

Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

December 2003



**Northern
Lights
Library
Network**

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With Best Wishes
for the Holidays
and the
Coming New Year
from the Governing Board
and Staff of the
Northern Lights Library Network

Linda Unruh, President *Mertin Melby, Vice-President*
Norman Ellingson, Secretary *Mike Odland, Treasurer*
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Erika Rux *Barbara Jauquet-Kalinowski* *Brook Berg*

Ruth Solie, Director
Debra Keena, Administrative Assistant
Josh Stompro, NCAP System Coordinator





NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships

Would \$300 help you to explore new interests related to your career? Allow you to gain skills you haven't had a chance to acquire elsewhere? To attend a conference that you would not otherwise be able to attend?

If so, the NLLN CE Scholarships are just for you. Staff in any NLLN member library are eligible to apply for these, and the funds may be used toward the cost of registration, travel, lodging, and the cost of a substitute if one is needed. The guidelines and application form are available on the NLLN website (nlln.org) and may be submitted at any time. A review committee will review them on an on-going basis and notify the applicant immediately about its decision.

Each recipient is asked to submit a written report about the continuing education opportunity they participated in. These reports are then shared with the NLLN members via the Newsletter, other publications, or the Annual Meeting.

Consider applying for a NLLN Scholarship if you would like to attend such things as Spotlight on Books, Branchout, Special conferences — whatever continuing education opportunity might help you in your library work.

Any staff member is eligible to receive one scholarship in the course of the NLLN Fiscal Year (July-June) and you can always contact the NLLN Office if there are any questions (nloffice@nlln.org/ 800-450-1032).



Soaring to Excellence 2004

Toolkits for Advancing Your Career

Soaring to Excellence celebrates 10 years with a new series of teleconferences packed with practical information.

Friday, November 14, 2003 **A Basic Toolkit: Good Manager and Good Employee Skills**

Debra Wilcox Johnson, Johnson & Johnson Consulting-Wisconsin

The first teleconference of the 10th season covered the basic skills every library worker needs to know: how to be a good employee, how to be a good manager, communicating, problem-solving, customer service, and conducting effective meetings.

Friday January 23, 2004 **A Technology Toolkit: Survival Skills for Everyone**

Donna Fryer, GLOBAL Information Research & Retrieval—North Carolina

Technology skills are the focus of the second teleconference, with an emphasis on computer and Internet basics. Topics include online information retrieval, communicating electronically, and software programs you should know.

Friday, March 26, 2004 **Professional Toolkit: Skills for Advancement**

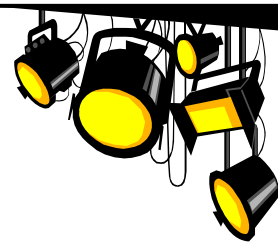
Linda Slusar, College of DuPage

The third teleconference addresses skills required for professional advancement for library staff. Topics include mentoring, creating professional portfolios, career ladders, professional organizations and meetings, and information about the American Library Association's current initiatives concerning library support staff.

Northern Lights Library Network offers two locations to participate in these teleconferences on the day they are presented: Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and University of Minnesota, Morris. These are free and open to all, but registration is required. Please find the online registration form at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>. They are broadcast from 11am –1pm.

A video is available for each session immediately after the broadcast and may be borrowed from the NLLN Office for viewing individually or sharing with your staff at a time convenient to you. We often have a waiting list, but we'll get the video out to you as soon as possible, if you would like to place a request. We will also consider scheduling dates in the Spring to present these teleconferences again and allow discussion and exchange from a broader group. Additional teleconferences may be found on the NLLN webpage under Continuing Education Opportunities. (<http://nlln.org>).

Spotlight on Spotlight



The 16th Annual Spotlight on Books Conference, a conference for adults focused on youth literature, will be held April 16-17, 2004, and will feature authors **Kate DiCamillo**, **Linda Glaser**, and **Rick Chrustowski**. A Friday afternoon workshop led by **Dr Scott McConnell**, University of Minnesota Center for Early Education and Development, will focus on young children and the development of early skills necessary for school readiness.

The Conference will be held at the delightful **Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge** outside of Grand Rapids, MN. This relaxing and affordable new location for the Conference will be a wonderful setting for meeting authors, interacting with presenters, and networking with colleagues.

Watch the NLLN website for information as it becomes available. Registration information will be posted on the website in January and Conference brochures will be mailed to all past attendees. If you would like to be added to the Spotlight on Books mailing list, please send mailing info to Deb Keena, Administrative Assistant, at dkeena@nlln.org.

The Spotlight on Books Conference is entirely organized by the volunteer efforts of Minnesota librarians, educators, and institutions. If you would like to be involved, give the Northern Lights Office a call or e-mail (800-450-1032/rsolie@nlln.org). Watch for program schedules and registrations to arrive in the mail (and on the web page) after the first of the year.

Briefly noted . . .



✧ From **MINITEX regarding Gale databases in ELM**: This is notification that we are

changing the password for the Gale (InfoTrac) databases in ELM, **effective January 1, 2004**. It has come to our attention that many media centers and libraries are posting the password to the Gale databases on the web. This is not permitted. Posting the password allows anybody in the world who visits your web site to get into the Gale databases. Vendors cannot allow this.

The current password is: 123gotgg

The new password will be: **elm4you** (all lower case) **DO NOT POST THIS ON YOUR WEB SITE**

Please update handouts, bookmarks, etc., and notify your students, teachers, staff and other interested parties in this change.

- ✧ Is the information in the **online library directory** correct for your library or media center? Please check at <http://www.mnlibs.org>. A corrections/update link is available on the left-hand side of the page. Remember to identify Northern Lights Library Network as your multitype system.
- ✧ Does the **No Child Left Behind** act leave you confused? You aren't the only one! The federal Department of Education has a nice guide for parents that summarizes the main provisions of the law, answers common questions, and provides information additional resources. This is in a PDF format and can be browsed online or printed. There are additional resources available at the same site for teachers, administrators, and other interested parties. <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>
- ✧ The **North Star Project**, which will provide a centrally located integrated library system for school and special libraries in the NLLN region, is continuing to develop. During the month of January, the Follett company will do a series of virtual demos of the *Destiny* system software that has been selected for this project. Watch the email announcements for time and date. You will need a phone line and Internet access for these demos, but you won't have to drive any place! They will be real-time, interactive demonstrations of the full software, including the administrators pages, cataloging, circulation, and users profiles. This will be an opportunity to get a sense of what the North Star Project is all about and whether or not you would be interested in participation.
- ✧ Check in with the **Northern Lights Library Network webpage** (<http://nlln.org>) for online teleconference registrations, "Spotlight on Books" information, Scholarship applications, maps, library blogs, membership lists and services. Let us know of corrections, additions, and changes needed. This is a work in progress and your comments and suggestions are welcome!



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CALENDAR



December 2003

- 6 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes 10am –12 noon
- 11 School Media Center Training Assessment Project –Advisory Committee, 9:30-3, St Cloud
- 12 MINITEX Advisory Council Meeting, Andersen Library, Minneapolis
- 16-17 Council of Cooperating Libraries, St Cloud
- 25-26 Christmas/Boxing Day — NLLN Office Closed

January 2004

- 1 New Year's Day — NLLN Office closed
- 6 School/Library Technology Plans—ITV session with Mary Mehsikomer, NW-LINKS
- 7-8 Council of Cooperating Libraries meeting, St Cloud
- 9-14 ALA Midwinter Conference, San Diego, CA <http://ala.org>
- 17 Minnesota Book Award Selectors meeting, St Paul
- 23 Teleconference: Soaring to Excellence: [A Technology Toolkit: Survival Skills for Everyone](#)
<http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>
- TBA Virtual Demo of *Destiny* software for the North Star Project

Spotlight on Books April 16-17, 2004, at Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

** For a list of live and archived Webinars from MINITEX, go to: **
<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/>