

## Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

### Director's Report April 22, 2006

#### Meetings/Activities

##### February

- 2/20-21 MINITEX Reference position interview committee, U of M, Minneapolis
- 2/22 Every Child Ready to Read@ your MN Library training, Detroit Lakes

##### March

- 3/1 Conference Call with Follett managers regarding Destiny and Consortia
- 3/3 MINITEX Advisory Council, U of M, Minneapolis
- 3/10 Teleconference: Library Challenges, web cast
- 3/13 MINITEX Standards Committee, U of M, Minneapolis (weather cancellation)
- 3/14 Ready4K Board of Directors, St Paul
- 3/15 Destiny training, Moorhead
- 3/16 Destiny training, Moorhead
- 3/21 Minnesota Book Award judging process, telephone conference
- 3/22 MN Assoc. Library Friends Workshop, Willmar
- 3/29 Every Child Ready to Read@ your MN Library Advisory Committee, meeting with Lori Thompson, evaluator, NLLN Office
- 3/30 Spotlight on Books Conference setup
- 3/31 Spotlight on Books Conference, Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge

##### April

- 4/1 Spotlight on Books Conference, Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
- 4/5 Every Child Ready to Read@ your MN Library Advisory Committee, telephone conference from NLLN Office
- 4/6 White Earth Readmobile Book Selection trip, Hennepin County Library, Plymouth
- 4/11 Ready4K Board meeting (by conference call from Montana)
- 4/10-14 Vacation time in Montana to celebrate my dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- 4/18 Telephone/ISP service meeting with ACS representative
- 4/19 White Earth Readmobile Committee meeting, NLLN Office
- 4/21 Destiny Advance Training workshop, Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes
- 4/22 NLLN Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes

## North Star Library Consortium

- Additional schools are still signing up to join the Consortium.
- Approximately 15 licenses remain. These will be used to pick up remaining schools and to add special libraries.
- Training sessions were held in March for 2 groups
- Advanced *Destiny* training was held in April with 20 attendees
- Hope to be able to offer another advanced training session in June that will include information about use of lexile levels
- Summer training for most recent members, clean up work, and special projects need to be reviewed and a Library Leader contracted to complete this work.

## Early Childhood Education and Libraries

- The Every Child Ready to Read @ your MN Library workshops for public library staff were held in the NWRL, LARL, and VLS regions in late February and in KLS in April.
- I continue to work with the Advisory Committee for this LSTA grant project sponsored by the MN Library Association Children and Young People's section. Evaluation of the pilot projects, in addition to the 14 state-wide training workshops, will provide us with good information about changes that support young children's school readiness that are occurring in public libraries.
- The Advisory Committee for the LSTA grant has been in contact with Ready4K and created a new logo "Ready4K/at your Minnesota Library" which will be used as this project moves into a new stage.
- Consideration is being given to the possibility of applying for a MN Early Learning Fund (MELF) grant which have just been announced. They have a May 1 deadline for a letter of intent.
- Kim Lage (WE Early Child Care) and I visited Hennepin Co Library in Plymouth to do book selection, learn about programming, readmobile logistics, etc. Jean Strauchon and Gretchen Wronka were very helpful and a strong partnership has developed.
- White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile received a \$5,000 donation from the Minneapolis Foundation. NLLN will act as the fiscal agent for this grant and it will be used to purchase books.
- White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile project also received \$5,000 from the MN Dept of Human Services for books and materials for the readmobile. NLLN will also act as fiscal agent for this grant, It is to be completed by June 30, 2006.
- White Earth Early Child Care received a \$5,000 from the MN Dept of Human Services grant for the repair, maintenance, and re-painting of the Readmobile. WEECC will administer this grant directly.
- The White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile committee has been planning the programs and activities related to the WE Early Childhood Readmobile, readying the mobile unit for service, selecting books, developing policies, and doing program development that integrates new services with existing services.
- Leech Lake Indian Early Child Care is interested in the concept of an early childhood readmobile for their area. We will be investigating the opportunities to use our experience on White Earth as a model for Leech Lake.
- The Ready4K Board of Directors is planning a 2-day visit to the White Earth reservation in August to explore and understand the programs, services, challenges, and opportunities on the northern Indian reservations relative to early childhood care and education. NLLN along with Brent Gish, Barb Fabre, and Mary Leff are working

to coordinate this visit with the Brain Development Conference taking place at the same time. This visit will also include representatives from the Red Lake Reservation programs and the Leech Lake Reservation programs. I think it is important that libraries be part of these conversations.

- The Ready4K Board is working closely with all the allied partners to promote early childhood care and education legislation. So far in the session, there have been some successes and some setbacks, but the outcome won't be known until the session is over. The legislative agenda for the 2007 session is being carefully developed and promoted in many different ways. The public policy issues surrounding early childhood have received increased attention, particularly during an election year.
- The Minnesota Early Learning Fund, a public-private fund in support of early childhood, has announced the first round of grant funds will be available. This is an exciting opportunity for libraries to propose and promote programs targeted at improved services for young children, parents, and caregivers.

### **Continuing Education**

- Provided access to the College of DuPage teleconferences as a satellite downlink at MSU-M in partnership with the Tri-College Libraries, and as a webcast directly to the desktop. The NLLN office also makes these available in a VHS format for later use in staff development or individual viewing.
- We have had more Destiny 2-day training programs for the new members of the North Star Library Consortium in March.
- We had a day of advanced training in April for all Destiny users.
- The North Star Users Group will meet as part of the Advanced Destiny training day activities.
- The Spotlight on Books Conference was a great success. We had a full house (102 registrations) for our Friday afternoon workshop with Stephen Krashen, a delightful set of mini-workshops on Friday evening, and a full day on Saturday with featured authors Lise Lunge-Larsen, Jerry Morris, and David LaRochelle. Local authors, book sales, good food, and lots of networking made for a very successful conference.
- We have received 39 applications for NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships so far this fiscal year. We will not spend the entire \$10,000 that was allocated for scholarships, but we will see considerably more expenditures than last year. It is a growing program that has been very successful.

### **Communication**

- Electronic communication continues to be the predominant, and most effective, means of communicating with the far-flung members of the NLLN region. Email, 2 listservs, a blog and updated web page are the primary means of communication.
- Telephone and in-person visits are the other main communication venues.
- The NLLN webpage has a revised and updated events calendar.
- A number of key resources have been added to the North Star Library Consortium webpage.

- The new guidelines and application form for CE Scholarships appear on the webpage.
- Online Registration is available for teleconferences and other events sponsored by NLLN.
- Registrations are available on the webpage and are increasingly being used.
- I am working on a major PR piece for NLLN and anticipate it will be in the form of an Annual Report notepad. It has been long in the making due to time constraints and staffing issues.
- We are looking at new phone and Internet Service Providers. The goal is to have more seamlessness in our communication channels and greater access.
- I have been using Gotomypc as an experiment. This software allows me to access my office computer from remote sites. To date, it has been very useful and worth the monthly expense. I will continue to use it as a trial for several months.
- We purchased a new laptop computer that is very mobile and powerful. It includes a DVD burner which will allow us to create or capture video.

Ruth Solie  
April 22, 2006