

**New Hampshire Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
May 21, 2008, 9:00 AM
Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH**

Present: Amy Thurber, Steve Butzel, Annie Donahue, Sue Hoadley, Randy Brough, Becky Clerkin, Ann Hoey, Rob Sargent, Tracey Lauder, Sarah Leonardi, Mary Ahlgren, Marie Lejeune, Christine Hague

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by President, Amy Thurber.

II. Approval of Minutes: No previous meeting minutes were available.

III. Officers Reports

A. President – Amy Thurber: The CD settlement money has gone to the KBA grant program, settling the matter for this year; we will revisit next year.

B. Vice-President/President Elect – Steve Butzel: The annual business meeting has been scheduled for November in Nashua.

C. Treasurer – Carl Heidenblad: No report.

D. Secretary – Sue Hoadley: No report.

E. ALA Councilor – Rob Sargent: ALA will be in Anaheim in June. There will be a blog on how ALA addresses issues.

F. NELA Representative – Judy Haskell: No report.

IV. Old Business

Newsletter to Paperless Format: The board engaged in a lively discussion of the pros and cons of continuing to produce the newsletter in a paper format and mail it to the membership. Newsletter Editor Becky Clerkin outlined the current state of affairs:

Becky was very concerned about the board making a decision without the input of the membership. In a 2005 online survey, over 100 members responded that they wanted to receive the newsletter in print.

The newsletter is published quarterly – however, last summer there was not enough content to fill an issue. The last issue was Winter 2007,

printed in March 2008. There have been no complaints about the lack of an issue, but there were complaints about the old content in the Winter issue.

What is the purpose of the newsletter? Advocacy? A voice for the members? An identity for the organization?

A sampling of the discussion:

Mary Ahlgren recently posted information on the Blog; it didn't occur to her to submit it for publication in the newsletter.

Tracey Lauder said the membership should be surveyed online and in print.

Chris Hague said disadvantaged libraries don't have time to read the Blog online; paper can be taken home at night to read.

Becky stated that she doesn't read the Blog, she takes paper copies of publications home to read.

Annie Donahue suggested thinking about alternate methods of disseminating information.

Steve Butzel said it is possible to receive the Blog as email.

Sarah Leonardi added that the email can be printed and taken home to read.

Annie asked, what about the printing costs?

Chris said teaching the membership how to transfer to the new format could be an opportunity for professional development.

Rob Sargent said the newsletter is already outdated and dying. This really needs to go before the membership at the business meeting in November for a vote.

Mary suggested a session teaching members how to –

Chris interjected that the people we need to reach will not come to Nashua – budget and staffing issues.

Amy Thurber said maybe each section could education its members.

Mary noted that there was a small libraries roundtable taking place that very day at the Spring Conference.

Becky recommended sending a mailing to all members with instructions on how to transition to the new formats.

Chris added that Bobbi Slossar could help with that.

Amy asked if that could be done before the Fall business meeting.

Becky said she was glad to hear the information from the Blog can be emailed and she won't have to go searching for it.

Mary suggested posting information on NHAIS, with the Sections and Coops, and mailing a one-page last newsletter.

MOTION: Rob said the membership should be invited to participate. Then he made a motion to disband the newsletter and make one final mailing with instructions. Randy Brough seconded the motion.

Becky asked who would write the article. Amy and Rob said they would.

The motion carried.

There was further discussion about the libraries that do not have computers or internet access, and potential grant opportunities for equipment and training.

Becky asked about the future of the "set topics" that usually go into the newsletter – awards, announcements, etc.

Annie said that information could all be submitted to the Blog. There could be an online form to fill in.

Amy said the information could be sent to Steve.

Annie, playing the devil's advocate, asked "open blogging?"

Steve said he would establish some blogging guidelines.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Section Reports

A. Academics – Vacant: No report.

B. CHILIS – Marie Lejeune: CHILIS is looking for new officers to reinvigorate the membership. The Spring Conference, featuring the SPR performers showcase was held March 27 at SNHU. The Children's Librarian of the Year Award was presented to: _____? SRP t-shirts and other materials are now available.

C. READS – Chris Hague: READS is looking at a bylaw change and working on the website.

D. Urbans – Randy Brough: Urbans will meet in Portsmouth next month.

E. Information Technology – Steve Butzel: Two roundtables are planned: (1) open source software, (2) time management software for public computers. In June the Content Management Systems group will re-do a website for a NH library. (Bobbi Slossar deserves credit for that.)

VII. Committee Reports

A. Advocacy – Vacant: No report.

B. Bylaws – Vacant: No report.

C. Conference – Vacant? No report.

D. Continuing Education – Barbara Prince: No report.

E. Intellectual Freedom – Mary Ahlgren: No report.

F. Legislative – Amy Thurber: Amy and Mike York attended the Legislative Day in Washington, DC. Mike focused on two issues: (1) support for increased base rates in LSTA for smaller states (Senator Sununu has already signed on); and (2) digitization of the talking books on tape to a flash drive format.

G. Membership – Tracey Lauder: No report.

H. Scholarship – Sarah Leonardi: A scholarship has been awarded to a librarian seeking her MLS in Public Health.

I. Ways and Means – Sean Fleming: No report.

VIII. Newsletter Editor – Rebecca Clerkin:

See discussion under "Old Business."

IX. Webpage Coordinator – Steve Butzel: Working on website with READS and READS-to-Go.

X. Liaison Reports

A. Center for the Book – Andrea Thorpe: No report.

B. NHAIS – Steve Butzel: We need a new rep.

C. NH State Library – Ann Hoey: Ann distributed copies of the YALS Bylaws for review. They are "strikingly similar to CHILIS!"

D. NH State Library Advisory Council – Katherine Hillier: No report.

E. Trustees Association – Ann Fabrizio: No report.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue A. Hoadley
Secretary

NOTE: All reports should be sent to Amy Thurber by second Tuesday of the month of the board is scheduled to meet.