

3. Oath of Office, Keri Youngstrand, Director, U of M Crookston Library, NWRL Representative Alternate.
 - a. Keri read the Oath of Office and will email Kathy a copy of the signed document.
4. Review agenda, minutes, financial reports.
 - a. Agenda.
 - i. Revise date of the December meeting to December 14, 2024.
 - ii. Motion: Kevin, Linda MCU
 - b. Minutes.
 - i. Charlie, George MCU
 - c. Financial Reports.
 - i. George, Linda MCU
5. Review and approve the following policies in compliance with IRS 990 Form:
 - a. Copies of the policies were sent to board members for review prior to the meeting.

Conflict of Interest

- a. This policy states the board will not maintain any private interest that conflicts with NLLN's activities. The motion will certify that the board is aware this policy is in place, received a copy, read and understood the policy, and agrees to comply with the policy.
- b. Motion: George, Linda MCU

Whistleblower

- a. This policy states any person employed is free to come forward with concerns about unlawful activity or practices without fear of retribution.
- b. Motion. Charlie, Karen MCU

Fund Balance

- a. This policy is meant to ensure the financial stability of NLLN and certify that its financial statements justify its strong financial rating.
- b. Motion: Linda, George MCU

Document Retention and Destruction.

- a. NLLN records prior to the pandemic are stored in the MSUM archives. Other records are electronic.
- b. Motion: Linda, Charlie MCU

6. New Business.

- a. *Report of Results* Minnesota Department of Education, State Library Services.
 - i. This report is completed annually and summarizes all of NLLN's activities over the past fiscal year. A copy has been sent to the board for review.
 - ii. Motion: George, Linda MCU
- b. Strategic Plan Interviews.
 - i. Kathy is working on a new strategic plan for NLLN and is using a rigorous qualitative and quantitative process. She will be conducting

interviews with board members on what they think libraries are and what they think NLLN should be doing. She will then analyze the interviews and compose a survey to be sent to all NLLN members. She will then use that information to develop a strategic plan that is in accordance with the MCMT statute and NLLN's core values. Kathy then plans to publish this report, although all information will be deidentified and the interviews themselves will be deleted. She would appreciate the board's participation during this process.

- c. Special Projects.
 - i. NLLN is developing a new policy on special projects that would let libraries in the region know that NLLN has funds available for their special projects and programs. NLLN is already engaged in this work with a few members, but would like to make this support more widely available to all members.
 - ii. A special project potentially in development right now is creating and strengthening NLLN's network in the region through developing an online course in collaboration with MSUM providing information literacy resources to libraries and students in the region. This project is in its early stages at this time and there will be more information to come.
 - d. Destiny Training November 2nd. Glenn Heinecke.
 - i. Glenn will be hosting a two-hour Destiny training session for those interested. It will be available in person and online through Zoom.
 - e. MLA Legislative Priorities.
 - i. The most concerning priority on the approved list is the education policy priority, which would attempt to modify the MCMT statute to permit two other forms of governance: allowing regional public library systems to merge with MCMT systems to form one organization, and allowing regional public library systems to withdraw from MCMT systems altogether.
 - ii. The language proposed this year is the same language that was proposed last year, which was opposed by NLLN's board.
 - iii. At this point in time, NLLN's board chooses to abstain from comment on these priorities and will observe how they proceed through the legislature. At a later stage, action may be necessary to oppose this change in statute.
 - iv. The board will revisit this item in December.
7. Old Business.
- a. Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference. Joe Gould.
 - i. Joe attended this conference and wrote a statement regarding his positive experience. He encourages attending future conferences.

- b. MCMT Appropriation to Increase the Number of Licensed Library Media Specialists in Minnesota.
 - i. Senator Kunesh will be visiting schools and libraries in Osakis and Moorhead in October. Last year, a measure passed that allocated \$1 million to school libraries to increase the number of certified media specialists. A portion of the allocation went toward conducting a census of Minnesota school libraries to determine where we are in Minnesota with certified media specialists. The Traverse De Sioux MCMT is managing that funding. A contractor was hired to conduct the census, Counting Opinions. They completed the data collection, but the subcommittee determined that the data was not sufficient and is asking all the MCMTs to sign a letter, to be written by a lawyer, stating they are in agreement with the decision not to pay Counting Opinion's invoice for approximately \$80,000. They have already contracted with Wilder Foundation to clean the data collected by Counting Opinions and to finish the report summarizing the census.
 - ii. The board discussed the situation and the available information and determined there was insufficient information to approve a motion to sign or not to sign the letter. Kathy will request additional information, such as the contract between the MCMTs and Counting Opinions, the alleged contract violations, and other relevant information necessary to make an informed decision in this matter, as it has the potential to lead to legal action.
- 8. Reports from the region.
 - a. Nanette: Thank you to NLLN for the donation of \$1,000 to the Pelican Rapids Public Library Friends of the Library for the purchase of new rugs during the renovation of the Library's children's area. Additionally, the Library's summer reading program was successful, with 300 children participating (there were only 35 children participating during the program's first year). Nanette noted that Dollar General offers \$3,000 literacy grants, which Pelican Rapids received and which enabled them to offer compelling incentives and prizes during their summer reading program. Finally, they have an opening for a Library Director in Pelican Rapids, which will be posted soon. If anyone knows someone who would be interested, please keep that position in mind.
 - b. Charlie: NWRL has successfully replaced all headquarters staff and is seeing improvements already. The board has been meeting 3-5 times per month and has almost completed an audit of the last year and will then make a budget for the upcoming year.
- 9. Adjourn.
 - a. 11:18 A.M.