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a monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Educational Media Organization

Reflections of a Co-President: HELP By Gina Light

Sometimes it is time to swallow my pride and beg for assistance. I need help. I need MEMO members who are willing to volunteer even if it is only for a short time. Please, see I am begging; consider one of the following vacancies:

1. Awards Chairpersons (2)

Sally Mays and Becky Prigge did a lot of work on this committee and would be willing to answer questions.

A brief list of responsibilities: (please contact Sally or Becky or look online through www.memoweb.org for more information).

1. March – send out nomination forms through MEMOrandom and MEMOlist
2. April – report to board meeting
3. May – give the forms and recommendation letters to the rest of the committee which includes Barb Theirl, Gina Light, Gary Ganje, Laura Conzemius, and Mary Garlie
4. June – vote – each one sends votes to award chairs
5. July – recommend award recipients to the board of directors at the summer board meeting
6. August - Secure plaques for award winners and coordinate award ceremony with fall conference committee
7. October – present the winners at the fall conference

This committee is very valuable. Please consider it with a co-worker.

2. Region Chairs – we need volunteers who can at least have one regional meeting before school is out.

Responsibilities: (more information online through www.memoweb.org)

1. Plan regional meeting/program
2. Attend the summer leadership conference
3. Send information about happenings in your area to MEMOrandom



The following regions need chairs (or co-chairs)

Northeast

Includes Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, and Cook Counties

West Central

Includes Clay, Becker, Wilkins, Travers, Ottertail, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, and Pope Counties

Metro

Includes Anoka, Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties

If you just cannot see yourself as a chair of a committee, find a friend and team up. Please be involved if only to get one of the committees up and running. Thank you for your consideration.

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MidWinter Conference Highlights

The Holiday Inn in Alexandria was host to the MEMO Mid-winter 2007 conference on January 28-29. Sixty attendees had a full program to choose from – vendor time, 15 Best Practices breakout sessions, and entertainment by Minnesota author/musician Douglas Wood – while enjoying the more intimate setting of the small conference.

The fall 2007 conference committee met on Sunday morning and outlined plans for the upcoming conference, roughing out the schedule and setting the calendar for future committee meetings. That conference will be held at Cragun's Resort north of Brainerd on October 4-6th. Watch for details of this conference to come your way – it looks exciting!!! Following the conference committee meeting the MEMO board met for its annual winter session.

Early conference attendees had 6 breakout sessions to choose from on Sunday afternoon:

- Gay Galles took a look at Web 2.0 and the changing nature of the services we provide in our schools redefined by the web-based tools that are available for our use.
- Mert Thompson and Marie Kelsey led a discussion on concerns for new school library media specialists.
- A Demco representative came to show us how to repair books – something we need to do on an ongoing basis, but don't learn about in "library school".
- Ruth Solie facilitated a session on using Destiny to support students and staff curricular needs.
- Margaret Meyer demonstrated how she uses iMovie to prepare training and teaching videos to use with her staff and students.
- Kathy Johnson and Joan Larson paired up to talk about how to do author visits – find one, organize the schedule, etc.

Sunday evening Douglas Wood and a fellow musician provided an hour of musical entertainment much of it Doug's personal compositions. What a delight!!! He shared with us his new book releases and told of some upcoming projects. About a dozen vendors greeted attendees in the evening for the hors d'oeuvres reception and were available throughout the morning hours on Monday. Vendors and attendees seem to like the smaller conference venue for looking at new offerings and discussing the possibilities for their school library media programs.

Networking is key at this conference; it is an opportunity to reconnect with other library folks you see only at conferences and to make some new acquaintances as well. Lots of time for this at meals and between sessions!

Monday's breakout offerings included:

- Laurie Conzemius sharing some of her favorite units which blend books with technology & integrating information literacy skills
- Xtreme Reading was Charlie Lindberg's session – a way to appeal to upper elementary and middle level students by using the premise of Xtreme sports.
- How and when to instruct high school staff and students about plagiarism was the topic of Mary Garlie's session
- Gail Hartl modeled reading comprehension skills using a media book care/appreciation of books unit and short novels/picture books for elementary
- Challenging middle school students to read more in the Big Fish book challenge complete with competition and prizes was the topic for Cheryl Whitcomb's session
- Sue Meyer described and displayed examples of an amazing partnership with a high school art teacher that has enhanced the beauty of the Becker High School media center. She suggested many ways that partnerships like that could be used.
- Beatrix Potter (Gina Light) graced our conference with her presence to discuss with students her life and writings. An excellent model for bringing literature to life!
- Learning about the media center and its resources through a media center treasure hunt for middle school students was the topic of Dawn Nelson's presentation
- Linda Smith and Cindy DeRosier demonstrated another partnership between language arts and media production through the Ugly Books project – reviving the old books on high school media center shelves by creating new covers and getting them back into circulation!

Many thanks to the presenters for volunteering to share with attendees the best practices in their own school library media programs. All I can say is that if you were not in attendance, you missed out on some amazing presentations! Hats off to the conference committee for organizing another inspiring mid-winter gathering in Alexandria!

MEMO Calendar

Wednesday, March 28
Library Legislative Day, St. Paul

Saturday, April 14, 2007
MEMO Executive and Board Meeting
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
District Media Services, St. Cloud

Wednesday, April 17, 2007
SouthEast Region Meeting, Winona Senior High School,
5:30 p.m.

June 18-19, 2007
Children's Literature Conference, St. Cloud

Southeast Region Meeting – April 18, 2007



You are invited to the SE MEMO Region Meeting which will be held at Winona High School on April 18th beginning in the evening. Join us at 5:30 for snacks in the new Media Center's bistro area. The program will include a presentation by Mary Alice Anderson, lead

media specialist for Winona Area Public Schools on the weeding and collection development process used to vastly improve the old collection. Following her presentation, Winona High School Media Specialist, Terry Kroening will lead us on a tour of their beautiful new media center including time for questions and answers about the various aspects of designing and equipping new library media spaces, three labs and a multipurpose room.

Melanie Haugen

Media Specialist/Building Technology and Web Lead
Hastings High School 651-480-1824

MEMO Presidential Candidates Needed

The call for presidential candidates continues! If you know of a MEMO member who would make a good leader, please nominate him/her as a presidential candidate. MEMO presidents assist in guiding the direction of our organization and work with a talented board of members representing media specialists and technology staff from across the state. Holding the job of MEMO president is not only a huge honor, it is a great opportunity to support and lead others in the field of educational media and technology. Co-presidential candidates will also be considered.

Candidates may be nominated by any MEMO member or can be self-nominated, so if you feel that this is the job for you, please contact Laurie Conzemius or Mary Garlie for more information or to offer a nomination.

MINITEX Webinars

History Day Resources

History Day focuses on teaching students how to select a topic and conduct thorough research using primary and secondary sources to give well-rounded understanding and competency about that topic. In this webinar we will look at this year's theme and discuss ways to help students develop a topic, identify primary sources, and resources to use. We will also look at developing a project timeline using the Research Calculator.

R U Ready? Setting Up and Running an Instant Message Reference Service

Have you considered starting a Digital Reference service for your library but not sure where to begin? Instant Messaging is a great way to get introduced into the world of Digital Reference. You can even create individual IM accounts to stay in contact with staff. In this new webinar, developed by MINITEX staff, learn just how easy it is to set up an Instant Message reference service for your library. We will look at the different IM providers available, ways of delivering service, staffing, training, policies and more. Session length will be 60 minutes which includes time for discussion and questions. To register for these and other MINITEX webinars visit our site: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/>

College of DuPage Teleconference Library Challenges & Opportunities 2007 Library Transformation: Making it Happen?

Friday, March 23, 2007, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
S30B Wilson Library, West Bank Area, U. of Minn.

Description: A discussion on library transformation, not as an abstraction or buzz word, but as something real with hard, practical things necessary to make it happen, will be discussed. The presenters will spell out what needs to happen in facilities, budgets staffing management and leadership to make transformation a reality. Moderator Richard M. Dougherty, Dougherty and Associates
Speaker Leslie Burger, Director of the Princeton Public Library in Princeton, New Jersey. As President of ALA

- Other presenters TBA

Fee: No charge; registration is required.

To register to attend this teleconference at Wilson Library, go to <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/>

To register to stream to your desktop, go to <https://www.cod.edu/secure/software/register/teleconf.htm>. Residents of MN, ND, and SD will not be charged; please do not complete the billing information section of the web form. College of DuPage will forward links directly to registrants.

Other Regional Downlink Sites

NLLN and Fargo-Moorhead Tri-College Libraries
Moorhead, MN

To register, visit: <http://nlln.org/continuinged.html>
University of Minnesota-Duluth Library
contact: Sue Trettel, 218-726-8130, strettel@d.umn.edu

St. Cloud State University Library and CMLE
To register, contact: Jennifer Schwint,
jlschwint@stcloudstate.edu

SMILE Mankato, MN
To register, contact: smile@tds.lib.mn.us

Augustana College Library
Sioux Falls, SD
* All teleconferences except April 13.
To register, contact: Judith Howard, 605-274-4382,
jhoward@augie.edu

Sunshine Week 2007 Closed Doors; Open Democracies?

Monday, March 12, 2007, 12:00 PM- 1:30 PM (CST)
S30B Wilson Library, West Bank Area, University of
Minnesota

Topics include:

- The program will focus on access to government information, including the impact of government suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety - and accountability. The dialogue will start with a lively discussion of the issues and end with ideas for action.
- To learn more about the teleconference visit:
<http://openthegovernment.org/article/subarchive/94>

Panelists:

- TBA

Fee: No charge; registration is required.

To register to attend this teleconference at Wilson Library, go to <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/teleconference>

Also, other regional downlink sites are available. See below for more details.

Minnesota Coalition on Government Information
Hosted at Metropolitan State University Library
645 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN
To register, contact: Mary Treacy,
mtreacy@onvoy.com

Kristen Mastel, MINITEX Reference Librarian
Direct: 612-626-9843
WATS: 800-462-5348
Fax: 612-625-3569
meye0539@umn.edu
<http://www.minitex.umn.edu>
<http://blogs.minitex.umn.edu/reference/>

Remembering Dr. Robert Miller: Obituary



Dr. Robert Harvey Miller, 1922 - 2007. Our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather passed away peacefully on Jan. 9, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah, from complications of a stroke. His final hours were spent silently cheering his revered Florida

Gators as they won the national football championship. Bob was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, Feb. 4, 1922 to Harrie Clifford Miller and Emma Marjorie Harvey. Bob married his childhood sweetheart Marguerite Guy, Aug. 14, 1943. He graduated from St. Petersburg High School and St. Petersburg Junior College and completed Bachelor and Masters Degrees in education from The University of Florida and a Doctorate of Education from Indiana University. His distinguished career in education included service as a teacher, principal, and district administrator in Florida. Following his Florida retirement, he spent 12 years as Director of Media Services with the Minnesota Department of Education before returning home to Florida. Bob received a purple heart while serving as a U.S. Marine in the landing of Okinawa during World War II. He wore his Disabled Veterans hat with pride. He felt great satisfaction in his service as president of the Florida Retired Educators Association where he made great contributions in advocating for retired educators. Survived by his wife, Marguerite, his children Lyn (Stephen) Burningham, South Jordan, Utah; Robert Harvey Miller, Jr. (Susan) and Clifford Miller, Florida. Loved by seven grandchildren and seven great-grand-children. Family, friends, and neighbors are invited to attend a memorial service on Monday, February 5, 2007 at St. Edwards Episcopal Church, 460 Grandview Street, Mt. Dora, Florida. Visitation will be from 10:30AM with a service at 11AM. Additional services were held in Utah. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Bob's name to the scholarship fund of the Florida Retired Educators Foundation (FREF), 10051 5th St. N. Suite #108, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2211. GO GATORS! SEMPER FI

Published in the *Orlando Sentinel* from 2/2/2007 - 2/3/2007

From Moodle to podcasting. Weekend Workshops

TIES Weekend

Workshops feature some of TIES' most popular workshops with a focus on digital photos and video, podcasting, Moodle and more. These in-depth, hands-on

sessions are offered on five Saturdays: January 27, February 24, March 24, April 21 and May 5. View sessions and register at www.ties.k12.mn.us/Workshops_and_seminars.html.



MEMO Scope and Sequence Documents

The scope & sequence are model documents created based on the curriculums in many schools. It contains more than any one of them. In our schools, we will look at this model and identify what parts may be taught directly by library media staff, what parts may be jointly taught and what parts may be covered in other curriculums. There may be parts that we will not try to cover. The scope and sequence represents the collective wisdom of a group of experienced library media specialists. We hope you will find them useful them in your local curriculum development.

Neither the MEMO Standards nor the scope & sequence are a required law. The law passed last spring requires that information and technology literacy be embedded in the content standards, as they are revised, "consistent with recommendations from school media specialists." The MEMO standards and the scope and sequence are being used by the committee developing the state math content standards. Some parts of information and technology literacy will be embedded in the math standards, but the benchmarks may look very different. The information and technology literacy benchmarks in the math standards will be required. It will take five years for all the standards to be revised, so the scope and sequence may help you in your planning until that cycle is complete.

Watch for the next draft of the math standards. The next revision will look very different from the one that you will find at MDE today.

Jane Prestebak, Program Director
Media Services and Instructional Technology
Robbinsdale Area Schools

Cloquet native to head Library Association

The Pine Journal - 02/14/2007

Dr. Loriene Roy will be inaugurated the 2007-2008 President of the American Library Association during the 2007 ALA Annual Conference. Roy was born in Cloquet, raised in Carlton and is a graduate of Carlton High School. She is enrolled on the White Earth Reservation and is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Founded in 1876, the American Library Association is the largest general membership organization in librarianship. Nearly 25,000 of its 67,000 members are expected to attend the Annual Conference which opens on Friday, June 22.

Over 2000 events are scheduled, including over 700 exhibits and presentations by authors Khaled Hosseini and Irshad Manji, filmmaker Ken Burns, and activist Marian Wright Edelman.

Dr. Roy will be recognized at two events. The National Museum of the American Indian is hosting an Honor Dance for her in the museum on Friday, June 22, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Honor Dance is free and open to the public.

Her inaugural banquet will be held at the Grand Hyatt DC on Tuesday, June 26, starting at 7 p.m. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating Community, Collaboration, and Culture." Attire for the evening will be black tie or cultural dress.

The inauguration will be opened with a color guard and procession of indigenous nations including delegates from Aotearoa/New Zealand. This will be followed by a procession of ALA elected officers, a multimedia presentation of Dr. Roy's presidential initiatives, a banquet, live music, and a dance. Tickets for the inaugural banquet can be purchased through ALA. Dr. Roy is a professor in the School of Information and an affiliated professor in the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, both at the University of Texas at Austin. She is founder and director of "If I Can Read, I Can Do Anything," a national reading club for Native children. She is principal investigator of Honoring Generations, a scholarship program funded through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Honoring Generations program funds indigenous graduate students preparing for careers in librarianship, archives, preservation administration, or museum studies. For more information about Dr. Roy's work and involvement, with ALA see lorieneroy.com.

Children's Literature Workshop



The 28th Annual Children's Literature Workshop, sponsored by the Center for Information Media at St. Cloud State University, will be held on **June 18-19, 2007**, at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. The keynote presenters will be **Richard Peck** and **Karen Ritz**. Richard is the author of *A Year Down Yonder* (Newbery Medal) and *A Long Way From Chicago* (Newbery Honor), among many other titles. He is the only children's book author to receive a National Humanities Medal.

For information about the workshop, please refer to the January MEMORandom or contact either **Chris Inkster** (cinkster@stcloudstate.edu) or **Sandra Q. Williams** (sqwilliams@stcloudstate.edu) at St. Cloud State University. You may register by mail, fax or email. Contact Lu Ann Rice. <
Irice@TheOdysseyGroup.com or call (320) 202-1831.

-- *Chris and Sandra*

Baxter School Celebrates I Love to Read Month

Every February, an annual event happens at Baxter Elementary School to celebrate I Love to Read Month! We set up the entire library as a camp, with many tents, an artificial fire, artificial trees, and blankets. Students come to the library with their class, at a scheduled time for 25-50 minutes. We sing a few songs "around the campfire", turn out the lights, then students go into their tents with a flashlight and a good book. They read silently for the time they are "at camp". It has become such a positive experience for students. They ask, "When is Camp Baxter?" even in the fall! Student's names are all put in a drawing for a free paperback book (one per class). And all students get to leave camp with a new pencil stamped "Camp Baxter 2007". It is a blast and really promotes the LOVE of reading!

Sandy Larson

MEMO PR Campaign Continues



The MEMO public relations campaign continues. June Gross and Mary Alice Anderson attended the Elementary Principal's Association Conference February 7. Mert Thompson and Michael Quady represented MEMO at the conference February 8.



Light Notes

1. Remember Library Day is March 28. The reception is the night before. It is always interesting and enlightening.
2. Fall Conference 2007 is at Craguns (Brainerd), Be looking for the registration in coming MEMORandoms.
3. The next MEMO board meeting is April 14th.
4. Volunteer on a committee.

Gina Light, MEMO Co-President

The Shy Person's Guide to Lobbying

How can you tell a Minnesota extrovert? He looks at your shoes when he talks to you.

If you believe the stereotypes, MEMO members are at a serious disadvantage when it comes to legislative lobbying. Both as Minnesotans and as librarians we have a reputation for shyness, modesty, and introversion. Despite our brilliant intellects, charming personalities, high moral standards, and devastating good looks, we far too seldom participate in the legislative process.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to influence legislators is through active lobbying. Lobbying is communicating with legislators and the executive branch to encourage them to take action on specific legislation or regulations. Each and every MEMO member should be actively advocating for the bills that will benefit those people who use their libraries and technology resources. Even those of us who are shy.

Here is a short primer on how even Shrinking Violets and Shrinking Vincents can gain the confidence needed to be effective lobbyists:

1. **Recognize that lobbying is your job and find opportunities to speak to your legislators face-to-face.**

Obtaining funding and directing policy by being an active part of the legislative process is an important professional duty. No MEMO member should simply assume that MEMO "leaders" or our hired lobbyist can effectively be his/her voice to our legislators. This work is too important to be left to other people. I mean this.

MEMO and MLA annual host Library Legislative Day. This event is held at the Capitol in St. Paul and has proven to be an expedient means of speaking to many legislators in a short time frame. Check the MLA and MEMO websites for registration information. Being surrounded by other MEMO and MLA members is, well, comforting.

For those working stiffs who find it difficult to get a day off and travel to St. Paul, watch for regional legislative events. Our state multitype library organizations often host these get togethers. Be there, be counted, be heard.

2. **Learn something about the legislative process – or at least who your representatives are.**

There is a genuine wealth of information at <www.leg.state.mn.us>. At this site, you can find out who your House member and Senator are and their contact information – phone, e-mail, and mailing address. You can also track the status of bills that are important to MEMO members on this site.

Truth be told, most of us are mystified by the legislative process, even after being politically engaged for many years. A very good overview of our state legislature and how laws become enacted can be found at <www.leg.state.mn.us/youth/legislature.asp> OK, so it written for kids, but at least I understand it! And if you have a question, please let a member of the MEMO legislative committee know it.

3. **Understand the MLA/MEMO platform and know the talking points.**

Each year MEMO and MLA join write a joint legislative platform that includes planks of interest to all types of libraries. The document itself is usually only a page or two long and can be found on the MEMO website's Legislative section <www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/linkslegislature.html>.

The second set of documents that are important to read are the "talking points" that go with each platform plank. These short statements give reasons for and research behind the issues addressed by each plank. At this time, a working draft of the talking points for MEMO specific planks can be found at: <dougj.pbwiki.com/memo>. Check these regularly for updates.

Having a basic understanding of the platform and the reasons behind the planks in it is vital for effective lobbying efforts. While you do not need to be an expert, you do need to be familiar with the issues. If a legislator or staffer asks a question that you can't answer, it's just fine to say, "I don't know that, but I will find out and get back to you."

4. Be effective when visiting with your legislator. One guide suggests that when talking to legislators to remember the ABC's - Accuracy, Brevity, and Courtesy. Stick to the platform. Be clear about what you want the legislator to do. (Vote for HF 101, for example.) Always frame the request by demonstrating the benefit to those you serve, not the benefit to you. Listen as well as talk. Answer questions. Leave copies of the platform with your legislator. Oh, work with the legislators who represent *your* district.

5. Be a rational, pleasant human being. If you are a school library media specialist or technology person, I can simply say, "Be yourself." But just in case you are new to Minnesota or the profession, here are a few do's and don'ts... Thank your legislator for past support when possible. Avoid party politics. As the Humane Society reminds us, "Animals have friends on both sides of the aisle." Do tell personal anecdotes related to the issue for which you are lobbying. Don't threaten retaliation, especially in the voting booth. It's fine to disagree – but don't be disagreeable. Make your case firmly.

Send a thank you after you visit. Your mom would be proud,

6. Write, call and e-mail – effectively. Face to face conversations with your legislators are excellent ways to put your message across, but writing, calling and e-mailing on specific bills are also important. Here are a few "rules" for such correspondence:

- Be clear about what you want, listing the bill, and the action you want your legislator to take.
- Tell a story or give an example to make the issue relevant to your legislator and to his own part of the state.
- Ask for a direct response with his or her position on the issue or bill.

Personal letters are better than form letters or petitions. Use your official letterhead. Letters are usually more effective than e-mails. Calls on an issue can be helpful since legislators sometime simply count the number of calls pro and con on certain matters. Watch your e-mail for requests for calls for action from MEMO and MLA. Then do it!

7. Work on developing a relationship with your representatives.

The people I know who have the most success in influencing legislators are ones who have a long-standing relationships. Few things are achieved in a single legislative session. Cultivate a friendly, trust-worthy reputation that will serve you and your patrons well into the future. Become your representative's reliable source of information on school library and technology issues.

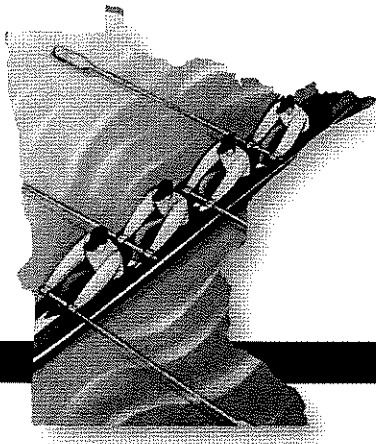
So, eat your Powdermilk Biscuits or whatever it takes, but overcome your reticence and make your voice heard.

For more detailed information:

- Democracy Center <www.democracyctr.org>
- Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest <WWW.CLPI.ORG>
- Minnesota Library Association Advocacy Page <www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative.htm>
- Minnesota Educational Media Organization Legislative Page <www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/linkslegislature.html>

Doug Johnson, MEMO Legislator Chair
dougj@doug-johnson.com





Libraries Strengthen Minnesota

Legislative Platform 2007

Minnesota Library Association • Minnesota Educational Media Organization

- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$5,000,000 for Regional Public Library Basic System Support** for a total annual appropriation of \$13,570,000. This funding will maintain current service levels and will also support increased costs for delivery of library materials between libraries which has increased significantly because of direct requests utilizing the MnLINK Gateway. There has not been a significant funding increase for RLBSS since 1992.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$1.1 million for Regional Library Telecommunication Aid** bringing the total annual appropriation to \$2.3 million. This funding will be used to increase bandwidth at each library to a minimum of T-1 or 1.544 Mbps capacity. Public libraries in Minnesota need this level in order to run the systems used to search catalogs, checkout materials and connect to the MnLINK Gateway as well as for Internet access.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks a \$5,000,000 annual increase for K-12 school telecommunication and Internet connectivity** for a total appropriation of \$8.75 million to equalize costs to districts across the state for a basic level of service. The additional funds will be used to cover existing costs that vary greatly across the state. Telecommunications and Internet access as well as access to MnLINK and ELM are integral components of K-12 instruction. K-12 schools and public libraries in Minnesota share a common statewide backbone, as well as local lines in many communities, for high-speed networking.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks an annual increase of \$397,000 for Minnesota's Multicounty Multitype Regional Library Systems** for a total annual appropriation of \$1,300,000. These systems strengthen Minnesota by providing support services for Minnesota's librarians and identifying and acting upon efficiencies and opportunities that cut across school, academic, public, and special libraries. Funding for these library systems has remained flat since 1997.
- **MLA/MEMO supports an annual increase of \$1,700,000 in the MINITEX budget** for the upcoming biennium for a total annual appropriation of \$6,481,000. MINITEX seeks additional funding to: meet the increased demand and costs for resource sharing and courier delivery services; increase access to scholarly content for Minnesota's higher education students and faculty; license additional databases for the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM); meet growing demand for MnLINK Gateway services; and expand access to digitized content through the Minnesota Digital Library.
- **MLA/MEMO supports the Get Minnesota Ready For K! initiative.**
- **MLA/MEMO supports the formation and funding of the Broadband Minnesota Initiative** as proposed by the Office of Enterprise Technology, Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Regional Telecommunications Coordinators. This backbone network among educational and other governmental entities would ensure a high and equitable quality of service, interregional operability, and potential cost savings for its users.
- **MLA/MEMO supports legislation allowing local school districts to levy up to \$200 per student** without voter approval to fund the equitable delivery of technology and library media programs to all students.
- **MLA/MEMO supports legislation requiring the regular services of a certified school library media specialist** who can build age and developmentally appropriate material collections, teach information literacy and technology skills, and promote voluntary free reading for all students.
- **MLA/MEMO seeks a mandate from the legislature that the information and technology skills** required by the 2006 legislature be assessed and reported by all districts.

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Submissions to the newsletter may be sent to Mary Alice Anderson, MEMOrandom Editor. Send to Maryalicea@mac.com
Submissions in MS word processing are particularly welcome.

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MEMO

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