



NCLS @ CCESS

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*Keeping the lines of communication open
in the North Country Library System.*

*July / August
2006*



Lyn Swafford, Canton Free Library Director Receives Excellence in Library Service Award

The Annual Award for Excellence in Library Service is open to staff from any member library of the Northern New York Library Network, which includes NCLS and all its member libraries.

Lyn Swafford was the nominee who was chosen to receive the prestigious award. The winner of the award is described as someone with “creativity, innovation and intuition”. The award had been given annually for 16 years.

One nomination letter stated, “Knowledge, creativity, risk-taking, innovation, and intuition are key elements in the make-up of a successful manager. Fortunately for the Canton Free Library, Lyn possesses these qualities.”



Congratulations, Lyn!

*Inger Curth, President of the NNYLN Board of Trustees,
Lyn Swafford, and John Hammond, NNYLN Director*

Congratulations to the Potsdam Public Library

The referendum vote on June 15th to create a school district public library for the Potsdam Public Library was an overwhelming success with a final result of 502 “Yes” votes and 274 “No” votes.

This means that the main support for the library shifts from the village to the school district residents. The library will re-charter to follow school district boundaries, but will be completely independent from the school district. School district voters approved a budget for Potsdam of \$465,000, an increase from their present budget of \$379,000. The voters also elected the first slate of Trustees for the “new” library.

Congratulations to Pat Musante, the library staff and Board of Trustees. Everyone worked extremely hard to make this happen. This vote gives the Potsdam Library the independence and stability needed to make progress in the future.

For more information about library districts, please contact your NCLS Consultant or visit the NYS Division of Library Development online “Public Library Districts How-To Kit” at:
www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libspldtools/index.html



Potsdam Public Library Board Of Trustees

NCLS Incentive Grant 2006

We are halfway through the 2006 Incentive Grant year! Hopefully your library is making progress towards meeting the requirements. Here's a review of the grant guidelines:

There are FOUR sections to the grant and each section is worth \$150. If all four sections are completed successfully, your library will receive an additional \$150, making the maximum award amount \$750.

The full grant application and instructions can be accessed from our web site at www.nclsweb.org. Click on "Grants & Funding", then click on "Grant Opportunities". You will see the "Incentive Grant 2006" link which opens up into a PDF document.

Section 1: "Trustee Focus 2006"- Library Policies

- Circulation / Use of Library Materials Policy
- Patron Behavior Policy
- Personnel Policy (including annual staff evaluations)
- Long Range Plan
- Computer Use Policy
- Annual Report to the Community

Section 2: Continuing Education

- Component #1: Attendance at a minimum of five continuing education classes and trustee attendance at the NCLS Annual Meeting
- Component #2: Compensation for time and mileage to continuing education events (this must be evidenced by a "Continuing Education Policy" as part of your library's "Personnel Policy").

Section 3: County Funding Initiatives

- Attendance at planning meetings and county legislature meetings
- Letters / newsletters sent to the county

Section 4: State Budget Initiatives

- Six letters to the Governor, your State Assemblyperson, and State Senator from three different trustees
- A letter signed by 25 patrons to the Governor, your Assemblyperson, and State Senator

Friends of the Flower Memorial Library 28th Annual Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Flower Memorial Library's 28th Annual Used Book Sale will begin on Saturday, October 28th. A bag sale will follow on Monday, November 6th, and continue for several weeks.

Traditionally, the Friends collect enough books to fill three large rooms plus a second floor balcony where thousands of paperbacks are offered for sale.

Flower Library would be grateful for any donations (including tapes, cd's, and VHS tapes!) from member libraries. This would be a good opportunity for libraries to dispose of books in good condition that did not sell.

These donations may be left at the library or sent to Flower via NCLS. If you choose to send books to Flower via NCLS, please mark the boxes clearly to reflect that the boxes are to be forwarded to Flower Library for the book sale.

Posters and bookmarks should arrive at your library after Labor Day to advertise this sale. If you have any questions, please call Susan Johnson at (315) 788-8133.



**DONATIONS
WELCOME!**

First North Country Regional Battle of the Books

On June 10th at the Remington Museum in Ogdensburg, seven teams representing the Potsdam, Norfolk, Massena, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, Heuvelton, and Watertown libraries faced off in the first regional Battle of the Books. Todd Moe of North Country Public Radio served as Master of Ceremonies.



Todd Moe with the winning Massena team

In each community, students in grades four through six formed teams of up to four students and registered at their local library. Students read books from a pre-selected list of thirty titles. Each library participating held local matches in April and May to determine which team would represent the library at the regional event. In an effort to get parents involved in the Book Battle, teams were encouraged to get an adult coach to help them prepare for the competition. During the Book Battle competitions, team members must answer questions about the books read. Each question begins... "In what book...?" Each match consists of twenty questions and can be from any title on the book battle list. The matches last approximately thirty minutes. Tie-breaker questions are used to determine a winner for each match if necessary. Every child who participated in the Book Battle received a t-shirt, bookmarks, pencils, book bags, books and gift certificates to local book stores.

The winners of the local battles met at the Remington Museum in Ogdensburg on June 10th to compete for the North Country Championship. The winners of the Regional Book Battle were the "Chapters 1-4" representing the Massena Public Library. The Book Battle Cup will stay at the Massena Library until next year when the second annual Battle of the Books will determine the 2007 winner. Members of the teams finishing in top three spots received individual medals. Silver medals went to the Watertown team and bronze medals were awarded to Potsdam.

The Book Battle committee met at the end of June to begin plans for next year's event. We hope to involve more libraries in the Book Battle next year. For more information on how your library can get involved contact Regan DeFranza, Youth Services Consultant, North Country Library System.

NCLS Events

www.nclsweb.org
Click on "Event Registration"

July / August



Check out the dozens of other events at member libraries throughout the system by going to www.nclsweb.org, click on "About NCLS", then click on "Calendar"!

July 3rd-4th	NCLS CLOSED
July 6th	Care and Repair of Books 9:30am-12pm, NCLS
July 18th	The Automated NYS Annual Report, Part I 9:30am-11:30am, NCLS
July 19th	The Automated NYS Annual Report, Part I 10am-12pm, NNYLN
August 8th	Table Talks with Cookout 10am-12pm, NCLS

Getting to know NCLS Staff: Mary O'Donnell

After three years of dedicated and valuable service to NCLS, our beloved Receptionist and Graphics/Printing Coordinator will be leaving Northern New York to return with her husband to her native Vermont.

Mary was born in Boston, MA but grew up and attended schools in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. She has two grown children and two grandchildren. She also has one teenage son at home. Her parents and siblings also reside in Vermont.

Mary's husband, Kevin, has recently completed eight years of active duty with the US Army and is now with the Vermont National Guard and has been working as a civilian since March 15, 2006.

Mary enjoys ice skating, walking, bowling, visiting with friends and family, and helping others. She also enjoys reading mysteries.

Favorite movie: *An Officer and a Gentleman*

Mary, we will all miss you so much and never forget your smiling face and helpful, cheerful nature! We wish you and your family the very best! GOOD LUCK!



Automation Update

The Hannibal Free Library “went live” on June 28th and is now a fully automated library using the SIRSI circulation system. Congratulations!

If your library is interested in automation, please contact your Consultant at NCLS.



The NCLS Service Center still has many books available to supplement your library's collection, so please feel free to come by and take a look at what's on our shelves. We also have discards for book sales or giveaways available.

If your library has newsworthy information to share in *NCLS Access*, please contact Amy Degnan at NCLS: 782-5540 or adegnan@ncls.org

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