

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

**Erin Smith
MLA 2007 Annual Conference
October 24-26, 2007**

Attending the annual Minnesota Library Association Conference in Mankato, Minnesota, October 24-26, was a wonderful experience. During the conference, I met many new colleagues and also ran into a few old friends. I also attended a variety of informative and entertaining program sessions and keynotes and took part in the Betsy-Tacy tour, which was simply grand.

One of my goals in attending this conference was to become more involved in MLA and, specifically, to become more involved in the Children and Young People Section. To accomplish this goal, I attended the CYPS business meeting and, while there, was voted on to the section's Advisory Board.

One of the stand-out sessions I attended at the conference was Kelly Wussow and Joanna Redman's presentation, "Baby Storytime: An Opportunity for Early Literacy for our Youngest Customers". We have recently begun offering a Toddler Storytime (ages 18-24 months) at the Fergus Falls Public Library and I took away some great ideas from Wussow and Redman's session on how to improve this newest addition to our storytime roster. Each of the other sessions I attended during the conference was also valuable.

Thank you so much to the Northern Lights Library Network's Governing Board for providing the funding for my conference attendance!

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