

## Northern Lights Library Network

### Director's Report April 16, 2011

#### Meetings/Events

##### March 2011

Feb 28-Mar 1 Library Legislative Day at the Capitol, St Paul  
Mar 9-12 Follett Users Conference, Chicago  
Mar 17 Meeting with Terri Darco, White Earth Readmobile Project  
Mar 17 Meeting with Sara Green, (Sugar Lake Lodge) re: Spotlight planning  
Mar 23 Streamed key note speeches from Computers in Library Conference  
Mar 24 "Creating Advocacy for Your Library" webinar – School Library Jnl/Follett  
Mar 25 Multitype Directors Meeting, St Cloud  
Mar 29 Work with Terri Darco – White Earth Readmobile  
Mar 30 Tested Skype with author Mary Casanova for Spotlight on Books

##### APRIL

Apr 6 MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meeting, online  
Apr 7-9 23<sup>rd</sup> SPOTLIGHT ON BOOKS CONFERENCE – Sugar Lake Lodge  
Apr 10-16 National Library Week  
Apr 12 White Earth Readmobile inventory, White Earth  
Apr 12 Week of the Young Child Celebration Reading Corner, Mahnomen  
Apr 13 NLLN Search Committee meeting, Moorhead  
Apr 14 Meeting with Barb Fabre and Terri Darco re: Readmobile  
Apr 15 Return books purchased for Spotlight on Books  
Apr 16 NLLN Governing Board meeting

#### North Star Library Consortium:

- One new school district has joined the Consortium – from the SMILE region.
- Planning on training for new staff for the White Earth Readmobile
- Planning "Back to School" workshop
- Attended the Destiny Users Conference in Chicago. It was the first-ever users conference and was quite useful.

#### White Earth Early Childhood Initiative/White Earth Child Care and Early Education:

- Provided a "library reading corner" for the Week of the Young Child event in Mahnomen – very successful event with over 300 hundred participants!
- Working directly with Terri Darco, new staff for the Readmobile, to get books inventoried, purchase/process books, make Readmobile productive.
- Continue to seek out ways in which NLLN can nurture literacy and library services for young children on the White Earth Reservation.

### **Continuing Education/Professional Development**

- Spotlight on Books: The Power of Books took place April 7-9 and was a huge success (and a lot of fun – as well as a lot of work). We had 91 registrations – about normal – and all came. Our authors and workshop presenter were terrific; our Thursday evening “pre-conference” experiment went well and may be repeated in future years. Overall it went well and we have a good planning committee to take it forward for next year – the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlight Conference.
- Scholarship applications have been steady this spring and we have had approved 36 applicants so far this year from all types of libraries. It has met a critical need.

### **Legislative Forum/Library Future Initiative**

- Library Legislative Day went well. I joined the LARL group for part of the day to meet with legislators, and met on my own with others; also attended several hearings. Libraries are popular and much-loved – we’ll wait and see if they are also funded.
- Legacy funding for regional public library systems is being requested – and contested.
- Loss of library maintenance of effort is an on-going possibility
- Higher ed libraries are seeing some major cuts; Minitex funding is uncertain; ELM funding faces state and federal threats; state library services, along with all state agencies, are facing potential deep cuts and state shutdown in July seems very likely at this point.
- I continue to participate in the MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee meetings. An MLA legislative email list has been re-created and is open to subscription to anyone. Get the latest news from the MLA/MEMO lobbyist directly from the list.

### **Special Projects/Professional Engagement Funds**

- We have one new professional engagement fund recipient – Dianne Schmidt of MSUM to present at the MnPALS Users Group Workday.
- We have no new Special Cooperation Projects to add at this time.

### **Director’s Search/Phased Retirement**

- The advertisement for the position was distributed widely on a national level
- We received 12 applications from MN and elsewhere; the review process has begun.
- I would like to retire as of June 30, 2011, and move into the phased retirement option on a half-time basis until Dec 31, 2011. My time will be devoted to wrapping up special projects and assisting the new Director with transition.

**Ruth Solie  
April 16, 2011**