Director’s Report

June 21, 2017

CMLE Board Meeting

This is a short report, as our last meeting was just last month. But even in that time we have done a lot of interesting things!

* The budget and state aid grant material approved at the May 17, 201 board meeting was sent to the State Library Services (housed in the Department of Education). As of the writing of this report, we do not know our final amount we will receive next year; but anticipate it being close to the amount received for the prior nine years.
* Our first Postcard Party in the Park was held Thursday, May 18, and was a success! We had two events, to accommodate people’s schedules. One was over the lunch hour, and one was after most people’s work hours. We had people attending each session and filling out postcards; and we sent a few postcards home with people to fill out at their leisure. We also added an item to the top of our website “Did You Receive A Postcard?” so anyone checking out our website (on every postcard) would have a quick resources for library advocacy material! We plan to repeat this event in different locations across CMLE, so it will be convenient for people from all over the place to attend and advocate!
* We published five more podcasts, concluding our Season One. It ran for 15 episodes, and we are pleased with our results!
  + Copyright
  + Stress in Libraries
  + Local History
  + Special Libraries (with Guest Hosts Jessie Storlien, Stearns History Center; and Susan Schlepers, St. Cloud Hospital Library)
  + Information Literacy
* We will record and post a bonus episode on June 29 with our Season One LOL Podcast Awards! (“Linking Our Libraries” – a surprise it turned out to be a cute acronym, but a good one!)
* We have scheduled Season Two of the podcast, putting dates to our next fifteen topics. The first episode will drop Thursday, August 10 (Community Engagement) and it will continue each Thursday through November 16 (Library Impact/ROI). Our bonus episode for that season will drop December 7 (just before finals week at the local schools!) and will be on Stress in the Workplace.
* I visited four CMLE locations, and posted the blog articles complete with photos and gushing over the great things they are doing!! This has been such a positive program we are running: the members like it when we visit their libraries, we like seeing all the things they are doing across the system, and our blog/newsletter subscribers like it and read these more than any other article. This is definitely a program we will be devoting more time to in FY18; the rewards for everyone are just great!
* I gave a presentation at the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium at the University of Duluth on June 9. This was a report on the preliminary results of the statewide research project we are running, looking at the successes and issues libraries of all types are having in serving their Emerging Bilingual community members.
  + From the survey: “Who are Emerging Bilingual community members? They may, or may not, already be using your library. They speak languages other than English as their first language, and are learning English or speaking it fluently as a second language (or third, or fourth!).”
  + I include definitions in all research to be clear about meanings. And in this case, EB is a more accurate term than English Language Learners (ELL). This is not to be “politically correct” (it’s much easier, and more precise, to say “polite” – and I hate that phrase and never use it), but to accurately reflect that the populations I mean here have a language and a culture already and are adding on another one by learning English. It frames library service differently in that these are people who come with knowledge and experience in some or all of the things we are already doing in libraries; and are learning a new skill on top of that.
* The week of June 12, we worked on a preliminary marketing plan for CMLE. We wanted to be sure we were capturing ideas for the upcoming year; and to have some time set aside to think about some strategies for getting our CMLE name out there more prominently in Minnesota and in the library world. (We have a very basic draft to share at this meeting; but it is clearly a work in progress, and it is definitely open to amendment as the Board committees make plans for the upcoming year.)
* I will be attending the American Library Association (ALA) Annual conference. This year it meets in Chicago. I have several meetings scheduled already, and am looking forward to grabbing some freebies to bring back for our members! We will be blogging about the conference, and also about the hashtag everyone can follow online: #ALALeftBehind. ALA started this a few years ago, to help connect the interesting ideas and programs happening with people who are not able to attend this conference. More than 25,000 library people from across the profession attend this conference every year – and it’s a fantastic way to connect with people, talk with vendors, and see all kinds of new projects and ideas from across the profession!
* July 18 -19 I will be in Moorhead, MN at the quarterly multitype director’s meeting. I am the secretary of this organization; and next year will be the Chair. (That’s a little chilling for someone so new to this; but they have all been very supportive and helpful!)
* On a more social note: we attended the cmERDC potluck (Western themed attire was required; Mary was a Western librarian – it was not much of a stretch for a costume.) Angie ran the Grandma’s half marathon in Duluth; and it was wonderful! Mary bought a house. Things are good here at CMLE!