

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report February 17, 2007

Meetings/Activities

December

- 12/16 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes
- 12/19 Meeting in DL with Marian Rengel, Mn Digital Library Coalition, and with Gay Galles, Moorhead, and Lina Belar, Perham
- 12/20 Conference call with MLA/MEMO lobbyist, Elaine Keefe, and Gretchen Wronka regarding "Get Mn Ready for K!"
- 12-25-1/6 Out of the office for Christmas, New Year's and travel

January

- 1/9 MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meeting, St Cloud
- 1/9-10 Multitype Library Directors meeting, St Cloud
- 1/10 Meeting with Mert Thompson, faculty, SCSU regarding media specialist licensure programs
- 1/16 Meeting with Heidi Hoks regarding Spotlight on Books Conference
- 1/17 Presentation at NWSC Media Center/Public Library Workshop, Thief River Falls
- 1/18 *Library 2.0 Tools for Your Library* workshop, Barrett
- 1/23 White Earth Early Childhood Initiative meeting, White Earth
- 1/24 Conference call with MLA/MEMO lobbyist, Elaine Keefe, and other multitype directors regarding legislation for multitypes
- 1/25 White Earth training day for Readmobile staff
- 1/26 Meeting with Lina Belar and Cyndi Anderson regarding possible IMLS grant
- 1/28-29 MEMO Midwinter Conference workshop, Alexandria

February

- 2/1 MnLINK Gateway Operations Committee meeting, online conferencing software
- 2/5 Climax School and Fisher School start-up training on **Destiny**, Climax
- 2/6 Meeting with Lina Belar and Cyndi Anderson regarding possible IMLS grant, DL
- 2/9 Soaring to Excellence Teleconference, online webcast/MSU-M site
- 2/13 Fergus Falls Big Read Celebration, Fergus Falls
- 2/17 NLLN Governing Board meeting, Detroit Lakes

North Star Library Consortium

- Presented a “Best Practices Using **Destiny**” workshop at the MEMO Midwinter Conference, Alexandria.
- Partnered with MINITEX, NW Service Coop, Viking Library System, and West Central Area Schools to present 2, day-long, workshops that incorporated **Destiny** best practices.
- Spent one day training on **Destiny** for White Earth Readmobile staff. More training will be required before unit is ready to use **Destiny** as an integrated library system.
- Visited Climax to do follow-up training on **Destiny** with staff at Climax and Fisher schools. Their data was not yet converted at the time of the December basic training.
- We are adding an additional 5 libraries to CatExpress subscription which allows for importing high quality MARC records to the shared catalog.
- Updated information on the North Star Library Consortium webpage, including project update and additional resources.
- Helping libraries to add a customized ELM portal template to their website if they would like one.
- Chris McArthur has monitored the catalog, resolved cataloging and procedural questions, and done training at local sites just coming up on the catalog.

Early Childhood Education and Libraries

- The “**Get Minnesota Ready for K!**” bills have been submitted in the legislature with quite a lot of fanfare. The Family, Friend and Neighbor bill, which includes funding for libraries to work with family, friend and neighbor caregivers and children to enhance literacy skills and prepare kids for kindergarten, will be considered by the Health and Human Services Committee. SF0686/HF0796.
- NLLN received a \$5,000 anonymous donation from the Boston (MA) Foundation to be used for the White Earth Readmobile. In discussing this welcome news with the White Earth Readmobile sponsors, we decided to use this for a much-needed laptop computer, tote bags for providers, tote bins for staff, and possibly some shelving. To date, none of it has been spent but has been put into a dedicated NLLN account category.
- I spent 1 ½ days at White Earth doing book inventory, setting up the barcode scanner, and providing some refresher training on the use of Destiny. Considerable more work needs to be done, but a shortage of staff in White Earth has made progress difficult. More staff is needed and there is an immediate need for space/shelving for the Readmobile collection. It is currently in boxes and on the unit; it is largely inaccessible.
- Talking points for the MLA/MEMO legislative platform plank related to Ready for K! are still being compiled.
- Voices of Children campaign will be at the state capitol on March 29 – the day following the Library Legislative day. We will incorporate some of the Voices for Children messages into our Library Legislative day visits.

Continuing Education

- We continue to receive Continuing Education Scholarship applications for a variety of events including MEMO Midwinter, Spotlight on Books, and individual pursuits in the higher education world. To date we have received 25 scholarship applications this year.
- Reports submitted by scholarship recipients are now on the NLLN webpage where they can be viewed.
- Work on the Spotlight on Books Conference proceeds. Arrowhead Library System was unable to produce the Conference brochure this year so I took on the task. We have distributed 1200 brochures by mail and delivery.

- The Spotlight on Books Conference is largely done by volunteers with NLLN as the fiscal agent. Joan Larson and I are co-chairs of the overall conference. We have a wonderful event scheduled for this year and will feature some outstanding local programs as well as 3 spectacular featured authors: Steven Kellogg, Derek Anderston, and Marsha Qualey.
- The MEMO Midwinter Conference was held in Alexandria at the end of January. NLLN presented a 'Best Practices using *Destiny*' workshop at the Conference.
- I have worked with Alice Hoftstad of the Northwest Service Coop; Carla Pfahl of MINITEX; and Nancy Alsop from Viking Library System to present mid-January workshops on the use of ELM, WebJunction, the Minnesota Digital Library, and MINITEX services. These were held in Thief River Falls and in Barrett (West Central Area High School). Attendance was good in both locations (total of about 50 participants) and the presentations were well received. We appreciated the work done by Carla in preparing for these 2 workshops.
- A Soaring to Excellence teleconference was available via satellite downlink at MSUM and via desktop video streaming on Feb 9. We had participants at MSU-M and via webcast.
- The Minnesota Book Awards committee announced the 2007 MBA nominations. I am attempting to secure a set of nominated books to use as a traveling exhibit in northern Minnesota. We will also have it at the Spotlight on Books Conference. The Award ceremony will be May 5 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in St Paul. Tickets are \$40.

Communication

- I continue to add, edit, delete, move, ponder items on the NLLN webpage. It feels like it is fairly coherent, but requires fairly constant monitoring and adjusting. Deb is not yet ready to maintain the calendar or Newsletter sections, but I hope to complete that process in the coming weeks.
- The blog and flickr accounts are both quite active – if you haven't seen the flickr site, give it a look. (linked from the nlln.org page or go directly to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nlln>)
- The Calendar of Events is still up in the air. Some alternatives are still under consideration, but we're using a list at the moment and will re-consider how we use an online calendar.
- Creating the Spotlight brochure was an adventure – but it got done, printed, and distributed. Doing that brochure delayed the Feb NLLN Newsletter but it should be out very soon.
- Deb is doing some of the monitoring of listservs which helps. Such a lot of spam comes to these lists that is "held" for human eyes to look at. Most of it is indeed spam, but there are occasional messages that got held in error. We monitor 4 lists.
- We are promoting the 4 Rural Sustainability Workshops to be held in the NLLN region and are supporting participation in Library Legislative Day.

Ruth Solie
Feb 17, 2007