

Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board

Director's Report Feb 16, 2008

Meetings/Activities

December

Dec 19 OPAL Planning meeting for 23 Things on a Stick, multitype directors.
Dec 24-26 NLLN Office closed for Holiday

January 2008

Jan 1 NLLN Office closed for New Year's Holiday
Jan 8 MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee Meeting, ITV, Pelican Rapids
Jan 14 Minnesota Book Award Program planning meeting, St Paul
Jan 16 Follett's "What's New in Destiny ver 8.0", webinar
Jan 17 Meeting with Erika Rux and Gay Galles for 23 Things on A Stick planning,
Concordia College, Moorhead
Jan 20 Launch of 23 Things on a Stick: Library Learning 2.0 Program!
Jan 21 NLLN Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr, Holiday
Jan 27-28 MEMO Midwinter Conference, Alexandria. 2 session presentations.
Jan 31 OPAL meeting with Kansas State Library and North East Kansas Library
System people regarding replication of a statewide 23 Things project

February

on-going Monitoring 90+ NLLN blogs/participants of the 23 Things on a Stick program;
answering emails, commenting and tracking progress, creating electronic
updates via Constant Contact
Feb 6-7 Destiny training for 5 sites, Moorhead
Feb 8 Soaring to Excellence Teleconference, MSU-M site and webstreaming
Feb 8 Meeting to plan for Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) Grant
application, NLLN Office, Detroit Lakes
Feb 11-12 Multitype Directors' Meeting, St Cloud
Feb 13 23 Things on a Stick reminder notices and update sent out electronically
Feb 15 Meeting with Patricia Post, Central Minnesota Library Exchange, regarding
E2T2 grant proposal.
Feb 16 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes

Continuing Education

Soaring to Excellence: "People Watching with a Purpose: Meeting needs before They Need It", teleconference. Again we partnered with MSU-M and the tri-college libraries to host a downlink site at MSU-M Livingston Lord Library and provided registration/streaming information for those wishing to view the teleconference via webstreaming. It was, as always, a worthwhile update on an important topic. We had 7 participants at MSU-M but our registration mechanism was not working so we do not know how many may have attended via the web. This will be available online in an archived version.

Destiny training: We did a 2-day training session at Region 1 for our 3 newest North Star Library Consortium members (Leech Lake Tribal College; Leech Lake Early Childhood Programs; Brandon Schools) and for several sites that had new staff. The newest version of Destiny (8.0) has some significant administrative changes so Deb Wright, the Follett Destiny trainer, worked with Chris McArthur and me to review new functionality. Some changes are wonderful; some are not so great.

NLLN Scholarship program: We have granted 37 Scholarships this year and have had a recent influx of requests. Spotlight on Books and the Public Library Association National Conference which will be held in Minneapolis, March, 2008, are currently the most popular requests. Scholarship reports for FY 2008 are being posted on the NLLN webpage.

Spotlight on Books 2008: The Spotlight brochure was created jointly between the NLLN office and the Arrowhead Library System office but was physically produced in our office this year. The brochure has gone out, the webpage has been thoroughly updated, arrangements are being made with Sugar Lake Lodge, and we eagerly await the mail each morning for registrations! More publicity and more planning are in the works. It will be great! Featured on Friday afternoon will be Jim Trealease of "Read Aloud" fame; Saturday will feature DJ McHale, Mary Casanova, and Debra Frasier, as well as displays, "showcases", and authors from past years' conferences.

23 Things on a Stick: Be careful what you wish for! This project has had spectacularly success so far. Well over 600 people have registered their blogs to date, and we anticipate that several hundred more will come in during the final days before the deadline (2/15). In the NLLN region we have over 90 blogs registered and people are interacting with each other as they work their way through the 23 Things. This self-paced program of discovery will allow library staff from all types of libraries (as well as trustees, Friends, and anyone with an interest) to learn more about such Web 2.0 tools as blogs, wikis, flickr, RSS, social networking, and much more. Planning has been very time and labor intensive but it is an exciting project with plenty of more work to do. I recently met with representatives from the Kansas State Library who are interested in using our program for a model in their state.

2008 Annual Meeting: Preliminary planning is underway for the annual meeting which will be held April 26, 2008. We will be celebrating those who have completed the "23Things on a Stick" program and plan on a program focused on "personal learning environments" to encourage everyone to be lifelong learners – and to learn more about the tools and strategies to do this easily and efficiently. The Board will be asked for additional input on the Annual meeting program.

Advocacy

MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform: The platform is completed and the talking points are being crafted. I will distribute those as they become available. Additional issues concerning ELM access is being addressed by MLA and the legislative committee.

Ready4K: The Ready4K Board is developing its legislative policy for the upcoming session but will also be gearing up for the 2009 legislative budget session. The plan is to continue building on the successful work done during the 2007 session. R4K has been

doing strategic planning the past few months with particular attention to more effectively reaching Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers. Libraries are seen as a key community agency for access to a wide variety of resources. There has been discussion about initiating a statewide program for FFN providers involving libraries as community resource centers.

Mn Book Award Program 2008: I continue to work with the MBA program and to seek ways to tie it into the libraries and population of the NLLN region. We will help plan for a Book Art Award display in the region and hope to have a traveling display of finalists books for the region. The Book Award Celebration will be April 12, 2008, in St Paul. This is the same day as the Spotlight on Books Conference.

Communication

Webpage enhancements: our website has recently been moved by our hosting institution to a new platform. Although most of the transition was without trouble, we did lose our interactive registration form. It will take a little more learning and searching to figure out how to implement on-line registration functions again. Overall, the new platform works well, and has not had any visual effect on our webpage. A cluster map continues to reflect where in the world people are that access our page; a site meter shows that there is considerable traffic on the webpage. Our own statistics are more in-depth and shows increased use. The biggest challenge is keeping it updated.

Blog: The NLLN blog, *Northern Lights Insights*, is the primary mechanism for disseminating information to the region. New posts are published frequently on a wide range of topics of interest to the NLLN region. The number of other sites linking to the blog continues to grow (it is on the Mn WebJunction blogroll and is incorporated into the "23 Things" project). Readers may go directly to the blog, link from the NLLN website, subscribe by email to receive new posts, or use an RSS feed. I have also created a new NLLN blog for the 23 Things on a Stick project and have been posting about the Things as we progress through them. I anticipate that the 23 Things project will be one way of increasing awareness of all blogs and perhaps stimulate greater interaction/comments from readers.

Listservs: The NLLN listserv has 135 subscribers; it is a low volume list that is used primarily to share time-sensitive information to the NLLN membership via email. The North Star Library Consortium electronic mailing list has 102 subscribers. This is a more active email discussion and is open only to staff in the North Star Library Consortium and to Follett sales, training, and tech staff. Members use it to ask questions, share tips, and support one another in the use of Destiny and in media center management.

Photogallery: The NLLN photogallery on the NLLN webpage (a Flickr account) has new pictures posted all the time. People seem to enjoy that and look at them. More publicity could be given to these photos. We have found that tagging the photos, in addition to categories, has made it possible for our pictures to turn up in a general Flickr search on libraries, 23 things, MEMO, etc.

Photocopier: Our new photocopier made it possible for us to produce the Spotlight brochure in living color at a reasonable expense. We were able to produce the entire 8 page booklet on 1 sheet of 11x17 paper, meaning we had low copy costs even though it was entirely in color. Thanks to Arrowhead Library System for help with that.

Resource Sharing

North Star Library Consortium (NSLC): We added several new members and trained the staff in those sites (see above). The Consortium currently has over one million copy records, 46,000 patrons, and has had 2.5 million circulation transactions in the past 2

years. It feels like it is quite stable and is ready to consider moving to a new level of participation.

Follett discussions: We have had more productive conversations with Follett about the cost of moving the NSLC to a "Follett Consortium" model for administration. This would create better local management options for school districts with multiple sites, but would still look and feel the same for most users. Moving to this model would also allow us add more members to the Consortium without creating any problems. With the new availability of E2T2 funds, we are working with the Central Minnesota Library Exchange and Region 1 to submit a grant for this conversion and expansion.

Chris McArthur's work: Chris has been doing a great deal of support work with all the members of the NSLC. I find that I am not able to answer the nitty gritty questions that arise every day and rely on Chris to keep members informed, trouble shoot for them, and provide a wide array of services/support. The Waubun School district has been most generous in providing occasional release time for Chris to assist the member libraries that need retrospective conversion or who do not have the services of a trained librarian at their site. We will need more time for Chris during the summer months, probably a similar arrangement to last year, in order to accomplish the new goals of the Consortium.

Destiny: We upgraded to version 8.0 in December over the winter break. Chris and I were able to review some of the new functionality available at the Destiny Administrator level with Deb Wright, Follett Destiny trainer. We see that there are some new challenges ahead for us with this version!

Other:

Computer issues: I continue to look into options for replacing the Office computers, and possibly the laptop as well. I am not ready to make a recommendation to the Board but would like to discuss this further.

**Ruth Solie
Feb 16, 2008**