

Consultant for Transitions and Special Projects

Report to the NLLN Governing Board

Oct 15, 2011

During this two month period I have worked with transitions taking place in the NLLN Office and with the special projects outlined in my work agreement with NLLN.

Transitions:

This has primarily focused on upgrading the operating system on the office computers to Windows 7, working with Kathy in using *Dreamweaver* software for webpage editing and maintenance, updating billing and notification information for online subscriptions (e.g., Listbox, iPower), attending the multitype directors meeting with Kathy, and creating the NLLN FY2011 Report of Results of Accomplishments submitted to State Library Services. I will continue to be available on a regular basis to advise and work with Kathy on the programs and services of NLLN. I believe the transition process is going well and nearly all the items have been addressed.

Special Projects:

- Spotlight on Books: Joan Larson and I have been following up on tasks outlined in the June Planning Committee meeting and reporting on this progress to the Committee. We are on schedule for securing authors, workshop presenters, and publicity. It is going to be a terrific conference – March 30-31, 2012.
- Lake Region Writers Network: NLLN will distribute free copies of the recently published *Lake Region Review* to the public libraries and high school libraries of the 9 county Lake Region Arts Council region. This involves 52 libraries, including all the public libraries in the Viking Library System and 5 libraries in the LARL region. We will also distribute the *Review* to academic and special libraries in this region if the LWRN Board asks us to do this.
- NLLN reproduced handouts for breakout sessions at the recent Lake Region Writers Conference in Fergus Falls, on Oct 1. I also helped with set up, registration, and clean up. It was a very successful Conference.
- The Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF) is planning to do a series of Friends workshops in the Spring of 2012 and have asked for partnerships with multitype and regional public library systems. I am involved with the planning committee for MALF and am pleased that Kathy has committed NLLN to help make these workshops happen; Viking Library System has also agreed to partner with MALF to support these workshops in our region.
- The Cradle Board book created in partnership with the National Indian Child Care Association and Star Bright publisher, Deborah Shine, is done and will soon be available. A launch for this publication is tentatively planned for November in the Twin Cities. We hope that it will be possible to also have a book launch in the White Earth/Detroit Lakes area as well. NLLN will purchase and distribute a limited number of copies of this book for our region, and will also promote it to libraries, early childhood programs, schools, and book stores.
- Minnesota Book Award program: NLLN has encouraged authors in our area to submit eligible books for the 2012 Minnesota Book Awards; encouraged librarians in our area to consider being an MBA judge for selecting finalists or winners; I picked up a small collection of books in St Paul from previous MBA program years for give away.
- NLLN sponsored a traveling display at the Minnesota Library Association fall conference related to children of incarcerated parents. It is called "All Alone in the World" and was created by the

Mennonites. Gretchen Wronka of Hennepin County Library has coordinated the delivery and set up of the display at the Conference; Kathy and I will be available throughout the Conference to “man” the display. NLLN underwrote the cost of the loan and shipping at \$50.

- White Earth Readmobile: nothing has happened with this project since August. Though it has been on the back burner, it is not forgotten.

Other projects:

- Lina Belar and I have discussed the possibility of using LibraryThing as a means of cataloging and providing online bibliographic access to the print holdings of the ITOW Museum. We'll explore this in November. I think it will be an opportunity to see if LibraryThing might be a way for special libraries, particularly museum and church libraries, to provide some means of bibliographic control using a “cloud” application.
- I would like to investigate the possibility of a cooperative digitization project involving the Detroit Lakes Library Club, the Detroit Lakes Public Library, the Becker County Historical Society and the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL). This is in the proposal stage, but if it is successful, there may be other projects in the region that could build on this experience. The MDL is currently working with a number of our members but I am not aware of different types of libraries being involved in a cooperative digitization project in our area.

On a personal note:

- the Minnesota (ave)Reads - the Little Free Library - was featured in the Star Tribune (Minneapolis) recently, on WDAY- TV (Fargo), and in the Detroit Lakes Tribune newspaper. It continues to grow and does a pretty brisk business in my neighborhood.
- I continue to work with the Becker County Early Childhood Initiative.
- and to supply children’s books to the Detroit Lakes crisis shelter for women and children (Mary’s Place).

Although these are personal projects, they are closely linked to literacy initiatives supported by NLLN and are both personally and professionally rewarding.

In the coming weeks, I will be attending the Minnesota Library Association Conference, the American Association of School Libraries Conference, Minnesota Association of Library Friends Board meetings, Lake Regions Writers Network Board meetings, and MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meetings.

I am engaging in a 6-week online public library advocacy program being offered by the Public Library Association called *Turning the Page 2.0*. Brenda Hough and Stephanie Gerding are the trainers for the program and it is available to anyone, free, who would like to participate. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/education/turningthepage/index.cfm> for more information.

Ruth Solie
October 15, 2011