

Director's Report

Northern Lights Library Network

December 13, 2014 Governing Board Meeting for Fiscal Year 2015

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative network of members in academic, public, school, and special libraries in 23 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 from Northern Lights Library Network.

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

Vision Statement: Libraries are attractive, welcoming places that are friendly, open, inclusive, accessible, innovative, and a source of community pride where people can go to learn what they need to know in order to thrive and grow in their communities. When libraries work together, communities grow stronger, and the lives of all Minnesotans are enriched.

Mission Statement: Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is a cooperative network of members in academic, public, school, and special libraries in 23 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 from Northern Lights Library Network.

Core Values:

In principle and practice, libraries are at the core of a democratic society, defending the freedom of all citizens to:

- Access information to make informed decisions
- Read material that interests them
- Use technology successfully to stay current and access resources.
- Engage in learning throughout the life cycle

We believe in inclusive library environments that are accessible to all persons.

We work together to ensure that all who use our libraries and collections feel welcome.

We create libraries and collections that are well organized and easy to use.

We support lifelong learning by determining our library user's interests and needs and then teach them how to use the resources that assist them in learning what they want to know.

We build bridges among libraries and believe that libraries themselves are bridges between physical and electronic access to information, bridges between people and technology; and bridges between resources available and the community needing to use those resources.

We communicate the purpose and benefits of libraries to citizens of the region.

We believe in the inherent value of books.

We advocate for ongoing, sustainable, and continuous library funding at the local, state, and national level.

The main purpose of Northern Lights Library Network is to make all libraries in the region stronger.

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.

Traveling to libraries throughout the NLLN region, attending local, regional, and statewide meetings and conferences, October 18 – December 13:

October 18: NLLN Governing Board meeting.

October 20: St. Paul, Library and Service Delivery Consultant Group meeting Minnesota Department of Education.

October 29: Moorhead, meeting with David Wahlberg, public relations consultant.

November 4: MSUM Library, picture for “For the Love of Libraries” article for The Forum.

November 8: Park Rapids, Train-the-Trainers training at the Park Rapids High School. Lin Enger reading of *The High Divide* at Beagle Books.

November 11: MSUM, meeting with Pat Mahoney and Wayne Ingersoll.

November 12: Red Raven, Zepper reading.

November 13: Denise Lajimodiere reading at MSUM Library.

November 14: Fergus Falls, Lake Region Service Cooperative regional symposium discussing collaboration.

November 17: St. Paul, Library governance meeting, Library and Service Delivery Consultation Group, Minnesota Department of Education.

November 24: Meeting with auditor, Luke Evenson; Google Hangout with Train-the-Trainers to plan February 7, 2015, training at Century School in Park Rapids.

Week of December 8: Meetings with White Earth to discuss cataloging equipment and furniture for the Maamagin Achigaade.

December 13: NLLN Governing Board meeting.

Providing added civic support for citizen engagement activities to member libraries to activate the constituent base, increase support, and elect public officials who care about libraries by planning second annual *Library Luncheon with Legislators* to be held in Room 101 at MSUM Comstock Memorial Union on February 21, 2015, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Librarians from the region will briefly describe their work to legislators in order to prepare them for Minnesota Library Legislative Day in March, 2015. Thirty-four invitations were sent to legislators in the region and 28 invitations were sent to librarians in the region.

Developing activities that bring all libraries together by providing ongoing internships for undergraduates interested in careers in Communication. NLLN’s intern, Jordan Schroeer, a student in his senior year at MSUM, completed the following Fall, 2014: Designed, researched, and created an online directory of legislators in NLLN’s 23 county region; Revised current online directories of artists and historical societies to be more user friendly, online at nlln.org, using Omeka; added a list of genealogical collections historical societies hold to current historical society directory; Initiated MPR sponsorship; produced list of all newspapers throughout Minnesota; prepared materials for Library Luncheon with Legislators (LLL) such as researching addresses, ensuring invitations were created on time, and reserving the room at MSUM; assisted executive director with research relating to multi-types; posted content to social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr, Facebook likes – 63, Twitter followers

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.

– 90 (up from 60 in Sept.); created media advisories for the following: “Beads on One String” presentations in Bemidji elementary schools, brought media attention from PBS station in the past, ITEM conference for media specialists in St. Cloud, Little Free Libraries and an IMLS grant in White Earth, produced stories in the Detroit Lakes and Park Rapids newspapers for Belar presentation at American Association for State and Local History oral history presentation

Advancing career development, professional engagement scholarships, and library service funding for staff and library board member participation in continuing education programs, with 18 scholarships committed for attendance at 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.

Ongoing library administrative and technical support for the White Earth Child Care/Early Childhood Program (WECC/ECP) as they prepare Maamagin Achigaade, a new community library. NLLN purchased an iPad for White Earth for the Christmas Gift Drive to be used as a drawing prize. Kathy, Terri, and Barb are meeting to create the online catalog and to determine how to move the MSUM library furniture to White Earth.

Encouraging 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. NLLN sponsored “Beads on One String” at four Bemidji Schools: Northern Elementary- Tuesday, Dec. 2; Horace May Elementary- Wednesday, Dec. 3; Lincoln Elementary- Thursday, Dec. 4; Central Elementary- Friday, Dec.5. Creating broadsides of local poets to raise funds for scholarships with *Poets Across Minnesota*.

An article, “*For the Love of Libraries*” was in the November 10, 2014, Fargo Forum, with a picture of Poet Kevin Zepper, Printmaker, Patrick Vincent, and NLLN Executive Director, Kathy Enger discussing the broadside, “Used Poetry” by Zepper.

<http://www.inforum.com/content/msum-broadside-series-helps-support-literacy-programs>

From the article: “Zepper, poet and professor of English at Minnesota State University Moorhead, teamed up with fellow MSUM professor and printmaker Patrick Vincent to create a broadside from Zepper’s poem to benefit the Northern Lights Library Network, an organization that coordinates services and resources for libraries in 23 counties throughout north-central, northwest and west-central Minnesota ... ‘By right of existing, libraries are literacy centers,’ says the network’s director, Kathy Enger. ‘And whatever we can do to support them, we’re on board.’ The broadside is the first in a series of three, Enger says, with the following two to feature poems by two former MSUM professors Mark Vinz and Ken Bennett. The sales will fund scholarships for the professional development of librarians and media specialists in libraries throughout their service area.”

Technology training for librarians in the region to assist them in keeping up with rapidly changing technology. NLLN’s *Train-the-Trainers* held an apps. training at Park Rapids High School on November 8 that was attended by eight trainers. An apps. workshop is being planned

at Century School in Park Rapids for February 7th, which will be supported by NLLN's trainers and available to librarians from all types of libraries from the region.

Increasing eBook access for middle and high school students throughout the NLLN region by sponsoring a \$5,000 increase in Overdrive eBooks for children and young adults each for LARL and NWRL, who is encouraging schools, teachers, and students to register for LARL and NWRL library cards to access the eBook services. NLLN is sending emails to school librarians to tell them about the initiative and remind them to connect students to public libraries to get their library cards. Gina Drellack, media specialist at Bagley Schools worked with the Bagley Public Library to ensure that all secondary school students had a library card to access eBooks at LARL by Thanksgiving.

Supporting existing catalogs throughout the region. The Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) and Northwest Regional Library (NWRL) are partnering to migrate to a new open source catalog system called Evergreen, which will save the two regional library systems over \$100,000 over the next five years. NLLN hopes to assist with the project by buying the server hardware and accessories for \$25,000 from NLLN's reserves.

Sustaining ongoing public relations efforts for libraries. A local broadcast of a *Prairie Home Companion* was supported by NLLN during the broadcast at 5 p.m., Saturday, November 8, 2014, covering MPR stations throughout the NLLN region stating, "Local broadcast of A Prairie Home Companion is supported by Northern Lights Library Network, a cooperative of academic, public, school, and special libraries in North, West, and Central Minnesota counties. Creating, developing, and sustaining resources that enrich Minnesota lives."

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.