creates prosperity.

One literacy initiative is career development and professional engagement scholarships, library service funding for staff and library board member participation in continuing education programs, events, and participation at national and international conferences for library professionals in the region who may not be able to attend without the support of Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). Continuing education scholarships are awarded as incentive for individual growth and development in order to enhance library services throughout the NLLN region. Library staff attendance at local, regional, national, and international conferences generates new ideas and best library practices among colleagues and library constituents. To date, thirteen library staff from the NLLN region have participated or plan to participate in Master Class Leadership, the IBBY Regional Conference, the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference, the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) conference, and the Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) Fall Workshop with committed funds of \$7,9457.90 so far this year.

NLLN supports ongoing library administrative and technical support for the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program (WECC/ECP) and support of the Tribal College Libraries. NLLN is donating an iPad for a drawing at the Annual White Earth Child Care Early Childhood Program Christmas Gift Drive as a drawing for people donating gifts. The NLLN Governing Board is also participating in the drive.

NLLN's "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. Poetry in and through libraries extends literacy because it is linguistically rich and as a genre that is read aloud, makes literature a public event. Sponsoring poetry in and through libraries also promotes the value of libraries. "Poets Across Minnesota" is a program initiated by Northern Lights Library Network during FY13. As a part of NLLN's "Poets Across Minnesota" program, thirty-five broadsides each of poets in the NLLN region, Lina Belar, Kenneth Bennett, Travis Dolence, Denise Lajimoidiere, Mark Vinz, and Kevin Zepper were created by Patrick Vincent, former professor of visual arts at MSUM and are for sale at \$25/each to raise funds for NLLN's scholarship fund.

I sold broadsides at a table in the Comstock Memorial Union on Monday, December 4th.

MSUM is hosting a McGrath reading of the six broadside poems by the poets February 1, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the MSUM Library Porch. The MSUM Library purchased the six broadsides and will be presented to MSUM at the reading. The limited editions of the thirty-five broadsides were printed on the press in the MSUM art department by former MSUM professor Patrick Vincent. The broadsides are numbered and signed.

Please find information on the broadsides, below, along with more information on Poet Thomas McGrath following from the Poetry Foundation website (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/thomas-mcgrath>).

At the Library by Lina Belar

"At the Library" features two sisters reading through all the books gracing a library's shelves in a summer's time. Lina is an alumna of Columbia University and museum director, having served cultural organizations throughout Central Minnesota. Professor Mark Vinz is a personal favorite poet of Belar's and she's learned a lot from reading and rereading his poetry.

Carnegie Libraries by Dr. Kenneth Bennett

"Carnegie Libraries" touches on the architectural beauty of Carnegie libraries, and the people, young and old, who enjoy them. Dr. Bennett received his undergraduate degrees from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) and was editor of *The Advocate* at MSUM during the turbulent 1960s. Bennett taught at both MSUM and NDSU for many years.

The Longest Hour by Professor Travis Dolence

"The Longest Hour" portrays the dedication of librarians everywhere. Travis Dolence is a librarian and editor at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM).

Birch Bark Biting by Dr. Denise Lajimodiere

Birch bark biting is a pre-contact Ojibwe and Cree art. Following a ceremony, bark was gathered in the spring of the year. Thin layers are then folded and bitten with eye teeth to make designs. Bitings were used as patterns for quill and beadwork. Dr. Lajimodiere is an enrolled Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and is a professor at North Dakota State University.

North of North by Professor Mark Vinz

Winter in the Northern Great Plains is a thing of beauty and pain. "North of North" captures the feelings of those living through the chill, making it relatable for those who never experienced the negative temperatures met with positive attitudes. "It's always colder somewhere else. We praise our plows and furnaces, fall back again on what we know." Mark Vinz was a professor at

Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) for nigh of forty years and a long-standing renowned poet.

Used Poetry by Professor Kevin Zepper

"Used Poetry" makes the creation and editing of a poem relatable to anyone who has ever had vehicle woes. The incredible parallels between poetry and parts of an automobile will make everyone remember writing his or her first poem and buying his or her first car; they're both situations many fret over; now you look back and smile. Professor Zepper teaches in the English department at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM).

From The Poetry Foundation:

... McGrath is primarily a poet, and although "important contemporary poets . . . proclaim him as a major voice in American poetry in the last three or four decades." According to Frederick C. Stern in *Southwest Review*, McGrath's work has been critically neglected for years. "He's one of those poets who *should* be known but isn't, who is constantly being rediscovered as if he were some precocious teenager who just got into town," declared [Mark Vinz](#) in *North Dakota Quarterly*. "If he's been honored, even revered by a few, he's also been ignored by most." To quote Terrence Des Pres in *TriQuarterly*: "Thomas McGrath has been writing remarkable poems of every size and form for nearly fifty years. In American poetry he is as close to Whitman as anyone since Whitman himself, a claim I make with care. McGrath is master of the long wide line (wide in diction, long in meter), the inclusive six-beat measure of America at large. The scene of his work is the whole of the continent east to west with its midpoint in the high-plains rim of the heartland. His diction, with its vast word-stock and multitude of language layers, is demotic to the core yet spiced with learned terms in Whitman's manner, a voice as richly American as any in our literature."

The Second Annual “Better Together” workshop will be held June 11, 2018. The following is a draft of the schedule for the day:

“Better Together”



Area Workshop for Educators, Media Specialists, and Librarians

Monday, June 11, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Lakes Country Service Cooperative
1001 East Mount Faith
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

There is no charge for this workshop

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Registration

Coffee, tea, and rolls

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Introductions, Conversation, and Discussion Forum

Lynette Schwagerl, Cambell-Tintah Schools

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. "Picture Books 101: How to 'Read' a Picture Book"

Carol Sibley, Professor Emerita, Minnesota State University Moorhead

An introduction to evaluating picture books, including text, art, and anatomy (anatomy of a book includes the book jacket, cover, title page, endpapers, back matter, or anything that is not in the body of the actual book).

11 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. *Working Land* By Jon Solinger and Lake Region Arts Council

Artist talk by Jon Solinger and the writers of *Working Land*, along with grant opportunities from Lake Region Arts Council

Working Land is a wonderful depiction of the beautiful spirit of the people and six family farms in rural Otter Tail County shown in photographs taken near Jon Solinger's home, along with commentary by Jon and several other contributors.

See: <http://www.jonsolinger.com/galleries/working-land-book/>

Members from the Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC) will present the excellent grant opportunities available from LRAC.

12:15 p.m. – 1 p.m. Lunch

Super Taco Bar. \$5 Suggested Donation

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Technology in the Classroom

Laurie Conzemius

Laurie Conzemius is a long-term board member of ISTE, the International Society for Technology in Education, and media specialist in schools in Minnesota. Laurie is a technology expert and will show you electronic tools you never knew existed.

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Creating a Culture of Reading Panel

Wrap-up

Conversation and sharing of ideas led by Glenn Heinecke (Roseau Schools) and Lynette Schwagerl (Campbell-Tintah School)

Workshop participants will go home with the following resources:

- Free books, including a copy of *Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books* by K.T. Horning, *Goodnight Server Room* by Tyler Smith, titles from the collection of Dr. Jill Frederick.
- Five Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Arts Council contact information from our region along with grant ideas
- Directory of library workers in our region
- Door Prizes (including copies of the Caldecott and Newbery award winning books and copies of Working Land).

The second "Better Together" Area Workshop is sponsored by Campbell-Tintah Public Schools, The John Wallace Ingersoll Foundation Fund, Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Lake Region Arts Council, Laurie Conzemius LLC, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Northern Lights Library Network, and Roseau Public Schools.

Funding for the workshop is made available through NLLN's John Wallace Ingersoll Foundation Fund.

NLLN is also considering holding mini-Better Together workshops in the spring and fall during good weather times. Minitex is interested in having an ELM Expo. in the region Fall, 2018.

The Northwest Service Cooperative (NWSC) Library/Media Workshop was held on October 25, 2017, at the NWSC headquarters in Thief River Falls. The five sessions included: 1. Helping Students Use Infographics to Demonstrate Learning by Gina Drellack; 2. Shared Ebook Collection with Overdrive by Brian Potash from Overdrive; 3. Digital Literacy and Students by Gina Drellack; 4. Library of the Future and Future Library Standards by NLLN Executive Director, Kathy Enger; 5. EBooks Minnesota by Kathy Enger. Discussion topics included Future Ready Library Standards, Genreification of Collections, and Makerspaces. Eighteen librarians, media specialists, and library paraprofessionals from the regions participated from the following schools: Warren-Alvarado-Oslo school; St. Joseph's School Moorhead; South Point Elementary East Grand Forks; Sacred Heart School East Grand Forks; Bagley High School; Northland High School in Remer; Fisher Public School; Lake Park Audubon High School; Hancock Public School; Blackduck School; MCC Newfolden Elementary; Red Lake Elementary and High School; Greenbush/Middle River Greenbush Site; and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton School.

Increased access to books is an important aspect of NLLN's Minnesota Literacy Initiative. One such initiative is **eBook access** for middle and high school students throughout the NLLN region. Many students living within the counties served by Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) and Northwest Regional Library (NWRL) have been issued iPads or tablets by their schools. LARL and NWRL have seen a steady increase in the use of eBook and eAudiobook collections. Teachers and media specialists from across the region have contacted LARL and NWRL, asking how their students can obtain access to eBooks and eAudiobooks. LARL and NWRL are encouraging schools, teachers, and students to register for LARL and NWRL library cards to

access the eBook services provided to them through their public library. The Tumblebook Library is provided for the Northwest Regional Library System. eBook and eAudiobook access for students enhance efforts schools make to provide content rich materials to students.

Another aspect of NLLN's Minnesota Literacy Initiative is getting **Ebooks Minnesota** into school library catalogs in the region. Executive Director Kathy Enger met with Lynette Schwagerl and Pamela Dohman in Breckenridge on October 9 to upload the books to the Breckenridge Destiny catalog and met with Kathy Kennsinger at Battle Lake Public Schools to upload the books to their catalog. A total of approximately 4,200 books is available.

Dr. Jill Frederick, Professor emerita, Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) donated 115 paperback and 29 hardcover books from her professional collection to libraries in the region. Some of the titles will be used for the books that will be given away at the 2018 "Better Together" workshop. The following letter was sent to Dr. Frederick on December 7, 2017:

Dear Dr. Frederick,

Thank you for the gift of 115 paperback and 29 hardcover books to Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN). We appreciate your generosity and look forward to bringing your donation to libraries in the NLLN region. Many libraries in our region do not receive ongoing support to develop their collections, so your donation is especially meaningful. Supporting literacy initiatives among all types of libraries in our region is a main objective for Northern Lights Library Network. Reading promotes personal improvement and enlightenment, ensures equity, dignifies, and creates prosperity in our communities. Your books support our efforts.

Assessment of the monetary value of your donation is yours to determine with consultation from a tax expert. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. Northern Lights Library Network is a not-for-profit organization, classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and your contribution may be deductible to the extent permitted by applicable laws. The federal tax identification number for Northern Lights Library Network is: 41-1380553.

Again, thank you for your generous donation. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kathy Brock Enger
Executive Director
Northern Lights Library Network

NLLN is beginning a resource exchange for school, academic, and special libraries in the region. Grassroots efforts at sharing resources and working collaboratively are brought together to meet local needs for library and collections services. Here is the Policy and Procedures for the exchange:

**Resource Exchange Northern Lights Library Network
"NLLN Resource Exchange"
Policy and Procedures**

Libraries in the Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) region undergo on-going collection management procedures that result in the deselection of books and other library resources. Many private collections in the region are also in need of library homes. Other libraries in the region may need these materials. NLLN facilitates the exchange of materials among libraries by listing the items on NLLN's listserv and shipping through the Minitex Delivery System. There is no remuneration for the materials offered.

Exchanging Process

1. All personalization should be marked-out or removed from the materials donated. Materials in poor condition should not be considered for sharing.
2. Create a spreadsheet or bibliography of the items available. For books, *include the author (last name, first name), title, year, and ISBN number (if available)*. The donor must use a Google Sheet that can be continuously updated to reflect individual materials that have been claimed. The donating institution or individual is responsible for creating, updating, and eventually deleting the list.
3. Send the list to the executive director of NLLN.
4. The executive director will attach the list of available materials to NLLN's school and academic listservs.
5. The title of the email will be: NLLN Exchange from *Name of Donor*. For instance, a donation from Minnesota State University Moorhead would state, "NLLN Exchange from MSUM."
6. From that point on, the exchanging libraries communicate directly with one another regarding what materials will be exchanged. The Minitex Delivery System can move the materials, using the following procedures.
7. Any materials unclaimed four weeks after posting are no longer available and will be handled at the discretion of the donor.

Using Minitex Delivery to Exchange Materials

1. Contact the library with Minitex courier service located closest to the donating library and coordinate shipping of materials. This is the responsibility of the donating library.
2. Contact the library with Minitex courier service located closest to the recipient library and coordinate pickup of materials. This is the responsibility of the recipient library.
3. Print the Minitex COURTESY RETURN ROUTING FORMS on orange paper and attach it to the box(es) with the materials exchanged, attached.
4. To exchange items, contact the following libraries and deliver or pick up items at these locations.:

Libraries with Minitex Courier Service in the NLLN Region:

- Alexandria Technical College - Sheree Cochran, shereec@alextech.edu
- Bemidji State University - Patrice Conely, pconely@bemidjistate.edu
- Central Lakes College - Dave Bissonette, dbissonette@clcmn.edu
- Concordia College - Leah Anderson McCracken, landerso@cord.edu
- Kitchigami Regional Library - Cathy Erickson, ericksonc@krls.org

- Lake Agassiz Regional Library - Nicole Murphy, larlill@larl.org
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College—Fergus Falls
- Minnesota State University, Moorhead - Wendy Gibosn, wendy.gibson@mnstate.edu
- Northwest Regional Library - Heather Barber, nwrlill@nwrlib.org
- University of Minnesota, Crookston - Krista Proulx, kproulx@umn.edu
- University of Minnesota, Morris - Sandy Kill, killsk@morris.umn.edu
- Viking Library System - Frani Torgerson, ftorgerson@viking.lib.mn.us

NLLN facilitates access to online bibliographic materials using the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) union catalog by support cataloging fees for membership to the OCLC CatExpress group subscription for Northwest Regional Library; Lincoln High School Thief River Falls; Kittson School Media Center; Warren/Alvarado/Oslo High School; Breckenridge High School District; Clearbrook Gonvick High School; Ada-Borup Public School; Independent School District 435; Audubon High School Media Center; Perham/Dent Public School; Holy Rosary School; BUG-O-NA-GE Shig School; Grygla School Media Center; Bemidji Public School; Park Rapids High School; Northland Community Schools ISD #118; Circle of Life School; St. Joseph's School; Lancaster public School; Tri-County School; Mahnommen Public School; Frazee-Vergas School; Pine River Backus Public School; Badger School; Blackduck Public School; White Earth Tribal & Community College Library. Support like this improves patron access to online catalog materials.