From the President

By Doris Mitton, President, NHLA

This past year was a learning experience for me as president of the Association. I attended Legislative Day in Washington, DC to help support the funding that comes to the New Hampshire State Library. This money is used for van delivery and database subscriptions among other things.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Board this year. I would like to share some of the business that got done. First, the Local Government Center will now be a van stop for our Association. Additionally, the Constitution and By Laws and budget were reviewed during the August Board Retreat. Andrea Thorpe did an excellent job with the PLA busses for our members to attend the conference in Boston. Finally, a young adult line item was established in the budget for special projects.

The members of the Board that volunteer for the Association are a great bunch to work with. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

URBANS 2006 Annual Report to NHLA

By Sue McCann, Urbans Representative to NHLA

Members of the Urban Libraries Section of New Hampshire Library Association are libraries in the state serving a population of at least 18,001 and are certified libraries as defined by the standards established by the New Hampshire State Library. The top two administrative positions in the member libraries are eligible to represent the libraries at Urbans meetings.

The organization’s objectives are:
1. To provide increased communication and information exchange among urban public library administrators.
2. To promote mutual understanding of library issues and problems statewide and nationally, and to address those issues.
3. To promote the marketing of the library as a resource for community development and civic infrastructure.
4. To achieve operational economies through cooperation.
5. To encourage development of professional management and leadership skills, and to apply those skills to librarianship.

2006 officers are:
- Chair: Janet Angus
- Vice Chair: Michelle Sampson
- Treasurer: Mary Ann Senatro
- NHLA Rep: Sue McCann

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Rochester, NH Public Library’s Celina Houlne received the 2006 Award Of Excellence from READS (Reference & Adult Services), a division of the New Hampshire Library Association. Houlne was recognized for outstanding service to the library customers of Rochester. As Circulation Supervisor, Houlne’s recent projects included a remote reservation system with which library customers can use their home computers to add themselves to a book’s waiting list. The award was presented at the Local Government Center in Concord during the READS 2006 Fall program and annual business meeting.

The topic of the program was NHewLink, and featured guest presenters such as Diana Degen and Bobbi Slossar from NHSL’s Electronic Information Resources Department.

Left to right: Sarah Leonardi (READS President; Librarian, Amherst Town Library); John Fuchs (Director, Rochester Public Library); Celina Houlne (2006 READS Award Recipient; Circulation Supervisor, Rochester Public Library); Claudia Mayer (READS Program Committee; Circulation Supervisor, Manchester City Library)

Left to right: Diana Degen and Bobbi Slossar, who provided comprehensive and detailed instruction on NHewLink services for about 100 librarians at the READS fall program.

Celina Houlne, Circulation Supervisor, Rochester Public Library, with READS Award Of Excellence, which now bears Houlne’s name for 2006 and which will be displayed in Rochester for the next year.
The meeting topics, dates and locations for 2006 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>No meeting due to weather</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Goal setting for 2006 and tour of the renovated and enlarged Laconia Public Library</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>No meeting due to PLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>NELINET workshop on Blogs, RSS and Wikis</td>
<td>Merrimack</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Policies relating to new technologies</td>
<td>Milford</td>
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<td>Jun 23</td>
<td>PLA – the aftermath: what have you/will you use from the conference in your library and tour of the new Portsmouth Public Library building (under construction)</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul-Aug</td>
<td>No meetings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>Downloadable audio books</td>
<td>Bedford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Special populations</td>
<td>Keene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>No meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Successful programs</td>
<td>Nashua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26 ’07</td>
<td>Goal setting for 2007</td>
<td>Concord</td>
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The consortium, along with member libraries, sponsored and paid for a full day NELINET Blogs, RSS and Wikis workshop for staff of Urban libraries. The workshop was held at the Bedford Public Library in May.

The Urbans bylaws were amended to reflect current practices of the organization at the May 26th meeting.

The Urbans will sponsor a program at the Spring 2007 NHLA Conference, as they have done in the past.

Sue McCann, Portsmouth, developed an Urbans website, which is part of the NHLA website at http://nh.gov/nhla/urbans.htm.

Cathy Beaudoin, Dover, is collecting information for the Urban Libraries Annual Salary Survey. The Excel spreadsheet form is online at http://nh.gov/nhla/urbrpts.htm. When data is collected the spreadsheet will be updated online.

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**NHLA Election Results**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and return their ballot. The 2007 NHLA officers are:

- **President**: Annie Donahue – UNH Manchester
- **Vice President/President Elect**: Amy Thurber – Canaan Town Library
- **Past President**: Dorris Mitton – Dalton Public Library
- **Secretary**: Dianne Hathaway – Goffstown Public Library
- **Treasurer**: Carl Heidenblad – Nesmith Library (Windham)
The NHLA Annual Fall Meeting and Conference was held on Thursday, November 2nd at the Capitol Center for the Arts (CCA) in Concord, NH. It was a rainy, gray day. It was awkward to unload the registration materials and keep an umbrella overhead, but as I approached the CCA the day brightened as I saw the marquis. It read: “NH Library Assoc. - Fall Conference - Library Outreach.”

Right out on Main Street, in downtown Concord, NHLA was on display. I continued with a smile until I got inside the building to discover that there was no power – the space was dimly lit by emergency lighting but overall it was dark. The CCA staff was working with the utility company to solve the problem, and by the time I finished unloading the car, the lights were on and the facility was ready to go a full forty-five minutes before the conference was to begin.

I thought to myself if this is how we start the day then things can only get better from here and I was NOT wrong. More than 100 librarians from around the state attended, and the agenda was a full one. The morning began with a panel presentation from our own Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). Members provided tips for talking to the press, and two folks from the press were on hand to answer questions and provide another perspective. In the second session, the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC) introduced some new initiatives and spoke about the myriad opportunities available to NH libraries. The morning ended with a treat - Chautauqua scholar, Barbara Miles, introduced us to Ruth Law, New Hampshire’s celebrated female aviator. It was an entertaining journey back through time and an enthusiastic performance that brought to life this feisty, independent woman.

The afternoon sessions were sponsored by the New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) Libraries Committee. The keynote speaker, Steven M. Cohen, is the creator of Library Stuff (http://www.librarystuff.net) a weblog dedicated to current and professional development for librarians. He has also been the contributing editor of the Internet Spotlight column for Public Libraries since 2001. His presentation focused on creating and implementing blogs and RSS feeds. It was a lively session and if you missed it, Steve provided a web link to his outline – check it out at http://stevenmcohen.pbwiki.com/NHLA2006. The final session of the day was a “Best Practices” panel made up of academic and public librarians sharing their innovative ways to reach patrons through technology.

This one-day annual meeting/conference format is a great opportunity for professional development and social networking with colleagues. I enjoyed putting the day together and I am grateful to the folks who stepped up to help out. I am marking my calendar for November 1, 2007 when Amy Thurber, our recently elected Vice-President and her committee, will offer the next annual NHLA Fall Meeting and Conference. You should pencil-in the date, you don't want to miss out on a great time!
Plan on joining us May 17 & 18, 2007 at the Mount Washington Hotel.