

**New Hampshire Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
September 16, 2008
Local Government Center, Concord, NH**

Present: Amy Thurber, Steve Butzel, Carl Heidenblad, Sue Hoadley, Sea Fleming, Marie Lejune, Randy Brough, Ann Hoey, Christine Hague, Betsy Holmes, Sarah Leonardi, Mary Ahlgren, Barbara Prince, Mary Ann Senatro

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Amy Thurber, President.

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2008 board meeting as submitted was made by Sarah Leonardi and seconded by Sean Fleming.

III. Approval of Treasurer's Report: A motion to accept the treasurer's report for July 2008 as submitted was made by Sarah Leonardi and seconded by Sean Fleming. A motion to accept the treasurer's report for August 2008 was made by Chris Hague and seconded by Randy Brough.

IV. Officers Reports:

A. President – Amy Thurber: Amy said she had prepared a different kind of agenda to spend less time on reports and allow more time for business. Reports not submitted prior to the meeting could be shared at the end of the meeting, if time allows.

B. Vice-President/President Elect – Steve Butzel: Steve discussed the transition away from newsletter to the blog and procedures for allowing others to post on blog. He said he is looking for new blog authors and provided a hard copy of the online form for potential contributors to register. There are concerns about establishing guidelines for posting, and determining what is appropriate content for the blog, but he suggested seeing how many people are interested before worrying about guidelines.

Mary Ahlgren said, as Intellectual section chair, she was concerned about “appropriate content” statement. But, one guideline might be membership in NHLA. Steve said he had reviewed many guidelines from hundreds of listserv, some of which apply to libraries.

C. Treasurer – Carl Heidenblad: No report.

D. Secretary – Sue Hoadley: No report.

E. ALA Councilor – Rob Sargent: No report (absent).

F. NELA Representative – Judy Haskell: No report (absent).

IV. Old Business:

A. Conference Raffle Profits. There was an open discussion about possible uses for the approximately \$800 in profits from the spring conference raffles. Betsy Holmes suggested scholarships for MLS candidates. Randy Brough suggested putting it toward the Ann Geisel award. Steve mentioned seed money for new sections. Sean suggested sponsoring a READS to go bag. Amy said money could come from the NHLA board to get it started, but READS wanted libraries to sponsor the bags. Chris Hague said it's probably not realistic to make program self-sufficient. READS thought about looking for grants this year, but didn't. Marie Lejune asked what was done with it in the past? It wasn't clear, since it was a new committee. Some money left from last year. Betsy said maybe the sections should request money rather than the board trying to figure out who to give it to. Marie suggested presenting the profits to the sections on a rotating basis. Sarah pointed out that that could make it tough for sections to budget and plan. Mary suggested paying for a conference expense, like a speaker, making sure to give the raffle credit for funding it. Amy asked if the fall conference needed the funds. Steve said no. Mary Ahlgren made a motion to use the profits of both the spring and fall conference raffles for a speaker at the fall conference – except not this fall – this year the profits would be split between the coming spring conference for a fun activity. The motion was seconded by Sean Fleming. Motion passed.

Amy said she would go back to sections and coops and request raffles for next year.

B. Newsletter Postcard Update. Amy reported the information for the membership was on track.

V. New Business:

A. NHLA Spring Conference Profits. Amy said the profit from the Spring Conference was \$17,491.92, plus \$6000 in seed money that was not used. (See Annie Donahue's report for details.) Some of that will be used for planning the 2009 Spring Conference. After final expenses there will be about \$13,000 profit. Sean asked where the money came from. Vendors? Mostly attendees!

Sarah said this is good news. There was some concern about whether we could support our own conference. The question was whether to use money for better a conference or to reduce costs for attendees. Mary said the sections usually try to make a little bit of money with their conferences. Steve said the windfall was a surprise, but it was good to make some money. Chris thought more southwestern NH librarians from small libraries came this year because it was closer. Betsy suggested -- with all the banks crashing and other economic troubles -- sharing the profits with the membership this year. Not a lot of academics get reimbursed for conferences.

Randy said, bank it! In the past, those profits went away when a conference lost money. This year's committee should be congratulated for such a good job.

Marie said she ended up presenting a lot of programs herself with CHILIS, so she didn't get to attend herself. She'd like to see more paid speakers so members could actually attend.

Ann Hoey asked about the conference evaluations. There were lots of questions about future conferences, whether or not to continue with single or go back. Sarah said that question was addressed at last meeting – 164 of 300 attendees responded. One-third said they wanted a joint conference.

Amy asked if anyone wanted to present a motion on what to do with the profit from the 2008 Spring Conference. She said there was \$6000 left from the earlier seed money and approximately \$17,500 profit from conference.

Mary said we're also using half of the raffle money (\$400). Chris and Carl reminded the board that the \$6000 seed money was already appropriated and in budget.

Steve said the seed money is a loan to the conference committee -- to pay back – for upfront costs. Steve made a motion to leave the seed money for "loan" and give the 2009 spring conference committee \$6000 for the conference, seconded by Randy Brough.

Steve said approximately \$11,500 would stay in the general fund; it could also be used to defray costs to membership.

B. Adoption of YALS Bylaws. Amy said the bylaws had been accepted by executive board. Now it will go on the ballot for membership to approve the new section.

C. Structure of NHLA Membership. Amy asked why there are different bylaws for each section. How does it all fit together with NHLA membership? She said she's not thinking about making changes; just wondering if it was possible to streamline the procedures for the sections. Mary said the sections have different structures – for example, the IT section won't have a tradition board.

D. Professional Development Events. Amy said the section conferences are NHLA events -- how can we increase awareness of them? Chris suggested including NHLA at beginning of section name – NHLA-CHILIS, NHLA-READS, etc. Amy said she's not sure whether to go that far.... Sarah pointed out that you do have to be a member of NHLA to be a member of the sections, so members should be aware. Amy said she just wanted to reinforce that NHLA supports the sections. CHILIS just moved their website to NHLA's website. Mary said it's good to have to go to the NHLA website to get to CHILIS. That's a good reminder that the sections are “a section of NHLA.” Betsy added that the sections should encourage all members to read the blog. Academics will.

Marie suggested that the NHLA president should come to the CHILIS conference. CHILIS is represented here at this board; why not go back the other way? Amy said, that's a great idea.

Sarah mentioned the dissolution of the Advocacy Committee. It could have done internal education to membership and NH librarians, as well as public relations to the general public.

Ann said she was approached by someone to see if an advocacy tool could be used by state library -- a value calculator. Amy said it's time for something bigger that would be a resource to all.

Steve asked if NHLA speak out and support the State Library. Can we put ads on TV? The Massachusetts Library Association has a great campaign going.

Chris said we have problems with hiring. Also that image that librarians are not skilled, trained, professionals. The woman with bun who reads books when no one is there.

Betsy said maybe a subcommittee could work on this. Has NHLA ever hired a professional lobbyist? Randy said we have one -- primarily protecting libraries when legislation against them comes up. Steve said maybe we need a public relations consultant. The Advocacy Committee just wasn't able to commit the time. Steve said he will contact MLA and find out who they have hired.

Sue said she has done a lot of work with value calculators. She'll put together and forward it to Steve.

Amy asked if we were ready to move forward now?

Betsy said the Academic Section doesn't have a project right now; they'd be happy to work with Steve. Steve said he doesn't have a formal motion right now, but strongly supports. Amy said she'd like to help, too.

E. IT Section Bylaws. Mary made a motion to provisionally accept the IT section bylaws. (Steve didn't bring copies.) Accepted by board.

F. Frequency of Executive Board Meetings. Amy asked how the reduced schedule of board meetings was working? Mary suggested meeting every two months. Steve asked, not including conferences? Amy said no meeting at the Spring Conference; that was a mistake on her part. Fall, yes; it's built in.

Steve Butzel made a motion to meet every other month: November and December 2008; February, April, June, August, October, etc., 2009, seconded by Mary Ahlgren. Motion passed. Submit reports the Tuesday before.

G. November Business Meeting. Annual reports of sections are due the week before -- October 31. Email to Steve at (city of Portsmouth email address) and he'll post on blog.

H. Professional Development Opportunities. As with Coop Meetings – speakers – are a continuing education opportunity.

I. Heating Oil Group Rate for Library Buildings. Ann Robinson of Seabrook Library asked the Board to discuss this. Mary Ann asked what other libraries were doing for energy conservation. Amy about the Green Buildings program at Spring Conference.

Chris said READS did that. The information is not posted. There's a need to networking building information -- high performance, energy audit -- a central clearing house for info for libraries. Betsy said the IT and Academic sections are using Google groups. Steve said if not Google, try a wiki.

Mary added that PSNH does building audits.

J. Slate of candidates for NHLA elections. Mary Ahlgren made a motion, seconded by Steve Butzel, to accept the slate of candidates. Motion passed.

K. NHLA Archivist. This board position has been vacant for about 15 years. The last archivist was Matt Higgins, a state library employee. Our institutional history – as demonstrated today – is important. We have some limited space – three drawers? -- here at the Local Government Center. There may also some space at NHSL. Sue mentioned interest.

VI. Section Reports

- A. Academics – Betsy Holmes
- B. CHILIS – Marie Lejeune
- C. READS – Chris Hague
- D. Urbans – Mary Ann Senatro

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Advocacy -- Vacant
- B. Bylaws -- Vacant
- C. Conference – Annie Donahue
- D. Continuing Education – Barbara Prince
- E. Intellectual Freedom – Mary Ahlgren
- F. Legislative – Randy Brough
- G. Membership – Tracey Lauder
- H. Scholarship – Sarah Leonardi
- I. Ways and Means – Sean Fleming

VIII. Newsletter Editor – Rebecca Clerkin

IX. Webpage Coordinator – Steve Butzel

X. Liaison Reports

- A. Center for the Book – Andrea Thorpe
- B. NHAIS – Steve Butzel

- C. NH State Library – Ann Hoey
- D. NH State Library Advisory Council – Katherine Hillier
- E. Trustees Association – Ann Fabrizio

XI. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Next Meeting of the Board: Fall Conference and Annual Business Meeting,
Thursday, November 6, 2008, Crown Plaza Hotel, Nashua, NH.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue A. Hoadley
Secretary

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