

**Northern Lights Library Network
Governing Board Meeting
March 16, 2024
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Comstock Memorial Union
and Online**

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative
- George Deiss, Vice President, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Sheri Levasseur, Secretary, NLLN; School Library Representative
- Kevin Baggett, Treasurer, NLLN; Academic Library Representative; Business & Outreach Librarian, Concordia College
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Bethany Hait, NLLN Public Library Representative
- Joe Gould, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Aleta Sanford, Minute-taker, NLLN

1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:02 A.M.
2. Oath of Office. Welcome to new Kitchigami Regional Library Representative, Joe Gould.
 - a. Joe read the oath and will send a signed copy to Kathy for her and Glenn's signatures.
3. Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports, FDIC coverage.
 - a. Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports.
 - i. Linda H., Linda S. MCU
 - b. FDIC coverage.
 - i. Kathy would like to move \$250,000 of funds from NLLN's reserves at Bremer Bank to US Bank, into a money market account earning 4.5% interest at this time. This is for the purpose of obtaining FDIC insurance of NLLN funds. Kathy recently discovered that Bremer insures their funds (in excess of the \$250,000 covered by the FDIC) by using those funds as collateral for a public agency, which would then be responsible for paying NLLN back if something happened. As a Tier One Capital bank, US Bank also provides additional security for NLLN funding. Kathy has a meeting with the Business Banker in Alexandria on Friday to begin the transfer.
 - ii. George, Linda S. MCU
4. 990.

- a. Nonprofits complete this form annually. Board members received a draft copy.
 - b. George, Bethany MCU
5. Carryover 48 hours of vacation from 2023 to 2024.
 - a. George, Linda S. MCU
6. Old Business.
 - a. Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) training is ongoing. Contact Beth Staats at: fried004@umn.edu.
 - b. Professional library titles available from Arrowhead Library System (ALS) through MN Link. <https://mnlink.org>
 - c. “Better Together.” Thank you to Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl for hosting “Better Together.”
 - d. School Library Census.
 - i. Multicounty, Multitype (MCMT) Systems received \$1,000,000 to conduct a census to determine which schools in Minnesota have libraries and assess who is managing the libraries.
 - ii. The project is underway and is being led by Julie Reimer, along with Counting Options, an entity which is creating the survey.
 - iii. Once the census is complete, the second half is to provide education to increase the number of licensed media specialists in school libraries.
 - e. Public School Libraries and Media Centers Minnesota Statute 124D.901.
 - i. School districts received \$40,000 each (or more, depending on enrollment, but no less than \$40,000), dedicated to the school library, to fund staff, resources, technology, and books. The funds provided guidelines for use but did not have any mandates or required reporting on how the funds were spent. As a result of this lack of built-in accountability, many school districts put the funds in their general fund and have not used them for their intended purpose.
 - ii. Licensed media specialist positions continue to be cut from schools. Schools in the Twin Cities are beginning to see their media specialist positions and library funding cut. These positions will continue to be cut until there is a rule requiring schools to have a licensed media specialist.
 - iii. Senator Kunesh is working on many bills, including establishing a state school librarian, expanded professional development opportunities for school library staff, a working group of school media specialists and stakeholders for media center standards, building digital citizenship and media literacy into the curriculum, and establishing specific standards, and establishing a no-book ban in the state of Minnesota.
 - iv. One issue with this legislation is the amount of funding given to schools was insufficient to cover the cost of new requirements under the READ

Act. Schools are still covering approximately 15% of the cost of professional development for their teachers to meet the new requirements.

- f. 134.351
 - i. The MCMT systems are seeking an addition to the MCMT statute that would allow for removing public library systems from MCMT representation. The language of the amendment would permit regional systems to refuse to appoint representatives to MCMT boards. It is unclear what would happen to MCMT funding currently being dispersed to regional systems through the MCMTs.
 - ii. Kathy opposed this amendment to the existing statute, as MCMTs provide services to all libraries and can greatly impact literacy in their regions, including by working with regional systems. NLLN is the only MCMT with four regional systems within its boundaries. Without regional public library representation, there would only be three people at this board meeting.
 - iii. Glenn, Linda S, and others on the board reported receiving several emails regarding the proposed changes. Some emails were quite pointed and prompted the recipient to act at the next NLLN board meeting in support of this amendment, despite the board's agreement to oppose it in September. Following Senator Kunesh's response in an email chain stating she would review all the information and make an informed decision, NLLN board members stopped receiving emails.
 - g. Bookmobile support for Campbell School from Viking Library System (VLS).
 - i. NLLN has distributed \$5,000 for this purpose.
 - h. eBook and eAudio book support for Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS) and eBook support for Northwest Regional Library System (NWRL). Hoopla support for Wheaton Public Library and for Browns Valley Public Library.
 - i. NLLN had distributed \$7,500 to KRLS and \$5,000 to NWRL.
 - ii. NLLN supports regional public libraries in this way and in many others.
7. New Business.
- a. Senate File 3471. Establish a state school librarian at MDE. Thank you to Gina Drellack from Northwest Service Cooperative for testifying before the Senate Education Finance Committee on February 29 in support of legislation to establish a school librarian at the state level and for supporting libraries and media centers in the Northwest region. See Gina's testimony:
<https://mnsenate.granicus.com/player/clip/12160>
 - i. This bill is still in process.
 - b. Senate File 3474. Thank you to Sheri Levasseur for testifying before the Senate Committee on Education Policy on March 6 in support of legislation to create a Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety Council and for supporting libraries and

media centers in the Northwest region. See Sheri's testimony:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5QmlsscBfA>

- i. This bill has passed committee.
 - ii. Sheri stated that media specialists are one of two certifications who are already able to teach computer science classes, and this is a great opportunity to make libraries and media specialists relevant to schools. In this way, media specialist positions might be preserved. However, this fact needs to be known, otherwise schools may cut media specialist positions to hire computer science staff when media specialists can already teach those subjects.
- c. Mailing to school library staff.
- i. These packets contain information about available NLLN scholarships, the Better Together workshop, and other resources available through NLLN. These packets have been effective in the past.
 - ii. They will be sent out the week after next.
- d. School library media programs in Minnesota.
- i. There are three programs in the state of Minnesota that provide the education required to become a licensed media specialist.
 - ii. See the Director's Report for a list of these programs and links for more information.
- e. Support for the Osakis Public School.
- i. As a result of the 124D.901 Statute, Osakis hired a part-time librarian, Jennifer Otremba, who is currently attending school to obtain her media specialist license.
 - ii. Jennifer has discovered that the median age of the school's collection is from the year 2000 and she is developing a strategic plan to update the collection. She is potentially seeking LSTA funding.
- f. Broadsides.
- i. NLLN plans to donate copies of the broadsides commissioned by NLLN and printed at MSUM to the West Fargo Public Library to be displayed there. They can also be seen in the MSUM library, outside of the administrative offices. NLLN seeks to discover resources both in and beyond our region.
 - ii. Sheri, George MCU
- g. Support for Festival of Fathers and Families at White Earth.
- i. Representative Keeler donated her son's book collection to be distributed at this event in White Earth. Donations from Adell Bridgeford and NLLN were included, as well.
- h. 20th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference, August 14 and 15, 2024. Pre-conference August 13.

- i. NLLN is sponsoring Dr. J. from MSUM to present keynotes at the conference.
 - i. Giving Hearts Day Donation to Friends of the Moorhead Public Library.
 - i. NLLN donated a small grant in support of the Friends of the Moorhead Public Library.
 - j. MSUM English Collection.
 - i. These resources (including LPs, CDs, VHS tapes) are available. Please let people know about these resources.
 - k. Scholarships.
 - i. There are still scholarship funds available.
 - l. Updates from NLLN Governing Board members.
 - i. Linda S: Things are moving ahead with the new Moorhead library, although there are some issues, such as having to downsize the plans due to cost.
 - ii. Sheri: The computer science standards committee plans to meet with Senator Kunesh soon to see if they can gain her support and help getting the proposal on the docket for this legislative session. Otherwise, it will likely wait until next year.
- 8. Adjourn.
 - a. 11:28 A.M.