

Executive Director's Column

By Adam Wright, Executive Director, NTRLs.
October, 2008.

Happy October!

I want to start this column off by wishing my beautiful wife a happy birthday. She turns 30 for the sixth time on October 11th. Thanks for putting up with me for the last eleven years.

Our website theme this month is, "Violence in Libraries – How to handle confrontations" We have a great column by our very own Carolyn Davidson Brewer on this very topic. Please be sure to check this out as she gives some great advice on what to do in confrontations.

Now on a completely different subject....

NTRLs is proud to announce the birth of a new name: North Texas Library Partners. As you all know, the NTRLs Board of Directors has recently decided to increase their fundraising endeavors. With this in mind, the NTRLs Board of Directors voted at the September meeting to adopt a "doing business as" name for NTRLs. The board selected North Texas Library Partners.

You might wonder how this will work. You have to think of NTRLs as a corporation that exists beyond the role of being one of the Ten Systems in the state. Yes, NTRLs is given a grant by the Texas Library and Archives Commission to be the Regional Library System for this area of the state. We have no plans to move away from serving in this capacity. However, this corporation also exists separately from this role as a System. The NTRLs Board of Directors have adopted the name, North Texas Library Partners, as a way to help distinguish the different roles of the corporation as well as give the board a more catchy name to use when approaching others about donations.

One of my staff members came up with a perfect way to describe this dual role.

"North Texas Library Partners, home of the North Texas Regional Library System."

Look for the name in your future as we discover new ways to utilize it in our efforts to offer better programming and services to our member libraries.

Workshops

Here are the upcoming workshops in October. You can register for the courses at ntrls.org.

- **True Colors**, 10/16/2008, Benbrook Public Library
- **Reaching the Boomer Generation**, 10/23/2008, Haltom City Public Library
- **Certified Library Computer Technologist Program**, 10/24/2008, System Office
- **Plinkit for Content Managers**, 10/28/2008, System Office

Regional Meetings

Our regional meetings are scheduled for October and November.

Region 1

Iowa Park

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Region 2

Bridgeport

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Region 3

Little Elm

Friday, October 10

Region 4

Haslet

Friday, November 7

Region 5

Haltom City

Wednesday, November 5

Region 6

Benbrook

Tuesday, November 11

Region 7

Alvarado

Friday, October 31, 2008

Gaming Services Now Available

Last Spring, NTRLS offered some workshops on how to host a gaming tournament in your library. We received so much interest in this activity that we conducted a needs assessment survey to see how the System could assist its member libraries with gaming. A majority of the respondents to the survey asked for NTRLS to purchase some gaming equipment and make this equipment available for checkout. NTRLS was able to find funds at the end of the last fiscal year to purchase three game consoles (Wii) along with several games and accessories. If you wish to check out any of this equipment, you must notify the System office and sign a user agreement when picking it up. The user agreement and a description of the program are available on ntrls.org.

Here are some program and services updates from September

CE: Special Interest Groups and Conferences

All TLA District 7 members, NTRLS library directors, members of PLANT and subscribers to the CE notification list have been sent notices of the development, existence and components of the SIGs, along with a request for volunteers to serve on the conference planning committees and / or during the conferences themselves.

Special Interest Group	General Update	Conference Update
LibraryPresentationsNetwork.com	Website's "Grand Opening" should be announced by Sept. 19, 2008.	Date & Location: LMRA 11/20/08 Planning Committee Met 9/5/08 Theme: <i>Get 'Em In!</i> Keynote Speaker: Jeff Crilley Sending of notifications to potential exhibitors is underway; several have signed up already. Contact with potential session presenters is underway; several confirmations have been received.
LibrarySupportersNetwork.com	Website development will begin in October.	Planning Committee to meet 9/25?

	4 people have already joined the listserv even though that address isn't yet public.	
LibraryTechNetwork.com	Website development will begin following development of LSN site	09 Planning Committee is being developed.
LibraryYouthServicesNetwork.com	Website "Grand Opening" was announced in late August 2008 276 subscribers as of 8-15-08, and about a dozen messages in the Archives to date	08 and 09 Planning Committees met in a joint meeting 9/3/08 to review 08 and begin planning 09

Consulting

NTRLS provided the following consulting in September.

- Region 1
 1. Crowell - It was discovered that Jack County qualifies for grant funding from the Texas Commission on the Arts's County Arts Expansion Program. The library director was notified regarding their status.
- Region 2:
 1. Olney – Collection analysis and weeding
 2. Jacksboro - It was discovered that Jack County qualifies for grant funding from the Texas Commission on the Arts's County Arts Expansion Program. The library director was notified regarding their status.
- Region 3:
 1. Lewisville – Overview of NTRLS
 2. Flower Mound – Collection analysis
 3. Aubrey – Collection analysis
 4. Denton County Libraries – O2U
- Region 4:
 1. Saginaw – Weeding, O2U
- Region 5:
 1. Haltom City – New library, O2U
 2. Mansfield – O2U

- Region 6:
 1. Azle – Consult on staff needs for new library – toured new library
- Region 7:
 1. Burleson – Image audit
 2. Granbury –Collection analysis and weeding
 3. Dublin – The library director, the governing board and the Friends of the library are attempting to clarify the responsibilities and access to funding of each of them. NTRLS has spoken with the library director and communicated with a member of the Friends via email. There was to be a meeting to resolve the issue in early September, but we have not been notified of the results.
- Other Consulting:
 1. TCC – NE – Staff Development Day speaker
 2. Farmer’s Branch – Staff Development Day Part 2 speaker

Libraries & Regions served by Technology Consultant

<i>City</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Project</i>
Benbrook	6	Plinkit, Overdrive
Dublin	7	other
Jacksboro	2	Plinkit
Keller	4	Overdrive
Saginaw	4	Overdrive
The Colony	3	Overdrive, Plinkit
Wichita Falls	1	Overdrive
Benbrook	6	Plinkit, Overdrive

Shared Integrated Library System (SILS)

The North Texas Library Consortium (NTLC), the name the participating libraries are calling themselves, released an RFP on September 3, 2008. Bids will be accepted until September 30, 2008. The consortium will decide on a vendor on October 9, 2008. NTLC is also working on several grant applications including one for AT&T.

Libraries for Literacy

Elizabeth Stewart and Adam Wright met with the stakeholders in the three communities where literacy instruction pilot projects will be established: Alvarado, Saginaw and Seymour. These kick-off meetings were held to bring the various partners together to discuss the finer details of the pilot projects.

Consultant’s Training

Adam Wright, Carolyn Davidson Brewer and dona weisman attended a consulting skills workshop presented by Maureen Sullivan. This workshop was a refresher on the consulting process and how NTRLS can better serve its member libraries through the consulting program.

TSLAC Update

Multi-Type Memberships

The TSLAC staff has made recommendations on changing the System act to allow for multi-type library systems. Please find the modified act attached for your review. Please find an executive summary below.

- A lot of cosmetic changes were made to the act to clean up outdated and obsolete language.
- A recommendation was made to allow Major Resource Center (MRC) Library Systems (Systems tied to a Major Resource Center) to add multi-type libraries to membership without a 2/3 majority from the membership. Instead, it states the MRC library systems can allow other types of libraries by changing their bylaws.
- A recommendation is made to allow for special and research libraries to become members of the MRC library systems.
- A recommendation is made that the commission determines how the advisory boards of the Major Resource Center (MRC) library systems will conduct their business.

In addition, I received an email from Deborah Littrell from TSLAC stating the following:

“Right now it is my understanding that non-profit systems may designate in their by-laws how their boards are set up (as in the language below). I would like to broaden the language you have in bold to permit virtually any type of library to join a system (with system approval).”

The bolded print that Deborah is referring to is section 441.131 of the Systems act. In this section, it is outlined how Regional Library Systems will organize their board of directors. The recommendations did not modify section 441.131 at all. I have asked TSLAC for clarification on this matter.

I have also asked TSLAC about how the lay representatives system will work with multi-type systems. As it stands right now, this is a rule and not a statute. Rules are determined by the commission and not the legislature.

I want to end my column by paying tribute to Corry Edwards, brother of former NTRLS staff member Samantha Simpson (Edwards). Corry was killed in Iraq in September. He leaves behind a wife and two children. I went to High School with both Corry and his wife Nan. You cannot ask for two better people. Keep them in your prayers.