

## Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

### Director's Report August 19, 2006

#### Meetings/Activities

- June 22 Ready4K Legislative Policy Meeting, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis  
June 23 Spotlighton Books Planning Meeting, Alexandria  
June 26 Meeting with Patty Nunn regarding NLLN Newsletter  
June 28 Win-E-Mac School visit for Destiny conversion, Erskine
- July 6 Visit to Veteran's Museum, "In Their Own Words", Perham  
July 11 Ready4K Board Meeting, St Paul  
MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum, St Paul
- July 11/12 Mutitype Library Systems Directors' meeting, St Paul  
July 12 Meeting with Ann Treacy regarding Webpage redesign, St Paul  
July 13 Meeting with Kit Hadley, Minneapolis Public Library/Readmobile  
July 17 Meeting with Patty Nunn regarding NLLN Newsletter  
July 20 Visit to Mahnomen, Nay-Tah-Waush Community Charter School,  
and Leech Lake Early Childhood Center regarding NSLC,  
Readmobile, and NLLN membership
- July 21 Meeting with Gay Galles regarding emerging technologies  
July 24 Mn Council of Nonprofits Leadership Conference, Humphrey Institute,  
Minneapolis
- July 28-Aug 3 Trip to Montana for care of parents
- Aug 5 Stocking White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile for Brain  
Dev Conference
- Aug 7/8 Ready4K Board retreat and listening circles, Mahnomen, White Earth  
and Naytahwaush
- Aug 9/10 White Earth Brain Development Conference, Mahnomen  
Aug 15 Spotlight on Books Planning Meeting, Detroit Lakes  
Aug 17 Presentation on libraries/early childhood literacy for VISTA volunteers,  
St Paul
- Aug 19 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes

## North Star Library Consortium

- We have added several schools and special libraries to the Consortium over the summer. They include Win-E-Mac school, Blackduck school, White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile, and the Nay-Tah-Waush Community Charter School.
- Version 6.5 of the **Destiny** software was installed and is running without incident.
- Chris McArthur has been homebound this summer due to a broken leg but has provided a great deal of service to the North Star Consortium in terms of cleaning up the catalog, exploring the upgrade, answering questions for members, creating a homepage for the White Earth Readmobile, and entering materials into the catalog for non-automated libraries.
- Waubun-Ogema School district has contributed space for processing the materials for the Readmobile and has contributed staff time for processing. We are particularly appreciative of this cooperation and contribution.
- **Destiny** training will be held in August for new sites.
- A “Back to School Special” **Destiny** workshop will be held in late August for all members of the Consortium.
- The North Star Catalog has 357,003 titles, 834,275 copies, and 36,269 patrons. The value of the collection is over \$15 million. Circulation within the 71 library sites, to date, has been 835,096.

## Early Childhood Education and Libraries

- Ready4K policy committee, with broad state-wide representation, met to draft the legislative policy proposals for the 2007 MN legislative session. This was a very big undertaking with many issues, points of view, and differing senses of urgency, but it was a productive and valuable process.
- The Ready4K Board has set the legislative agenda and it includes libraries as key partners in school readiness preparation.
- The Ready4K Board spent 2 days in the NLLN region exploring the needs, accomplishments, and goals for school readiness on the Indian reservations. Libraries were seen as one of the areas that need strengthening, however, the Readmobile and the library in the Naytahwaush Charter School were a big hit.
- The White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile was prepared for service and has had wonderful graphics applied (the “shrink wrapping”) that depict the children and families of the White Earth Reservation.
- Books for the Readmobile have been ordered and are being processed at the Ogema Elementary school before being put into use on the Readmobile. An “opening day” collection was designed with help from Jean Strauchon of the Hennepin Co Library.
- Chris McArthur set up the catalog for the Readmobile and has entered the more than 800 books that have been ordered to date. She also created the **Destiny** home page for their site and has included numerous resources related to early childhood literacy and development.
- Readmobile staff will receive training on the use of **Destiny** in late August.
- Waubun-Ogema School District has offered the Readmobile the use of their Ogema Elementary Media Center for the initial processing of materials. They have also offered the assistance of their paraprofessional staff for processing materials. This is a wonderful contribution.
- The Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Minnesota Library (LSTA grant) project completed the initial phase of the grant and is now compiling the evaluation results and preparing for followup activities in the coming year. The first of several “final” reports has

been submitted. Lori Thompson, Detroit Lakes, was the evaluator for the project and has produced some valuable data regarding libraries and school readiness/early literacy.

- The next stage of this work will take place under the “Ready4K at your Minnesota Library” logo. See the Mn Library Association webpage for resources and details.
- Sue Treacy and Jean Strauchon of the Hennepin Co Library Readmobile staff presented a detailed session at the Mahnommen Brain Development Conference on early literacy. This well-received session linked child care providers and early educators with the skills of early literacy that need support and provided important information about the role of libraries in supporting caregivers and parents. The White Earth Readmobile was present at the Conference and generated a lot of interest!

## Continuing Education

- The NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship guidelines/application have been updated for the coming year and are available on the NLLN website.
- In FY 06 we funded 40 scholarships for a wide variety of events; nearly \$10,000 were awarded in scholarships.
- Each recipient has submitted a brief report about the continuing education event they attended. We have compiled these in a notebook and are working on getting them posted on the website for anyone who would like to know more about the various continuing education events that people attended.
- We have begun to receive applications for events this year and expect to have another successful year.
- We have scheduled the 7 teleconferences available from the College of DuPage. These are presented as a downlink site at MSU-M in cooperation with the tri-college libraries as well as via web-streaming, and VHS tapes.
- We have scheduled a 2-day **Destiny** training for new members of the North Star Library Consortium.
- We have a “Back to School Special” training workshop scheduled in August for members of the North Star Library Consortium. This will address the new software upgrade, advanced **Destiny** topics, and an opportunity to share best practices.
- We are encouraging participation in the MEMO and MLA Fall Conferences, as well as the ND Library Association Conference which is being held in Fargo.
- Additional staff development and continuing education events are in the planning stages.
- We are looking forward to promoting use of the online courses available through WebJunction. Minnesota has recently become a “partner community” which will allow us to have access to many useful resources including TechSoup, Rural Library Sustainability Project, and the many online resources.

## Communication

- Patty Nunn has agreed to work as an independent consultant on NLLN communication issues. She will begin with the production of the NLLN Newsletter for distribution as a print document and for posting on the website. This is a 6 month exploratory contract that will include the Newsletter, webpage, calendar updates, listservs, and other communication venues.
- The Calendar of Events on the NLLN website has been updated regularly.
- NLLN Scholarship guidelines/application have been updated on the website.
- I have been in negotiation with Ann Treacy of Treacy Information Services to redesign the NLLN webpage and to create an updateable calendar for easy maintenance. I would like to recommend we contract with her for these webdesign services.
- The listservs have been quiet over the summer months but we are beginning to see more activity as we get closer to the end of the summer

- A new library directory for the state of Minnesota has been established on the Mn Dept of Education website. We are updating the information for libraries in the NLLN region and have put a link to this site on the NLLN webpage.
- New telephone and Internet service has provided us with some cost savings.
- ELM resources on the NLLN webpage have been updated with the change of IP address.

OTHER:

We have added another new member to NLLN. Our newest member is the Naytahwaush Community Charter School in the community of Naytahwaush. The school is currently a K-7 school, in its second year of existence, and has approximately 80 students. Co-located in the same building will be a White Earth tribal Head Start Center for 3- and 4-year olds. The Library collection in the charter school is primarily the collection that was in place when the Mahnomen School District had an elementary school in Naytahwaush. [White Earth Child Care with the White Earth Early Childhood Readmobile became NLLN members in June.]

Ruth Solie  
August 19, 2006