

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
March 18, 2008, 2:00 PM
Local Government Center, Concord, NH

Present:

Amy Thurber, Steve Butzel, Sue Hoadley, Carl Heidenblad, Tracey Lauder, Mary Ann Senatro, Judy Haskell, Rob Sargent, Andrea Thorpe, Ann Hoey, Marie Lejeune, Sarah Leonardi, Sean Fleming, Chris Hague, Randy Brough

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by President, Amy Thurber.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting were accepted as written.
- III. **Officers Reports:** All Officer, Section, Committee and Liaison Reports were posted on the NHLA Blog for review before the meeting and are incorporated by reference.

A-1. President – Amy Thurber: Amy reported that Andrea Thorpe had agreed to temporarily chair the Continuing Education Committee. However, she is still looking for someone to chair the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

A-2. Past-President – Annie Donahue: Not present. See NHLA Blog Reports.

B. Vice-President – Steve Butzel: Steve reported that the November 6 Business Meeting was confirmed for the Crowne Plaza in Nashua. Bobbi Slossar will discuss and demonstrate open source content management systems (CMS). Another possible topic of discussion is professional development standards and whether or not to require continuing education credits.

The proposed Information Technology Section has held one meeting with a second scheduled for April.

C. Treasurer – Carl Heidenblad: Carl reported that the audit is complete. He has a preliminary draft and agrees with the auditors' findings. Two weaknesses noted in financial controls were (1) the treasurer/bookkeeper also signs checks with no dollar limit; two signatures should be required; and (2) there is a potential credit risk exceeding FDIC limit of \$100,000 in a single financial institution. In February the balance was approximately \$162,000, placing \$62,000 at risk. Carl suggested transferring funds to a savings account and/or investing in savings bonds or CDs.

Amy asked if he would like a decision today. Carl said yes, if the board was open to that. He also wanted to look at other banks (we're using Citizens Bank now). He would also want to "ladder" the investments, so some cash would always be available.

Andrea Thorpe made a motion to allow Carl to move \$60,000 to another bank and purchase certificates of deposit so it is insured. Rob Sargent seconded the motion.

Steve Butzel asked fees. Carl said there might be fees when cashing a CD; that Citizens was good.

The motion carried.

D. Secretary – Sue Hoadley: No Report.

E. ALA Councilor – Rob Sargent: Rob reported on the ALA Mid-Winter Conference in Philadelphia in January. He said the council meetings were so intensive that he was not able to attend any programs, and only saw the vendor area once! Some of the key topics of discussion included: (1) a graduated dues study, referred back to committee for a vote in June; (2) work stations for the disabled at conferences; (3) a recommendation that all Iraqi documents seized by the U.S. be returned to the Iraqi government; (4) ALA President Ray's initiative is wellness – demonstrated by the LiveStrong notebooks recently received by all libraries. The ALA Conference will be held in June in Anaheim, CA. Sarah Leonardi asked if there had been any resolution on a new definition of reference. Rob said he didn't recall.

F. NELA Representative – Judy Haskell: Judy reported that the NELA Conference will be held October 19-21 in Manchester at the Raddison. The theme is "Taking Charge of Change." The NELA membership is looking for a resolution to their year-long debate over print versus electronic publications. A NELLs session will be held this summer. Steve added that three applications and part of a fourth had been received for the four slots allocated to New Hampshire librarians. Judy said NELA is looking for officers, with several board openings. She also announced NELA was seeking applications for the Emerson Greenaway Award for leadership in New England library services, last awarded in 2006. Application deadline is April.

IV. Old Business:

A. Compact Disc Litigation Settlement. The approximately \$20,000 awarded to the State of New Hampshire through NHLA under the Supplemental *Cy Pres* Distribution Plan entered in the case is earmarked for the musical portion of the Summer Reading Program. Marie Lejeune, Ann Hoey and Carl Heidenblad

formed an ad hoc committee to make a recommendation for administer the funds in December.

The committee recommended distributing the money through the Kids, Books and the Arts (KBA) grant program administered by the State Library with a grant of up to \$3,000 this year. Ann explained that the state council on the arts usually makes a grant in that amount to support the program, but did not come through this year. More and more grants are requested each year. Last year approximately 65 grant applications were received, but only about 50 were filled due to limited funds.

It was noted that it is also helpful to NHLA to be mentioned as a sponsor for these state-wide KBA grants.

Randy Brough made a motion to distribution \$4,000 from the settlement funds to the KBA grant program this year, seconded by Andrea Thorpe. The motion passed.

B. 2008 Spring Conference. Judy Haskell reported that all conference information has been posted online.

V. New Business:

A. New Section Development.

- 1. IT Section.** Steve Butzel reported that the unofficial section currently has about 40 members discussing whether to charge fees to join, development of bylaws, etc. The presentation at last November's business meeting provided good exposure.
- 2. YALS Section.** Ann Hoey reported that the group created bylaws at their last meeting and decided to charge a \$5 fee for membership.

B. Mentoring. Amy Thurber and Sarah Leonardi discussed using the NHLA website to match new librarians with mentors. Sarah said new librarians often have issue-based questions. Andrea suggested members nominate "who they would call" for a resource list. Chris mentioned retired librarians. Judy said NELA started a directory, but it fell by the wayside; she'd like to start it up again. Amy said the current use of the NHAIS list is a good start. Chris noted the drawback that the emails posted could be subject to open records laws. Sarah suggested asking the coops for recommendations.

C. Correspondence. Amy reported that NHLA received a letter from a gentleman (apparently known to many members), expressing his disappointment that he is unable to get a job as a librarian in New Hampshire. Therefore, he is moving to Texas!

D. Newsletter – Paperless? Amy raised the issue of whether it was time to stop providing paper copies of the NHLA Newsletter. Andrea noted that the newsletter is only issued four times a year now, and the last edition was way out of date. Rob said quarterly “news” really isn’t news anymore. Others found the Blog more timely. Tracey Lauder said we should email the membership for their input. Chris said in the North Country dial-up and PDF files are a problem. Steve interjected that if something was important enough, you download it. Ann said CHILIS went through this. They send post cards now and then as reminders. Some libraries have no computers, no phone to call and ask for a paper copy. Chris mentioned a NHAIS survey. Tracey asked how much it costs to produce the newsletter. Sarah said the annual budget is \$900.

Andrea suggested asking the membership at the conference. Amy said she scheduled a board meeting at the conference to vote on it – Wednesday at 9:00 AM. Becky will be contacted, it will be noted that the next issue is the final issue. Steve asked if we would encourage people to submit “article-like” things to blog. Amy replied that the reports from these meetings would be a start.

VI. Section Reports:

A. Academics: No report.

B. CHILIS – Marie Lejeune: The Spring Conference – the SRP Performers Showcase – is scheduled for March 27 at Southern NH University in Manchester. This year’s Summer Reading Program theme is “G’ Day for Reading,” with artwork by Stephanie Piro. The new award for excellence in Children’s Services will be announced at the Spring CHILIS Conference. Voting for the Great Stone Face Award and Isinglass Award will take place in April.

C. READS – Chris Hague: Despite some delays, READS is moving towards its goals. A revised mission statement is under review and a handbook is in development. The program committee is offering roundtables at three locations March 25-27, and has reserved the LGC for the fall meeting on October 27. The READS-to-Go webpage has been updated to include all cataloged kits. At the April meeting, work on a new READS brochure will begin.

D. Urbans – Mary Ann Senatro: The Urban Library Consortium met January 25 for an informal exchange. Retirements of Eleanor Strang and Jean Williams of Salem, and Sue McCann of Portsmouth were announced, and a full schedule of programs for 2008 was planned.

VII. Committee Reports:

A. Advocacy: No report.

B. Bylaws: No report.

C. Conference – Andrea Thorpe: See NHLA Blog Reports for a full run-down.

D. Continuing Education: The committee awarded a mini-money grant to Mary Lou McGuire of the Richards Free Library to take a workshop at the NEDCC entitled, “Developing and Managing Digital Projects.”

E. Intellectual Freedom – Mary Ahlgren: All quiet on the IF front.

F. Legislative – Randy Brough: Issues under debate in the legislature include filtering and pro se law libraries. They are considering a one-year extension of a retiree medical insurance subsidy for librarians due to expire on June 30. Bill 1645 concerns overhaul of the entire state retirement system. Anything new he will post on the Blog.

Amy plans to attend National Legislative Day in Washington, DC on May 13 or 14. Randy is not sure.

G. Membership – Tracey Lauder: What can we do to recruit new members? How can we welcome new members? We send a letter. Are there any benefits like discounts from booksellers? Amy suggested contacting Steve Veggiano of READS for ideas. Ann thanked Tracey for CHILIS membership information.

H. Scholarship – Sarah Leonardi: See NHLA Blog Reports for a complete report.

I. Ways and Means – Sean Fleming: “Merchandising” – selling cups, t-shirts, lanyards, etc. with NHLA logo under consideration for the Spring Conference. There will be the traditional raffles of themed baskets at both the Spring and Fall Conferences.

VIII. Newsletter Editor – Rebecca Clerkin: See NHLA Blog Reports for a complete report.

IX. Webpage Coordinator – Steve Butzel: See vice-president’s report on NHLA Blog Reports for a complete report.

X. Liaison Reports:

A. Center for the Book – Andrea Thorpe: See NHLA Blog Reports for a complete report.

B. NHAIS – Steve Butzel: Looking for a replacement. The group doesn’t meet often; last meeting was via conference call.

C. NH State Library – Ann Hoey: The State Library’s budget was cut \$150,000 this year and will be cut \$300,000 next year. Hopefully, LSTA will cover the van and databases. North Country office is looking for new space. Vendor Demo Day is filled. The KBA grant applications are available online. A children’s book review has been scheduled for Lancaster.

D. NH State Library Advisory Council: No report.

E. Trustees Association: No report.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Next meeting of the board: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 2:00 PM at the LGC.

All reports should be sent to Amy the second Tuesday of the month the board is scheduled to meet!

Respectfully submitted,

Sue A. Hoadley
Secretary