

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Pat Kvale
MEMO Fall Conference
October 4-6, 2007**

This was my first MEMO conference and it certainly will not be my last. I had a wonderful, productive and memorable time. Networking with my fellow library media specialists was an added bonus. I am the only LMS in our district and being able to ask questions and to share ideas with my counterparts was invaluable. The conference was well organized and the only trouble I had was deciding which session to attend!

All the sessions I attended were not disappointing in any way. The session descriptions that were provided I found accurate and not misleading. If I had to select a favorite it would be the Forest Lake Area Schools K-6 Media Curriculum. These talented LMS from Forest Lake presented practical and easy to follow instructions in helping to develop or improve your media lesson curriculum. For instance, the NWEA test is huge in our district and they recommended teaching to the MAP test skills. Our active involvement in raising test scores in reading will help insure the future of our media instruction classes. The CD they provided is full of lesson ideas and their complete K-6 media/literacy curriculum. It will be an immense help to me in the redesign of my K-6 curriculum.

My immediate need is to understand and integrate technology into my classroom and assisting teachers in doing the same. I would have loved to listen to Mary Casanova, instead I attended the Creating a Media Literacy Curriculum. It was these choices that made it hard for me as a librarian to select sessions. The reading vs. technology created a constant tug of war during the entire weekend.

The keynote speakers; Jamie McKenzie, Peggy Sharp and Bill Durbin were well worth whatever fees they charged. Jamie McKenzie's ideas and viewpoints on a *New Literacy Landscape* were very thought provoking. Peggy Sharp's enthusiasm coupled with new book previews is just what the doctor ordered! Bill Durbin's scholarly, caring approach to historical fiction writing has prompted me to try very hard to get him to our school for a visit.

I would like to thank the entire MEMO board and conference committee for having this event in Brainerd. It was so well organized and being a first- timer attending the conference I felt welcomed at every turn.

I appreciate and thank Ruth Solie and Northern Lights Network for providing this scholarship. The MEMO conference has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge, to gain much needed confidence and to network with librarians from all over the state.

Submitted sincerely by,
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