

Northern Lights Library Network
Governing Board Meeting
March 20, 2021
10 a.m.
Zoom Conference Call

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative; Media Specialist, Roseau School
- George Deiss, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Sarah Villanueva, Northwest Regional Library Representative (NWRL); Library Manager, Thief River Falls Public Library
- Reed Olson, Vice President, NLLN; Kitchigami Regional Library Representative (KRLS); Beltrami County Commissioner
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Laurie Villwock, NLLN Special Library Representative; Media Specialist, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School
- Lynette Schwagerl, Campbell School
- Kevin Baggett, Academic Library Representative, Business & Outreach Librarian, Concordia College
- Alayne Hopkins, Director of Programs & Services, Friends of the St. Paul Public Library
- Laura Probst, Library Director, Concordia College
- Deb Keena, Office Manager, NLLN
- Aleta Sanford, MSUM Graduate Student

1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:01 A.M.
2. Approve Agenda.
 - a. Laurie Villwock, Linda Schell MCU
3. Approve Minutes from December 12, 2020, NLLN Governing Board meeting.
 - a. Linda Schell, Reed Olson MCU
4. Approve Financial Reports.
 - a. Kathy has been very conscious with money, given that multitype systems have not had a funding increase since 2008. Due to the pandemic, this fiscal year's reduced travel, scholarship expenses, and the reduced cost of virtual board meetings will lead to NLLN coming out even by the end of the fiscal year. Several programs are currently funded through reserves.
 - b. Reed Olson, Kevin Baggett MCU
5. Old Business.

- a. Moving Words. Alayne Hopkins, Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.
 - i. Moving Words is a program dedicated to bringing Minnesota Book Award authors to rural communities across the state. NLLN has financially supported them for about three years. This year Moving Words partnered with four public libraries: Park Rapids, Roseau, Crookston, and Perham. The events were virtual and garnered a wider audience than the typical in-person events have. About one third of the 219 attendees were from the NLLN region. Videos of the events are available on YouTube. A report summarizing the events and the feedback is forthcoming.
- b. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshop. Laura Probst, Library Director, Concordia College.
 - i. The Tri-College has held a staff development workshop for many decades. In the last few years, thanks to funding support from NLLN, Odin, and Minitex, they have been able to open the events up to libraries across the region.
 - ii. This year, the workshop focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics and was facilitated by Anne Phibbs, President of Strategic Diversity Initiatives. The workshop was split over two mornings and had 160 participants, twice as many as a typical in-person workshop, from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Manitoba. The participants also represented several types of libraries: academic, public, school, etc.
 - iii. In the future, the event will continue to be held virtually. Laura thanks NLLN for its financial support of the event.
- c. Library Conversations. Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl.
 - i. Once a month since September 2020, about 5 to 10 librarians and media specialists in the region meet via Zoom to discuss a variety of topics and provide support for each other during the pandemic. They discuss circulation practices, Destiny tips, cataloguing questions, curriculum questions, and other relevant topics. Each month the conversation lasts the entire 45 minutes and the demand for these virtual meetings may continue after the end of the pandemic.
- d. Becoming an Author Writing Series. Gina Drellack, Northwest Service Cooperative.
 - i. Gina's workshop last year has 10-12 active participants. She has decided to offer it again virtually and 80 people signed up.
 - ii. The series provides an opportunity to write and for attendees to learn how to publish their work using the Minnesota Publishing Project.
 - iii. Linda Schell: Two people from Detroit Lakes will be at this next workshop, and four more look forward to attending future sessions.

- e. “Better Together” workshop. Glenn Heinecke and Lynette Schwagerl.
 - i. The workshop will probably be virtual this year and hopefully in-person by Summer 2022. There is no firm date for the 2021 virtual event yet.
- f. Youth Voice and Choice: YALSA’s Transforming Teen Services Training on Connected Learning. Leah Laron and Andrea Egbert.
 - i. This past summer Leah and Andrea held this event virtually over a six week period. This fall they are hoping to hold an in-person event in Thief River Falls. The prospective date is September 30th, and it may shift to online.
- g. Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project online training. Gina Drellack, Northwest Service Cooperative.
 - i. Discussed above under the Becoming and Author Writing Series.
- h. Tribal College Directors Meetings.
 - i. Hannah Buckland, a former NLLN Board member now with State Library Services, began holding monthly meetings with Tribal College directors. They had their first meeting two months ago.
- i. Circle of Life Academy at White Earth.
 - i. The Academy has recently reopened their library and needs books to fill it. NLLN has given \$350 for books and is sending books that have accumulated in the office. As soon as Kathy gets back in the office, she will be sending them.
 - ii. Support of White Earth and Ojibwe communities in the region is a priority of NLLN.
- j. Funders Database.
 - i. The Board approved funding for this at the October meeting. The database is available on NLLN’s website. Anyone in the region can access it and apply for funding for all types of literacy and humanities projects.
- k. Legislative Directory 2021.
 - i. After every election, this list is updated with the region’s current representatives. It is available on NLLN’s website.
- l. Reviewing for College & Research Libraries.
 - i. Kathy reviews articles and will continue doing so; interestingly, they send her articles related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- m. Access Philanthropy.
 - i. NLLN had two contracts with Access Philanthropy: one for the Funders Database discussed above, and one for grant-writing support. Unfortunately, they could not provide that support and the contract was rescinded. NLLN and anyone in the region still has the opportunity to engage with Access Philanthropy for grant-writing assistance on an as-needed basis.

6. New Business.

- a. Archiving NLLN records with the Minnesota Historical Society at the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center at Minnesota State University Moorhead.
 - i. The State of Minnesota requires some records to be preserved. NLLN would like to archive these records and others with the Minnesota Historical Society's location on the MSUM campus.
 - ii. In the next few months, the process of moving records to storage will begin.
 - iii. Motion to approve archiving NLLN records with the Minnesota Historical Society
 1. Reed Olson, Laurie Villwock MCU
- b. Eliminating the Minnesota Multi-county, Multi-type Library Systems.
 - i. The Minnesota House of Representatives has a bill (HF 1065) with a clause could jeopardize NLLN and other multi-type systems across Minnesota. The bill is included at the end of the Director's Report.
 - ii. The bill is based on a 2008/2009 report recommending the elimination of multi-types based on interviews with public librarians. The report did not interview other multi-type stakeholders, such as school or academic librarians. Most importantly, NLLN provides services to Native American communities across the region, which was not considered by the 2008/2009 report.
 - iii. As of right now, it is only a draft and has not been sent to any committees. Nor is there a committee reporting to the Commissioner of Education that would be needed to eliminate the multi-types. The office of State Librarian is also vacant. Thus, there is little chance this bill will make any progress in this legislative session
 - iv. However, in four to five years, the bill could be in a position to pass the legislature. Therefore, NLLN will keep a close eye on the progress of this bill going forward.
- c. MSUM lease up June 30, 2021.
 - i. The MSUM Faculty Development Center would like the space NLLN currently occupies. There is an opportunity to move to another location on campus. Kathy will meet with the university president soon. However, there is the option of having no office space since working from home for the past year has been successful for both Kathy and Debbie.
 - ii. After extensive discussion and participation from most attendees, NLLN will pursue another office space at MSUM due to the need to store files and books and have a space for board meetings. Debbie will meet with Kathy once a month to discuss business and file paperwork.

iii. Motion to find another office space and allow Debbie to work from home as long as her current arrangement continues to be successful.

1. Glenn Heinecke, Laurie Villwock MCU

d. NLLN Passed the Minnesota Pay Equity Report.

i. Every two years, NLLN must fill out a state report to ensure all employees are being paid equitably. NLLN passed the recent review.

ii. Kathy thanks the board for their continuing support and their work in their communities.

7. Adjourn

a. 11:11 A.M.

b. Reed Olson, George Deiss MCU