

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Kathy B. Enger
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)
June 17, 2023

Budget Increase. The Multicounty, Multitype library systems will receive a funding increase from the legislature this year for a total allotted increase divided by the seven systems of \$700,000. Due to its geographic size, NLLN will receive the second highest allotment of the seven systems, amounting to \$335,821.56/yr. NLLN's budget for nearly 15 years has remained static at approximately \$218,000.

Legislative Update. From the Minnesota Library Association:

- \$700M MultiCounty MultiType (MCMT) Regional Library System and one-time \$1M grant for media specialists.
- Increase of Legacy funding for regional public library systems \$2.75M/yr.
- \$4M increase in funding, future increases tied to the Basic Education Allowance, a formula adjustment, and the use of current state demographer numbers for calculations.
- Minitex funding for nursing and health databases, along with an increase in funding.
- \$23M/yr. for school libraries, School Library Aid, along with definitions of a school library and school library media center.

Books! If we could summarize NLLN's mission statement in one word, it would be **Books!** In April, NLLN donated 40 copies of *Josie Dances* for the White Earth Early Childhood *Week of the Young Child* event at Shooting Star Casino. NLLN received a donation of children's books for the event from Concordia Anne Craft's personal collection (along with discarded children's books she received from the Concordia College Library). At that time, White Earth was also holding a College Career Fair. NLLN had books from Dr. Jill Frederick and Robert Keister, along with books from Dr. Thom Tamaro that were donated for the College Career Fair at White Earth. Titles from Dr. Thom Tamaro's collection were also delivered to Remer School the end of May. NLLN received a large donation of books and stuffed children's characters from Adell Bridgeford that were given away at the "Better Together" workshop and some will be used for the silent auction at the fall Minnesota Library Association conference.

Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange (CMLE) Update. The CMLE Executive Committee approved moving forward with a contract for interim director services with Melissa Brechon. She plans to attend the June 12 meeting on behalf of CMLE. I've included her on this message. We will make a formal announcement after the contract is finalized with more details on her official contact information as CMLE interim director as we get them set. Karen Pundsack, CMLE treasurer

Communities Collaborative Brain Conference. The White Earth Early Childhood Communities Collaborative Brain Conference will resume in person, August 2024. NLLN will continue to support the conference.

Poets! Voices! A Minnesota Pilot Plan, the Wadena County Historical Society, and the Historic Wesley Hospital Building. From Lina Belar. The Wadena County Historical Society

has served the community for 85 years. Its mission is to save and preserve the history of Wadena County and make it available to the public. In addition, it has working collaborations with other organizations regional organizations including Cultural Center of New York Mills and the Madhatters Community Theater of Wadena. This is a pilot project between the Wadena County Historical Society directed by Lina Belar and Northern Lights Library Network directed by Kathy Enger. This is not first time these two have worked together to support their rural communities. At the end of the last century, both were part of the national dialogue to make historical and literary resources available to all through digitization. This time we are working together to help rural communities transition to a richer future with new tools of creativity and innovation in order to create a "Museum Without Walls". A "Museum Without Walls" is not a new idea. 1000 years ago, an outdoor museum of the renaissance would be a "Museum Without Walls". In many ways, digital libraries are "Museums Without Walls". The next frontier is to create a Museum without the boundaries of time or space, a "Museum Without Walls" of the future.

The total budget of \$95,000 includes a requested grant of \$75,000 from Sourcewell and \$20,000 from other members of the community.

1. \$12,500 for Planning, Distance learning and Community services
2. \$9,000 for Administration, Evaluation and Research
3. \$15,500 for Cooperative purchasing
4. \$25,000 for Publication and dissemination of materials
5. \$16,165 for Telecommunications, Media, Technology planning
6. \$5,000 for Secondary, Postsecondary, Community and Adult and Vocational education

From 10 decades of healthcare to decades of a rural renaissance as we transition to a richer future through the tools of creativity and innovation for the whole community. For the people of this area, the Wesley Building could go from providing 100 years as the center of health care to another 100 years of being the center of a rural renaissance which will revitalize the broader neighborhood and the region served by Sourcewell. This project will attract focus on Region 5 This could be an example of a portal of transition to a richer future through the tools of creativity and innovation for rural communities.

Reach Every Librarian. When NLLN has learning opportunities for librarians in the region, we share our opportunities with all of the Multicounty, Multitype (MCMT) librarians. Often, the MCMTs will share our opportunities with their members. As a result, we have the ability to reach nearly every librarian in the State of Minnesota. The learning opportunities presented in this report were shared with other MCMT systems and some of the librarians in those systems attended the sessions.

“Better Together”. “Better Together” brings together colleagues who share interests in creating environments where people celebrate literature. We are here to support one another. All librarians, library para-specialists, and educators were welcome. "Better Together" was held June 13, from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) in Fergus Falls and via Zoom, 6 CEUs, no charge to attend. There were free library aids, literary characters, and books available to everyone attending, thanks to the generosity of Adell Bridgeford.

Better Together Schedule:

8:30 Coffee, Tea, and Warm Cinnamon Caramel Rolls

9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. We're Better Together Conversation

A conversation about reading, literature, and library topics that interest and concern us, led by Lynette Schwagerl and Glenn Heinecke, carried throughout the day.

10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Guest Speaker: Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR)

Dan Gunderson has been a correspondent for Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) for nearly four decades, telling the stories of people and places across Western and Northern Minnesota. From Morris to Warroad, he explores a wide range of topics, led by curiosity and a desire to share what he learns from the interesting people he meets along the way. He will share some of his more interesting stories with us.

10:45 a.m. Continued Conversation

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Grant Resources for Libraries

Kirsten Gulbro, Access Philanthropy

Miranda Lape, Lake Region Arts Council (LRAC)

Gail Nordstrom, Viking Library System (VLS), Legacy Funding and School and Public Library Partnerships

11:45 a.m. – 12:55 p.m. Boxed Lunches and Continued Conversation

1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. MDE K-12 English Language Arts Academic Standard

Leigh Nida, Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Academic Standards Team and (interim) English Language (ELA) Specialist

Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment Division

1:45 p.m. Continued Conversation

2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Native American Literature

Dr. Caitlin Johnson, Citizen of Turtle Mountain and Assistant Professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM)

2:45 p.m. Continued Conversation

3 p.m. Book Repair Techniques. Lucy Anderson and Lisa Mattocks, Thorson Memorial Library, Elbow Lake

Karen Breach, Wheaton School, CoverOne

Jill Kandel Presentation. Jill Kandel will present her work on Monday, September 25th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. for a presentation by author Jill Kandel, as she discusses her work, *So Many Africas: Six Years in a Zambian Village* and *The Clean Daughter*.

Author Jill's books take us into intellectual depths, spanning a geographic range from South Central Africa to the Netherlands. Her work examines the complications of euthanasia in Northern Europe to the experience of living off the land in Africa. Her perspective reveals the soul of a woman willing to stretch her heart to include ideas and emotions unfamiliar to herself and her experience. Jill Kandel's work brings to us into an enlightened, bold mind that very generously leads us in.

Allysa Holland Presentation. May 31 at 4 p.m., Alyssa Holland shared her experience encouraging students to read in her 7th grade English class. Alyssa's presentation was based on her graduate thesis, *An Analysis of How Daily Reflection Journals about Reading Impact Students' Motivation to Read*. After an extensive literature review, her research includes tips on bringing students into a reading culture. Alyssa is an English teacher with Morris Public Schools and is completing her Master's at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM). There will be two CEUs to attend. (Alyssa highly recommends a book her students are currently excited to read: *How I Became a Ghost* by Tim Tingle.

See: <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/17901341>).

Dr. Denise Lajimodiere Presentation. Dr. Denise Lajimodiere, North Dakota's Poet Laureate and Citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians presented her work on May 5th from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Via Zoom Link 2 CEUs to attend, no charge
<https://www.deniselajimodiere.com/>

Dr. Lajimodiere's books include: *Josie Dances*, *Stringing Rosaries*, *His Feathers Were Chains*, *Dragonfly Dance*, *Thunderbird Poems*, *Bitter Tears*

First and foremost, Denise is a poet. Her poems are beautifully written with compassion, insight, and a sorrow. Through her work, we come to understand the joy of loving relationships and the deep anguish experienced by beloved family members and friends growing up as Native Americans. Denise sensitively characterizes stories of the Anishinaabe people she loves. Her poetry opens one's heart to the timeless voices of art.

Denise Lajimodiere is a true artist. Exquisitely museum quality, Denise's birch bark biting art is practiced by few in North America. She reintroduced jingle dancing to Turtle Mountain and has won numerous prizes over her fifty-five years of Pow Wow dancing. The beadwork on her many jingle dresses is her own.

While poetry and art are critically represented in Denise Lajimodiere's work, she is a scholar and academic. Denise holds a doctorate from the University of North Dakota and taught graduate courses in Educational Leadership at North Dakota State University for many years. She was a principal and educator. Most recently, Dr. Lajimodiere has been interviewed by over 100 news organizations worldwide for her acclaimed title, *Stringing Roseries* (2019), which brings to light the atrocities experienced by a generation of Native American children attending boarding schools across the United States. *Stringing Roseries* displays the first map of boarding schools as of 2019.

NLLN Chair, Glenn Heinecke, continues to provide onsite assistance for libraries.