

New Hampshire Library Association Annual Meeting Minutes

**North Conway Grand Hotel
North Conway, NH
November 3, 2005**

President Catherine Redden called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

President's Report - Catherine reported on the Board retreat held in October, noting that the Board's recommendation was to continue the joint spring conference with NHEMA and to revive the newsletter as a quarterly printed publication. She then gave a preview of her upcoming article in the NHLA newsletter, which gives these suggestions for New Hampshire librarians:

- Toot your own horn
- Hang your degree on your office wall
- Make yourself business cards
- Display awards you've received so others can see them
- Send copies of publicity about awards you've received to administrators to put in your personnel file
- Look professional
- Participate in professional organizations

From Catherine's written report:

"How time flies! I'm proud to have worked with a dedicated and energetic Executive Board over the past year. I applaud the Libraries and the Boards of Trustees that allow us all to participate in our profession. The Board has started to use our affiliation with the Local Government Center for our mail and membership. We'll be adding a financial component to working together this next year. In addition to streamlining some of the executive work, we also held a very successful retreat to address conference and newsletter issues. Look for both to be reinvigorated and more professional."

Vice-President's Report - from Doris Mitton's written report:

"Many thanks to all my helpers in organizing the 2005 Fall Conference at the North Conway Grand Hotel. I have updated some notes and tasks involved in being the coordinator of the conference and will forward them to the next vice president. Mary Russell and her panel have agreed to speak at no cost. A complimentary registration fee was waived for them as a thank you. My afternoon speaker cancelled at the last moment due to a shortage of staff. In her place there will be a round table discussion of adult programming that has been done at other libraries. A few items will be up for raffle at the registration desk to help raise money for the fall conference. A special thanks to Catherine Redden for her donations."

Secretary's Report - Minutes of the November 2004 meeting were approved as written. (motion: Andrea Thorpe; second: Judy Haskell)

Treasurer's Report - from Carl Heidenblad's written report:

"The New Hampshire Library Association runs on a July 1st to June 30th Fiscal year. Below you will find a brief statement for the association's financial position at the end of our fiscal year in June 2005.

Balance Sheet as of 6/30/05

In Savings accounts:

READS 3205.42
URBANS 2223.43
CHILIS 35,490.01
NHLA 55,875.89

In the checking account:

NHLA 4,362.04

Total 101,156.79

As with any treasurer's report, the dollar figures tell us much, but not all about the important work of NHLA and its 3 sections, READS, URBANS. and CHILIS.

I thought it would be interesting to include just a few examples of the good work that NHLA funded in FY 2004/ 2005. Examples would include \$905 in MacDonal Fund continuing education mini-grants, 2 Winchell loans of \$1000 each as well as spending \$3911.57 on legislative activities, engaging the services of the Parker Group, a Concord lobbyist charged by NHLA to advocate for library interests. The CHILIS section made possible a tremendous state wide summer reading program, purchasing materials in bulk and reselling them to members. In addition CHILIS funded \$2965 in mini-grants to support performances for the summer reading program this past summer. There are many other examples that could be cited as well."

New Business:

New Mailing Address for NHLA: c/o LGC, P.O. Box 617, Concord, NH 03302-0617

Ann Geisel Award: Andrea Thorpe presented the Ann Geisel award to Catherine Redden, thanking her for many years of service to NHLA and the New Hampshire library community.

Election results: Vice-President/President-Elect: Annie Donahue; Secretary-Dianne Hathaway

Committee/Section Reports:

ALA Councilor's Report: From Diane Tebbett's written report:

"ALA Midwinter will be in San Antonio, Texas, this year. I've made my Hotel reservation, because hotels were being booked quickly. I think Midwinter is going to be very popular this year. As you may know, ALA Annual in June is still scheduled for New Orleans. This may be a difficult conference, because no one knows for sure what the facilities will be like in New Orleans. Of course, we're all hoping for the best. Do remember that PLA is going to be in Boston in March. This is a wonderful opportunity for public librarians to attend their national conference.

I don't have too many details about the Midwinter meeting. I have received an invitation to a President's Forum on Education on Librarianship, which I plan to attend. I have also heard that Andrei Codrescu, from New Orleans, will be the featured speaker at the President's Program. I'm sure most of you have heard him on NHPR.

I have just heard that ALA is proposing a dues increase of \$30. It has been several years since ALA has increased dues. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this increase as well as on any other issue. I will be pleased to convey your comments to ALA Council. My email is diane.tebbetts@unh.edu.

I am still visiting public libraries in New Hampshire. Most recently, I visited the libraries in Rochester, Effingham, Freedom, and North Conway. It was a wonderful experience. The libraries were all unique but all doing a wonderful job serving their communities. I am amazed by the great librarians this State has. They provide top-notch service to towns, villages, and cities. Whether it serves a town of 2,000 or a city of 25,000, the public library is a vital, committed, central part of its community. In New Hampshire, the tradition of the public library, large or small, publicly funded or privately endowed, rural or urban, is strong and vital. My tour of New Hampshire libraries has convinced me that public libraries are an important treasure in the State, and that the public librarians are a tremendous asset to their local communities. Please visit my website at <http://www.library.unh.edu/nhlatour/index.asp> for a narrative of my travels and a view of the libraries and librarians.

It is my pleasure to represent you at ALA. Thanks."

READS - from Sarah Leonardi's written report:

"The READS Executive Board began this year with a goal of increasing awareness of our organization within the state and ensuring that we are addressing the needs of all of our members. We also hoped to inject some new energy into READS by creating more opportunities for New Hampshire librarians to share and learn from each other.

In pursuing these goals, we accomplished the following:

- Established a READS calendar so members can plan for events in advance.
- Established a new service award, the READS Award of Excellence, to be presented to an individual who provides outstanding service in the reference and adult service area. The first presentation of this award was at the Fall Program at Kimball Union Academy to Eleanor Croteau of the Manchester City Library.
- Increased our presence on the web. The READS website now features our section bylaws, Executive Board meeting minutes, handouts from programs, criteria and nomination forms for the READS Award of Excellence, in addition to general membership and contact information.
- Revised our bylaws to provide for continued growth and continuity in our organization.

As always, the Program Committee worked very hard through the year to plan programs of interest to all our members:

- June 2004: "Nurturing the Next Bestseller" at Colby Sawyer College, New London
- March 2005: "Where there's a w-ILL there's a way: NH Librarians sharing ideas about sharing resources," three roundtable discussions in New London, Conway, and Derry
- May 2005: "Committing to Library Volunteers: Producing Results," New Hampshire Libraries Conference, Manchester
- October 2005: "Taming the Internet Beast," Kimball Union Academy, Meriden

Finally, this year the Executive Board established a framework for three new READS committees: Membership, Public Relations and Award Selection. READS now has more than 150 members. It is our hope that these committees will provide opportunities for both personal and professional development."

Advocacy Committee - from Beth Strauss' written report:

The committee is comprised of Beth Strauss, Lesley Gaudreau, and Andrea Thorpe. Our goal will be to produce an advocacy handbook, statewide promotional materials promoting NH libraries, and serve as a resource for advocacy information. The next step is to recruit more members for the committee, and take a survey of library advocacy needs.

Initial plans include:

- Advocacy survey for public, academic, private, and school libraries- Fall 2005
- Recruit committee members through listservs and "van flyers" for the following subcommittees:

Handbook,
Advertising/promotion
Advocacy Blog
Success Stories
Community Partners
Librarian Support
Coordination with other NHLA committees- membership, legislative, etc
Advocacy Policies Committee- to encourage each library to Write an advocacy policy outlining their commitment.

- Expand the website
- Secure funding through NHLA or business sponsors"

Intellectual Freedom Committee - from Mary Ahlgren's written report:

"The members of the Intellectual Freedom Committee are: Beth Strauss, Debbie Gilbert, Katie McDonough, Lesley Gaudreau, Sarah Morgen, Selena Cate, Diane Mayr, and Mary Ahlgren. The committee has only had one meeting this year. We continue to try to keep abreast of intellectual freedom in the news and in the state, but no challenges or requests for help have come before us formally. Informally we have had a variety of conversations with staff and trustees from various libraries. As Chair, Mary Ahlgren was on a panel addressing the NHLTA at their annual meeting, on the topic "Privacy and Politics". And several members of the IFC were at the READS Conference, Taming the Internet Beast: from Policy to Practice."

Membership Committee - from Marilyn Borgendale's written report:

"2005 has been a banner year for NHLA membership, with 598 members. Of these, 438 are renewing members, 60 are life members and 120 are new members. Anyone who is a 2005 member was sent a certificate to register for PLA 2006 in Boston at PLA member rates.

The renewal letters for 2006 NHLA membership will be sent out in early December through the Local Government Center who is now handling the membership database and renewal process. You will want to renew because NHLA is your organization - where you can continue your library education, connect with your counterparts and contribute to the voice for libraries in New Hampshire.

Marilyn Borgendale
Joanna Baqqi
Michele Garneau"

Scholarship Committee - from Mary Ann List's written report:

The New Hampshire Library Association supports graduate education for members through 2 programs.

F. Mabel Winchell Loan Fund

- \$1,000 interest-free loan to be repaid within 5 years
- Funded through lifelong memberships to NHLA

Qualifications: Applicant must be a resident of New Hampshire, enrolled in an ALA accredited school of Library or Information Science, and a member of NHLA.

F. Mabel Winchell Loans have been granted to 2 candidates.

1. Diane Lynch

2. Israel Jeremy Seiferth is a resident of Newmarket, a student at URI, and presently employed at the Parker Library in Dracut, Massachusetts.

Rosalie Norris Scholarship

· \$1,000 outright grant

· Funded through a bequest to NHLA from Rosalie Norris

Qualifications: Applicant must be a resident of New Hampshire, enrolled in an ALA accredited school of Library or Information Science, and a member of NHLA.

This year, NHLA has granted the following Rosalie Norris scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each:

Diane Lynch will graduate with an MLS from URI at the end of this summer. She lives in Somersworth and is employed at the Dover Public Library. In her statement of professional goals, Diane says that she intends to use the knowledge gained in her studies in a public library setting where she will be able to "address the many challenges facing modern public libraries." She expresses special interest in literacy, both in a traditional sense and in technology.

Makiia Lucier is enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies Distance Education Program with an expected graduation date of December 2006. Makiia lives in Hudson. Her library experience was as a library assistant at the Eugene (OR) Public Library. She states, "I greatly admire a profession that promotes, with enthusiasm, the use of literature to provoke thought, further discussion and expand possibilities."

Raymond Marcotte is enrolled in URI's Regional Program. He plans to continue to work as a library assistant at Dartmouth College and expects to graduate in May 2008. Raymond lives in Lebanon. His professional goal is to become a reference librarian in an academic institution.

Scholarship Committee members: John Barrett, Tom Ladd, Mary Ann List, Rob Sargent and Andrea Thorpe."

Catherine turned the meeting over to incoming president Doris Mitton, who thanked Catherine for all of her help planning the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bone
Secretary