

Northern Lights Library Network
Governing Board Meeting
March 15, 2025
Zoom Conference Call

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Charlie Lindberg, Northwest Regional Library Representative (NWRL)
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Chizuko Shastri, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Ruth Holmgren, Viking Library System Representative (VLS)
- Deb Keena, Office Manager, NLLN
- Kevin Baggett, Treasurer, NLLN; Academic Library Representative
- Bethany Hait, NLLN Public Library Representative
- Nanette Albright, Viking Library System Representative (VLS)
- Lina Belar, Special Library Representative
- Aleta Sanford, Minute-taker, NLLN

1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:03 A.M.
2. Oath of Office. A warm welcome to new Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) Representative, Chizuko Shastri, and reappointment of Kitchigami Regional Library (KRLS) Representative, Lynn Eaton.
 - a. Chizuko read the oath of office.
3. Approve Agenda and Minutes. Vote.
 - a. Kathy adds an agenda item to New Business: A Resolution in Support of Minitex Library Services.
 - b. Motion to approve:
 - i. Ruth, Linda MCU
4. Review Financial Reports, Reserves.
 - a. The financials look fantastic; NLLN has a surplus. However, in the December meeting the Board voted to approve investing \$70,000 in a five-year government bond.
 - b. Given changing circumstances and potential need for liquidity, Kathy asks the board to rescind that decision and invest the money in CD or money market.
 - c. Motion to rescind the December 14, 2024, decision to invest in a five-year government bond and put the money in CDs instead:
 - i. Ruth, Linda MCU
5. Nominating committee for new officers.
 - a. Three board members are approaching the end of their three two-year terms permitted in the bylaws: Kevin Baggett (Academic Library Representative),

Glenn Heinecke (School Library Representative), and Linda Holecek (LARL Representative).

- b. Bethany volunteered to participate in the nominating committee with Kathy.
- c. The June meeting will conduct business and then elect new officers.
- 6. Workers' Compensation policy renewed.
 - a. The policy has been renewed. Deb Keena did a great job getting everything submitted.
- 7. FY2024 audit complete.
 - a. The FY2024 audit and Form 990 are finished. Deb worked overtime and got them completed.
- 8. Old Business.
 - a. Factor-of-4.
 - i. This is the organization that manages NLLN's email and website. NLLN experienced an attack on election day and the email service went down. Factor-of-4 worked to restore service. NLLN is grateful for this wonderful service.
 - b. Memberships.
 - i. NLLN is grateful for the ongoing collaboration with MLA and other organizations.
 - c. Chairing MCMT director group.
 - i. Kathy is chairing this group, which meets every other month in odd-numbered months. The next meeting is next Friday, March 21, 2025.
 - d. Strategic plan. Send responses.
 - i. Please remember to send those to Kathy for use in developing the survey for NLLN's members.
 - ii. Your response provides important data to analyze needs, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats during the strategic planning process.
 - iii. Responses are confidential. When you send your response, please also send the completed IRB form.
 - e. Membership list updated.
 - i. The version on the website has been updated with the latest information on NLLN's member libraries and their contact information.
 - f. "Better Together" workshop.
 - i. Approximately 21 people are currently registered for the workshop in June.
 - ii. Mike Wohnoutka and David LaRochelle will present. Additionally, there will be another presentation about A.I. and information literacy, which is an important topic to discuss.
 - g. *College & Research Libraries.*

- i. Kathy continues to review articles.
- h. Presentation at MCN Finance and Sustainability Conference.
 - i. Kathy presented on the strategic planning process she is leading NLLN through and how NLLN's budget is integrated with the strategic goals. Approximately 50 people attended her presentation at the conference.
- i. Advancing Library Excellence Workshop.
 - i. NLLN sponsored this workshop put on by Concordia, MSUM, and NDSU.
 - ii. As a result of NLLN's sponsorship, all members were invited to attend. Several did and had great feedback.
 - iii. Kathy presented on NLLN in one of the breakout sessions.
- j. Scholarships.
 - i. NLLN continues to provide scholarships for professional development.
 - ii. During the current fiscal year, NLLN has provided 15 scholarships. Deb reports that there are 4-5 more applications pending.
 - iii. \$500 are available for conference attendance or other professional development opportunities. \$1,000 scholarships may be awarded for out of the ordinary or exceptional opportunities.
- k. Hoopla for Browns Valley & Wheaton Public Libraries.
 - i. NLLN continues to support Hoopla for these two libraries.
 - ii. The Board discussed the high price of Hoopla and inability to negotiate price as such small individual entities. As a result, many of the Board members' libraries have implemented daily limits or lowered the number of titles patrons can access per month.
 - iii. Kathy will bring up these difficulties in the MCMT meeting on Friday, March 21, and discuss if the MCMT systems could join forces to negotiate with Hoopla or potentially Minitex could negotiate with Hoopla for the State of Minnesota. Minitex will be present at the meeting, as well.
- l. School Library Census.
 - i. The census data is now available. It was presented to a Senate committee on February 2, 2025. It will be presented again in June.
 - ii. State Library Services has received funding for a school librarian on their staff, who will provide oversight for funding allocated to school libraries.
 - iii. Please distribute this data in your libraries. It has a lot of good information and we need to keep the conversation going.
- m. Newspaper article about Osakis School.
 - i. This is an article about how Osakis Public School used the recent funding from the Legislature meant to build library resources and staffing. It discusses the positive impact of investing in school libraries.
- n. MLA Legislative Day at the State Capitol February 20.

- i. Kathy attended and had a booth at this event on February 20, 2025. Over 100 librarians were there to speak with their legislators.
- 9. New Business.
 - a. NLLN bylaw update. Vote.
 - i. Motion to approve updates:
 - 1. Ruth, Linda MCU
 - b. 2025 White Earth Early Childhood Communities Collaborative Brain Conference. August 13 & 14, 2025.
 - i. This conference occurs every year. NLLN donates a handmade quilt for the silent auction and this year has provided frames for the conference's posters from the last 20 years, which will be displayed at the conference and then hung in the library.
 - c. MCMT collective professional development.
 - i. All seven MCMTs provided information on their professional development support and activities in 2024. The data shows how vital a service these organizations provide to librarians throughout the state.
 - ii. MCMTs serve 1,700 libraries throughout Minnesota. In 2024, 4,350 people attended a professional development workshop; 130 workshops were supported or organized by MCMTs; and 146 scholarships were provided for MCMT members to attend professional development.
 - iii. Charlie requests that the data on the MCMTs professional development support for librarians in Minnesota should be sent to the lobbyist to show the positive impact of MCMTs.
 - d. Friends of the Moorhead Public Library Giving Hearts Day.
 - i. NLLN donated \$1,000, which was matched.
 - ii. This effort raised \$29,853, but additional funding is still needed to complete the new Moorhead Public Library.
 - e. eBooks and eAudio book support for NWRL & KRLS.
 - i. Funds were disbursed in February.
 - f. Bookmobile service to Campbell School from Viking Library System.
 - i. NLLN provides funds to support this collaboration, as well.
 - g. Nominating committee for new officers.
 - i. Bethany and Kathy will form the committee to nominate new officers at the June meeting.
 - h. A Resolution in Support of Minitex Library Services.
 - i. All the MCMTs boards are looking at this resolution, which will be sent to state legislators to support Minitex's request for increased funding. Minitex is also lobbying to introduce legislation to add funding for journals in libraries and Electronic Library of Minnesota funding.

- ii. Minitex provides amazing resources, including eBooks Minnesota. To raise awareness of this resource, Kathy will publish another press release.
- iii. Motion to support the resolution:
 - 1. Nanette, Ruth MCU
- i. News from the region.
 - i. Nanette recommended Teen Lit Con. This is an event that Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, and VLS have written a legacy grant for so they can attend annually. The teenagers who attend always enjoy it. They have famous authors, book signings, crafts, games, graphic novel workshops, etc.
 - ii. Ruth reported that the Pelican Rapids Public Library children's area is a big hit. They have had money provided to add things like benches and a play area. They love the rugs provided by NLLN. They are trying to get a craft day going, holding it once a month. Other community involvement includes a Books and Brunch group, which gathers to discuss the books they're currently reading. The local Friends of the Library is very helpful in scheduling these events.
 - iii. Charlie reported that the library in Hallock has two community members who teach chess at the library. Charlie also reported that NWRL is finally going to complete their 2023 audit with a disclaimer, as some of the information is lost. The system is feeling pretty good about the future, after a difficult time recently.
 - iv. Chizuko asked if the NLLN website will be updating links that are non-functioning and information that is out of date. Kathy stated she will go through and check everything to make updates.

10. Adjourn.

- a. Motion to adjourn:
 - i. Ruth, Nanette MCU
- b. 11:21 A.M.