



**New Hampshire Library Association Executive Board Meeting
April 19, 2011 / 2:00pm
Local Government Center, Concord**

Present: Lori Fisher, Carl Heidenblad, Sean Fleming, Judy Haskell, Amy Lappin, Cab Vinton, Pat Fickett, Randy Brough, Sarah Leonardi, Karin Heffernan, Annie Donahue, Diane Lynch, Mary Ahlgren, Michael York - NH State Librarian, Anne Hoey, Dorinda Howard and Amy Graves.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by V.P. Lori Fisher.

Introductions: The group did a quick round of introductions.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from February 15, 2011. Moved by Judy Haskell and seconded by Cab Vinton. The minutes were approved.

Presidents and Vice Presidents Report: Lori dispensed with the reading of these reports so that the Board could more quickly hear from the State Librarian. She then 'introduced' Michael York.

Report from the State Librarian:

Mary White invited Michael York, NH State Librarian to come and talk with the executive board about the State Library's position during the current state budget process. Michael thanked the board for the invitation and then asked Randy Brough to brief the board about the NHLA Lobbyist, Bob Dunn. Randy gave the board a brief overview of HB21 which currently has two amendments pending, one with a large reduction in van service, the other would reorganize the Department of Cultural affairs. Bob Dunn's assessment was that there didn't seem to be any way to stop the bill. Instead he (Bob Dunn, NHLA lobbyist) thought that the best approach would be to work with the Senate. Randy contacted 6 librarians whose Senators serve on the Senate's Finance Committee, In turn, these librarians spoke with their Senators and worked to neutralize the language regarding the van service. This appears to have been a successful strategy, although there are public hearings tomorrow on the budget and it is likely that a Committee of

Conference will be required in mid May to work out a more final version of a compromise budget.

Mike then spoke to the group. His strong feeling was that the budget should be developed through a standard process. Currently, the Senate is more organized than the House of Representatives. In the House, 25% of the membership is new and many longtime standard procedures have not been followed. The Senate, on the other hand, is more formal and more process driven. Since the amendment reducing the appropriation for the vans lacked a clear rationale, it was more effective to provide the Senate Finance committee with facts and make a case for retaining the service. The Amendment if passed would have required NHSL to cover the state with one van, a nearly impossible situation. Currently over 800,000 items are transported by 4 vans to NH libraries each year, in a very timely manner, at a cost of about 44 cents per item. The Senate Finance committee responded favorably to this information.

Michael concluded by stating that NHSL services to public libraries should continue as it is. Michael's goal is to proceed in such a fashion that public libraries would not feel the effects of these cuts. However, the State Library and its staff are clearly far from being out of the woods. If the legislature targets a 10 billion dollar cut in State spending this will clearly have a significant impact on the State Library. Laying off staff is a real possibility.

Michael complimented Randy Brough for his many years of work chairing NHLA's Legislative Committee and noted that a strategic and disciplined approach with the legislature has worked in the past and continues to work well.

Lori Fisher thanked Michael for coming and speaking to us and also extended a thank you to Randy for his work as Legislative Committee chair.

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's report: Sean Fleming passed out his written report. The current total for all NHLA funds including sections is \$172,662 per Citizen's Bank's statement of 3-31-11.

Sean referred the board to the detailed balance sheet and noted that he and the auditor are working together on some journal entries. It is likely that following these journal entries there will be a significant increase expected in unrestricted funds, with a corresponding decrease in restricted funds.

Sean has secured a debit card from Citizens. This will allow NHLA to deal with purchases that in the past have often been placed on personal credit cards. This will be more efficient in many ways.

ALA Councilor: Steve Butzel- Steve was not feeling well and was unable to attend.

Old Business: Unrestricted Funds.

Sean noted that the Association is in a fortunate place, where we can afford to consider and should move forward with funding a few additional mission related projects.

Requests for funding include:

- 1.) A mobile lab setup for NHSL technologist Bobbi Slossar to use in her training, and equally important, libraries could also use these machines for their own training events. \$4,500 was suggested by Judy as a starting amount. After further discussion it appeared that a bit more money than that was needed, and that in awarding this money, Bobbi should feel free to acquire a few technology devices as she needs them for training such as eReaders. Judy moved that we fund this project in an amount not to exceed \$6,000. Mary Ahlgren seconded and the motion was approved. Sean will work with Bobbi who would be free to spend, and then report.
- 2.) A Reads-to-Go request from Diane Mayr. Reads-to-Go would like to purchase 3 more kits at a cost of \$598.47. Mary Ahlgren asked for audio to go with all of the RTG kits. Cab Vinton suggested playaways. Lori suggested we refer the request back to READS, and Pat Fickett and Sarah Leonardi suggested that we increase the amount from 3 kits.

NHLA would be open to further proposals from Bobbi and or the NHSL.

Discussion of hiring a conference coordinator was tabled.

NHLA Specialists Network. Cab Vinton. This is not a mentoring project. Cab noted that it's a lengthy resource list of librarians with special expertise. The Board agreed that it is time to put the concept out to the Association as a whole, and see which members would be willing to offer their services as specialists. Participants would become resource persons with a short-term commitment. This is not intended as a full scale mentoring program.

Lori suggested putting it out to NHLA and see what the response was, perhaps during the registration process at conference. Mary Ahlgren suggested including a 'specialist' field in the NHLA membership form. Lori and Cab will work up a brochure with the intent of introducing this program at the Spring Conference.

Survey Monkey. There was a discussion regarding purchasing a 'full' subscription to Survey Monkey as there seem to be more instances where we would like to survey the membership. Judy Haskell moved that we purchase a subscription to this service and it was seconded by Karin Heffernan. The motion passed.

Academic Section Status. Karin Heffernan noted that 14 academic institutions participate in NHLA. Karin feels that at this point we are a 'public library' association, and that it may not make sense to have academics as a full section. However, she sees value in maintaining a liaison position, as there is the potential for valuable collaboration between academic and public libraries. She produced a white paper which laid out her thoughts on this issue. Mike York noted that in the past the Academic section used to be very vital, with many board members and committee members coming from the Academic section. Sarah Leonardi noted that the section bylaws provide the section with a process to 'resign' as a section. Then the NHLA executive Board would have to address the 'liaison' aspect. We will discuss this again next meeting.

Conference. Annie Donahue noted that many members of the conference committee are willing to continue to serve, but Diane Hathaway and Annie no longer feel that they can due to the press of business at their own institutions. Additionally, while many wish to continue to serve on the committee, no one is willing to serve as chair. Annie noted that the suggestion of hiring a conference coordinator seems to make some sense. Annie also talked about the possibility of a 'vendorless' conference. Regarding NHEMA, they are no longer interested in participating in a joint conference with us. Other collaborations may still be possible of course. However, at this time neither date nor place has been set for next year.

Membership. Mary Ahlgren noted that we now have 558 members. There had been discussion regarding having members renew effective the anniversary date of when they initially started their membership. Mary feels that there is no advantage to an anniversary renewal. The Local Government Center does not like this idea. Mary is recommending that we continue our membership renewal process as it is currently done, on an

annual renewal basis.

CHILIS. Amy Lapin. Amy and Ann Hoey recently attended the Collaborative Library Summer Reading Program meeting in AZ, where decisions were implemented for next year's materials.

IT. Cab Vinton. The IT section is going to plan quarterly, mini conferences. Their first will take place this fall, and they will host a gadget day. They hope to brainstorm "How to promote libraries as technology resource centers". The section is also working up a checklist of Technical competencies that would be useful in evaluating staff skills.

READS. Pat Fickett. The READS roundtables were very successful. Also, Mary Cronin is interested in working with the NHLA website. Pat also thanked the Board for considering the purchase of additional READS-to-Go kits.

Urbans. Randy Brough. Randy announced that there will be a Directors' roundtable on Cinco DeMayo day!

YALS. Ann Hoey. YALS is working on the Flume award. A stand-alone conference in Hampton is planned on September 29th, a Thursday. With author Amanda Nolls.

Advocacy. Sarah Leonardi. Snapshot Day went very well with over 200 photos received and more than 60 libraries participating. Karin complimented Sarah for organizing Snapshot Day, and all agreed it went extremely well. Sarah asked the group to consider "What can YOU do with the info you gathered during Snapshot Day?" Next Sarah will be focusing on the fall for the LGC conference. Program topics anyone?

Also as part of Snapshot Day in Laconia, Diane Lynch put together a Flat Fritz day and many pictures of Flat Fritz (like the book Flat Stanley) were taken throughout the library.

Bylaws. Sean Fleming. Nothing to report at this time.

Intellectual Freedom. Diane Lynch. Diane has been following the Patriot Act Sunset Act. Will Congress allow the act to Sunset away? Diane will keep us informed.

NHLA Continuing Education Classes. Ann Hoey reported that the classes were nearly full. There has been an extremely positive response.

NHAIS. Dorinda Howard reported that there is a new NHAIS server. Also,

the holdings maintenance module has been timing out, but this has been resolved. A statistics workup has just been completed.

Kids, Books and the Arts. Ann Hoey reported that they had received 61 grant applications.

Scholarships. Sarah Leonardi reported that the committee had received 2 applications. Residency requirements for applicants are still being researched and increasing the awarded amounts is being considered.

Website. Amy Graves. Amy suggested waiting on some of the re-design work for the website until any decisions on the association logos have been completed. Amy is working on a master calendar using Google calendar. Once ready it will be updated with info from sections and the sections and association folks will be able to do it themselves

Adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Carl Heidenblad, Secretary**