

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)
Kathy B. Enger, Executive Director
December 10, 2022
10 a.m.
Zoom

A warm welcome to Paula DeMars from Northwest Technical College representing academic libraries as an Alternate and to Bethany Hait from Thief River Falls Library as the Public Library Representative.

The overage charged NLLN for CatExpress usage at Northwest Regional Library (NWRL) was refunded for \$17,630.45.

ARPA funds have been approved from the Minnesota Department of Education and NLLN will receive an additional \$10,715 this fiscal year to support eBooks in Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL), Northwest Regional Library (NWRL), and Kitchigami Regional Library. ARPA funds will be used to support interlibrary loan for Viking Library System (VLS).

CoverOne is working very well at Wheaton School. Karen Breach from Wheaton School Library says, "I repaired spines in 27 books in 2 hours over \$200 of books can now go back on the shelves without rubber bands! Some of these books were in such bad shape they had been pulled from circulation and stuck in my Book Hospital for years! I have so many more books waiting for me to give them this 'spine treatment'! Thank you so very much for thinking of me and my little school libraries with this gift. I am definitely willing to bring it to a *Better Together* workshop or conference or Book Repair session and share with other librarians how easy and effective this machine is."

Media Landscapes: 23 Things Online Media Literacy Training is ongoing:

<https://levelupmn.org/23things/>

This module-based training sponsored by the multicounty, multitype library systems covers the following areas: Getting started; Digital Literacy 101; Propaganda: Creating Response; Attention Economy: Information is not Scarce, Attention is; Synthetic Media; Detecting Deepfakes; Disinformation, Misinformation, Malinformation; Critical Thinking; Logical Fallacies; News Literacy: Evaluating Sources; Digital Citizenship; Fake News; Today's Media Landscape; Is Media Literacy the Answer?

Adell Bridgeford donated a van full of storybook characters and a wide assortment of reading materials for the Pelican Public Library in Pelican Rapids. In addition, Adell donated her mother's crochet thread that was sent to the Pine River Public Library and to the Concordia Moorhead Library. Items from Adell Bridgeford were also donated to the multicounty, multitype (MCMT) table for the Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference. Donated books from New Rivers Press were also distributed at the conference table.

Dr. Jill Frederick (MSUM Emerita) gifted a collection of her books to Morris High School, which was delivered through NLLN's **Research Exchange**. The books were brought to the MSUM Library Interlibrary Loan Department and were sent via Minitex courier to the University of Minnesota Morris Interlibrary Loan Department, where the books were picked up.

Dr. Thom Tamaro (MSUM Emeritus) gifted his collection of American literature and poetry to Northland School in Remer. Kathy will drive those titles north.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing generosity and thoughtfulness.

The Wadena County Historical Society Annual Meeting took place on October 11th. Director, Lina Belar, invited Kathy to represent Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) at the meeting. Discussions are underway to renovate the former Wesley Hospital in Wadena for the headquarters of the Wadena County Historical Society. With many donated collections coming their way, this building is becoming a necessity. There may be room in the new building to house and display regional books of poetry, which are often lost as time goes on. Poetry represents history in our region. Kathy read the poems of three regional poets: Lina Belar, Ken Bennett, and Kevin Zepper. Zepper's poem, *Moonman*, depicts a young child walking bundled up through the snow after watching the first landing on the moon, imagining himself on the moon as he walks; only, the child's footprints fade into the blowing wind.

All of the NLLN Scholarships (15) were given to member librarians to attend the Minnesota Library Association conference this year. Funds for scholarships are now expended for this fiscal year. \$4,200 was budgeted and \$5,443.24 expended. One scholarship recipient had this to say about attending the MLA conference: "The recurring message I appreciated hearing [at the MLA conference] is that growth is often uncomfortable. This was a great reminder that I cannot become set in my ways, or assume that there is only one way to tackle an issue. Whether we are talking about societal, cultural, or procedural issues, we need to engage our customers and frontline staff, and talk with community experts in order to make informed and effective decisions that best meet the needs of those we serve."

Destiny Training took place on October 29 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in Room 203 of Comstock Memorial Union at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM). The training was free and included three CEUs. Glenn Heinecke conducted the training and while it was a small group, the size allowed for open conversation. Thank you so much to Glenn Heinecke for sharing his expertise and for his continuous generosity toward librarians in the region. Ongoing training assists us in keeping up with changes in the library environment by using practical adult learning instruction that is self-directed, fulfills an immediate need, and is highly participatory.

The MLA Legislative Committee is now comprised of representatives from key library players in the state, including the multicounty, multitype (MCMT) library systems. This year and next, NLLN executive director, Kathy Enger, and Metronet director, Ann Walker Smalley, will represent the MCMT systems on the committee.

The NLLN Legislative Directory will be updated when offices are appointed in the new legislative session.

Two ELM trainings took place via Zoom for librarians in the region, sponsored by Minitex and delivered by Beth Staats of Minitex. The training focusing on resources for elementary students took place on November 3 at 4 p.m.; the other for secondary students took place on November 10 at 4 p.m. Attendees received two CEUs for attending.

David Krutchfield and his colleague, Whitney Lee, architect professors at North Dakota State University (NDSU), are available for architectural consultation at library in the NLLN region. There is no charge for this service.

NLLN volunteers knocked on doors in North Moorhead, soliciting support for the new Moorhead Public Library and Community Center. The ½ cent tax initiative passed at the ballot the beginning of November.

White Earth Early Childhood Center participated in a Health Fair in October. NLLN supplied them with numerous research articles they could distribute on why reading is healthy. The literature was a huge success.

Funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Minnesota Department of Education, Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN) is one of seven Minnesota multicounty, multitype library cooperative systems. NLLN is comprised of two hundred eighty academic, public, school, and special libraries in twenty-three counties in North-Central, Northwest, and West-Central Minnesota. NLLN works 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.

Northern Lights Library Network covers a geographic region of 26,950 square miles (Minnesota is comprised of 86,939 square miles), including the following twenty-three counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Mahnomon, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin.

The Northern Lights Library Network system consists of four regional public library systems; academic libraries on two campuses of the University of Minnesota at Crookston and Morris; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System institutions including Minnesota State University Moorhead, Bemidji State University, Northland Community College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College on four campuses (Moorhead, Thief River Falls, Wadena, and Fergus Falls); three tribal colleges, including Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth; Maamigin Achigaazo Community Library at White Earth numerous private colleges; one hundred eighty five school libraries (including public and charter schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, and private schools) in seventy-nine school districts; and a rich variety of special libraries in museums, county law libraries, hospitals, churches, and early childhood programs.

Northern Lights Library Network reduces duplication of services by enhancing coordination among libraries. As resources are shared among libraries, services are expanded, and efficiency

is improved. As a result, libraries can offer services or programs they may not otherwise be able to afford.

All of the work performed by Northern Lights Library Network affects the direct service of its members, and has an exponential effect on its client base. Northern Lights Library Network exists to recognize the kinds of library services people need at the local level and to determine what supporting structures are required for local library systems to function successfully, taking into account the unique needs of people at the local level and the different types of libraries served.

A primary goal of Northern Lights Library Network is to bring resources from the state and national level to the local level. Another goal is to discover resources within the region and share them universally.

Northern Lights Library Network is one of seven multi-county, multi-type library systems in Minnesota mandated by Minnesota Statute 134.351 to develop and maintain services including, but not limited to, “referral of users, intra-system reciprocal borrowing, cooperative collection development, cooperative reference services, staff development, research and development, cooperative storage facilities, and publicity and community relations.”

The five goals outlined in Minnesota Statute 134.351 for multi-county, multi-type systems include:

- Sharing Resources Among all Participating Libraries*
- Providing Long-range Planning for Cooperative Programs*
- Developing a Delivery System for Services and Programs*
- Developing a Bibliographic Database*
- Maintaining a Communications System Among all Cooperating Libraries*

The seven multi-county, multi-type systems perform the following functions: Develop library staffs professionally; improve local library collections; sponsor and support funding for libraries; champion libraries; create, develop, and maintain library programs that enrich the lives of Minnesotans; move the discipline of Library and Information Science forward; and lead and administer their own nonprofit agencies. The seven systems are governed by regional boards.

There are twelve regional public library systems in Minnesota that serve public libraries, while the seven multi-type systems serve all types of libraries.