



The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

WELCOME JANICE CLARK

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

It has been said that if something needs to be done, ask someone that is already very busy to do it. This statement has been personified by Janice Clark, who was elected to the NHLTA Board of Directors at the May 2015 Annual Meeting. What she has done and continues to do is impressive.

Janice serves as a trustee for the Philbrick-James Library in Deerfield



and is a member of its Friends of the Library. She is a member of the Deerfield Fair Association, and of the Deerfield Historical Society. While her father was from Deerfield, she grew up in Portsmouth and continues her connections there by serving on the Boards of Missions and Christian Education for the Middle Street Baptist Church in Portsmouth. Janice's other Portsmouth affiliations include the Portsmouth Athenaeum and Historical Portsmouth.

Professional background experience includes overseeing the undergraduate program at the School of Business at UConn for 24 years

as Assistant Dean, employment as a fulltime librarian involved with elementary school outreach in St. Louis, MO, and as a coordinator of continuing education credit programs at VPI and SU in Blacksburg, VA. Janice's special skills in program planning, education and teaching and strategic planning bring great value to her role as Assistant Chair of the NHLTA Education Committee.

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2015 ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS

Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year: Catherine Willis, Plaistow Public Library

Library Director of the Year: Andrew Richmond, Rye Public Library

Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" Group: Friends of the Converse Library, Lyme

Library of the Year: Abbott Library, Sunapee

Congratulations to all for well-deserved recognition by their peers. In-depth reports of the presentations along with accompanying photos will appear in the Winter edition of the New Hampshire Library Trustee newsletter.

Article 1 in Friends Series:

CAN'T WE ALL BE FRIENDS?

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

In preparation for a workshop presented at the 2015 Spring Conference by library consultant Tom Ladd, NHLTA conducted a survey of Friends of the Library groups in April. The results reveal the challenges faced by many Friends groups, as well as their successes. This is the first of three articles which will explore several topics the survey identified as being of interest to Friends groups and the libraries and trustees who value their support.

Forty-six people participated in the survey, nearly half from towns with populations under 5,000, and another 30% from towns with population between 5,000 and 10,000. The vast majority (74%) were from groups that have been operating longer than 10 years, and 93% are incorporated as tax exempt charities under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. This article will focus on membership issues; future articles will cover successful

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Message from the President . . .

We are seeing an uptick in internal conflicts, albeit small relative to the number of New Hampshire libraries, but it prompts me to think we would be well advised to adopt a more preventive posture within the library community.

Unfortunately, the demands of running contemporary libraries have increased exponentially over the skills trustees and librarians found sufficient a generation ago. Beyond administrative competence, we must be mindful that our craft sail on turbulent seas. Global financial markets and cultural wars roil our waters and there are few safe harbors.

I simply want to remind that libraries are not tranquil islands and reinforce the need for all of us to keep our houses in good order.



Ed Moran
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Janice’s positive outlook on the *value of libraries* remains constant. She has had a long association with libraries, from being a student worker at the UNH library to recently working on the impact of technology in university libraries. As a librarian working with programs for children she would marvel at the wonder in their eyes as they came in to get their first library cards. She believes people will always look for knowledge and that libraries help facilitate that quest. A successful librarian provides a good atmosphere and helps people to expand their knowledge by providing the books and materials that they need. A trustee allows it to happen. Janice noted: “I value the many roles of libraries, from being repositories of our culture and history to being a link to the future through lifelong learning.”

Janice believes that the NHLTA is a great resource for libraries throughout the state. She was really impressed by the information she received at the NHLTA conference this past spring and thinks that the conference, orientations, and workshops are all valuable. Looking at the worth of information on a macro level, it is wonderful to get everyone in the state together to network and share the wealth. It is good to learn the names of other trustees and to be able to bounce ideas off others. On the micro level, a trustee can take the knowledge back to their local library.

Very much appreciated by Janice is the Philbrick-James Library in Deerfield. Janice said the librarian, staff, trustees and Friends of the Library engage in a joint effort to make the library a good place to work and to serve the community.

Thank you, Janice, for all you have done and continue to do for libraries. We are so pleased that you have joined the NHLTA Board of Directors.

Second notice membership renewal invoices were mailed September 1. Don't miss out on receiving NHLTA news and mailings.

Please note our new address:

**NH Library Trustees Assoc.
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301**

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“The NHLTA assists Trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote NH Public Libraries.”

WORKSHOPS

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

October 15 • 10:00 am–1:00 pm

NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

Online REGISTRATION only—www.nhlta.org

Whether you are a newly elected trustee or have a few years of service under your belt, this Trustee Orientation Workshop will provide you with the tools and information you need to be an effective library leader.

This workshop will cover the following topics and will include time to answer your questions.

NH Laws Relative to Public Libraries
Library Trustees—A Job Description
Establishing Policies for the Library
Budgets—The Process from Adoption to Management
Trustees as Employers
Trustee Meetings and the Right to Know Law
The Trustee as Library Advocate

Slides of the presentation are available for download on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

Note: There is no fee for this workshop and the registration deadline is one week prior to the session. Handouts and morning refreshments will be provided; please bring your own lunch. If you have any questions please contact Carol Snelling at c.snelling@nhlta.org.

LEADERSHIP BOOT-CAMP: A Workshop for Trustee Presidents/Chairs, Secretaries, and Treasurers

October 28, 2015 • 10:00 am–1:00 pm

NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

Online REGISTRATION only—www.nhlta.org

Do you hold one of these positions or think you might hold one of these positions in the future? Ever wonder how other boards function? Learn from seasoned Trustees who have held the position and share best practices. This workshop includes a working lunch (provided by NHLTA) with each officer category attendees sitting together with the speaker for that segment.

Sample topics may include:

President/Chair: how to run a meeting; handling public comment; putting the agenda together; dealing with personalities, “managing” the board; non-public sessions.

Secretary: Right-To-Know requirements relating to minutes; meeting announcements; regular meetings vs. non-public meetings; formats for minutes.

Treasurer: monthly reports: formats, content, tracking expenditures; banking; investments; town money vs. private money; relationship with town treasurer, town auditor.

Note: There is no fee and the registration deadline is one week prior to the session. Lunch and light morning refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Carol Snelling at c.snelling@nhlta.org.



NOTICE: FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Non-Profit Report Due in 2015

By December 31, 2015, all legally-organized nonprofits in New Hampshire must file the “2015 NON-PROFIT Report” with the NH Department of State, Corporate Division. Friends of the Library groups that are organized as nonprofits are also required to file every 5 years, in those years divisible by 5. The last required nonprofit filing was in 2010, and after the 2015 filing, the next one will be in 2020.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NHLTA NEWSLETTER

Do you have a great idea for an article for the NHLTA newsletter? We encourage you to submit articles and photos to us for consideration. Topics could include events, programs, announcements or a recent success.

Please e-mail all submissions to the Editor, Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org.

The New Hampshire Curmudgeon Beginning Again

As we find ourselves further along life’s trail and friends begin to leave us, where better to establish new friendships than the local library? New friends can be a new beginning for us through the common interest of great books. Grieve privately but see the opportunity awaiting us to enrich our later years. As some of our old book authors pass to the great library in the beyond, there are many new author friends and friends in the flesh waiting to share their experiences and imagination with us.

How fitting it is that the group in most libraries that provides funding, physical help, and encouragement is called “The Friends” of the library. Are you looking to become involved in your local library and are not sure where to begin? Join the “Friends” and begin to see where ***you can make a difference.***

fund-raising ventures and the many ways Friends groups contribute to their libraries.

How Many Friends Does It Take to Support a Library?

This twist on the old lightbulb joke has at least two answers: 1) the number of people listed as Friends (paying annual dues or contributing funds to the Friends), and 2) the number of people who show up for meetings and do the heavy lifting, often referred to as the “active members.” In our survey, 52% of respondents reported membership of 25 or fewer, while 22% cited membership exceeding 100. For those who become discouraged because 20 people or fewer do all the work while 100-250 or more are passive participants, take heart. This division of active/passive members is almost universal, not only at libraries, but in many other non-profit membership organizations.

The most common reasons cited in the survey as to why groups are struggling to grow or even maintain membership included:

- Too many years of a small number of volunteers doing everything;
- No regular meetings, no organized efforts to recruit new members;
- Busy schedules, with many prospective members more involved in other aspects of town life, such as PTA;
- The difficulty of getting “younger” residents (30-40 age group) to commit to ongoing volunteer positions; the new generation is busier and less apt to volunteer;
- Completion of the project that originally attracted volunteers to fund-raising activities.

What Can Friends Do to Increase Their Membership?

A number of survey respondents shared strategies they have employed to recruit new members or to engage more members to move from the passive to the active column.

Enhancing the visibility of the Friends is one common tactic. “We have been attempting to increase our visibility by participating in town meeting, town fair, parades, and library signage,” wrote one member from Chester. “We have done many raffles and bake sales, had T-shirts printed up with the Friends logo (which we wear whenever participating in an event), and we always label gift purchases made for the library so people are aware of how we spend funds.”

Secrets to Membership Success

- A fun, friendly atmosphere
- Strong leadership and enthusiasm
- Lots more communication, increasingly electronic
- New and different events to bring different people into the mix

Meredith capitalizes on their exposure during their fabulous book sales: “We bought tote bags with our logo on it. When people show up for our book sales, we offer to let them join the Friends, give them a free tote bag with their membership and let them fill the tote for free just that once at the sale. Really helped to grow members.”

Many cited “word of mouth” as the way they acquire most new members, and offered several strategies in this vein. One group asks existing members to bring a friend to a meeting, and in another town members promote the friends at other organizations to which they belong, like the historical society, women’s club or PTA. How else can you spread the word? As a Goffstown Friend wrote: “Promotion, promotion, promotion! Facebook, the newspaper, chatting to everyone who will listen!”

“The dedication and love that our group has is ongoing regardless of the size of this group. We love our library.”

— Linda Skidmore, VP
Friends of the Hampstead Public Library

Some other groups have tried to sweeten the deal with special members-only benefits. In Barrington, the library offers Friends an extra week on any book loans (4 weeks instead of 3) and a 50% discount on copying fees. Friends also get first choice of plants at their annual perennial sale if they help during the set-up or the sale. In Nashua, a membership drive was launched with 10 gift baskets of books and other items displayed in the library. When people buy or renew their membership during the month of January, they get a raffle ticket for the baskets. The Nashua Friends also sponsored a One City, One Book author event, open to the public (\$10 ticket). A private reception with the author beforehand was only open to Friends, which brought in a number of new members.

Another challenge is recruiting the younger segment of the community and identifying new leadership for the group. Because many people join organizations for the social interaction they offer, one group meets in the local pub in a back room and combines the meeting with a social exchange. Another recruits parents whose children attend library programs. These younger patrons brought some great programming ideas they knew would interest their children, such as a Lego league. To encourage new leaders to step forward, one respondent wrote, “A real effort has been made to bring in new members for leadership, with lots of advertising for these new positions. Folks are attracted by specific ‘job descriptions’.” Several noted that “big fundraising goals or projects tend to bring new people out to volunteer and many are then engaged in the group.”

Next Article in the Series: **Show Me the Money!** 

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Brian Sylvester, Library Director

The Rochester Public Library grew out of a Social Library, originally founded in the home of a local citizen in 1792. The Social Library grew over time, until in 1893 the Free Public Library, as it was then known, was established by the city, originally located at the north end of the Barker Block at 42 South Main Street. In 1896 the city purchased the John McDuffee lot on Wakefield Street and relocated the library. The Library continued to grow at this location for a little over eight and a half years. In the meantime, city residents corresponded with Andrew Carnegie, and with funds he donated the Rochester Public Library was built on South Main Street in 1905. Though renovated and expanded throughout the years, the Rochester Library is still at this location, and much of the building's original woodwork, shelving, and exterior have been preserved.



Before the renovations in the early 90s, the Rochester Public Library housed a small museum collection of various items, including a seashell collection that is still remembered by many long-time Rochester residents. Those collections were largely donated to the Rochester Historical Society. Now, through a partnership with the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, the Library maintains permanent display space on two floors for museum-owned artwork that changes several times a year. Monthly displays from local artists are featured on the main floor in addition to RMFA's permanent exhibit. The Library's gallery recently was recognized for 'Excellence in Art Venue' by the city's arts and culture commission.

The Rochester Public Library serves a growing community of over 30,000 residents. The 25,000 square foot facility has three floors, two meeting rooms, subscriptions to over 200 magazines and newspapers, and a collection of roughly 80,000 titles. RPL has a full service children's library, dedicated to the memory of Sam and Anna Belinsky. The family of the Belinskys made a \$50,000 contribution to a capital campaign in 1997, which was used to expand and refurbish the children's room. RPL also features a teen room on the main floor, a magazine reading room, and a designated quiet study space in the reference room. By population served, Rochester Library is the sixth largest public library in the state of New Hampshire, and recently became the first public library in NH to implement a radio-frequency identification (RFID) based security and circulation system. RPL offers 14 public computing stations, wired and wireless printing, building-wide wireless internet, and access to online databases for topics as varied as foreign language learning and automotive repair. RPL participates in the statewide consortium for downloadable E-books and audio books, and recently added Freegal, a service providing streaming and downloadable music and video.

A seven-member board of Library Trustees, appointed by the city council, provides governance on Library policy and administration. The trustees meet monthly except in the summer, and each trustee represents one of the city's six wards—the seventh trustee is appointed as the city manager's designee. The Library is considered a city department, and the Library Director serves on the city's Management Team alongside department heads such as police, fire, and economic development. RPL has 25 employees, 11 of whom are full time. Additionally, two city employees are permanently assigned to the Library; a full time IT technician from Municipal Information Systems, and a full time custodian from the Department of Public Works. Financially, Rochester Public Library is supported in three ways: by the city's general fund, by revenue raised from fines and membership dues, and through a number of small trust funds. The budget is supplemented by the efforts of the Friends of the Rochester Public Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit group that raises money to support the Library.

The Mission of the Rochester Public Library is to provide residents of its community access to resources that support lifelong learning, literacy, and personal cultural enrichment.



Karen Sheehan Lord



The Board of the NHLTA is saddened by the sudden death of Director Karen Sheehan Lord. She was also a long-time trustee at the Manchester City Library. Karen was a member of the Communications Committee and served as Feature Editor of the NHLTA newsletter. As a member of the Education Committee, Karen was involved in the planning of NHLTA workshops and the annual conference. We will miss her sage advice, her calm and reasoned approach to all issues, and her willingness to contribute her skills to whatever task needed to be accomplished.

In Loving Memory

On July 28, 2015 the Manchester City Library lost a dear member of our family, Library Trustee Karen Sheehan Lord. Karen has served on the Library's Board of Trustees since 1990 and carried on a family tradition of service to the library. Karen was actively involved in the Manchester Community after her retirement from the Manchester School District. Her artistic style assisted us on many library renovations and projects, including the celebration of the Carpenter Memorial Library's Centennial last year. Karen was an avid gardener and the library's grounds are home to many plants from her gardens. Karen also served as a Director on the New Hampshire Library Trustee Association Board and as a Trustee on the board at the Canterbury Shaker Village.

Her interest in mysteries was well known and many of us on the staff have read her numerous recommendations over the years. She has hooked many of us on new authors and she greatly enjoyed discussing books on her visits to the library. The library staff and her fellow Trustees will miss her presence, her smile, her laugh and her dry sense of humor. To say it was an honor and a privilege to have known her would be an understatement. We offer our condolences to her family, friends and colleagues as we also mourn her loss.

— Denise M. van Zanten
Library Director
Manchester City Library

NHLTA CIRCULATING VIDEO COLLECTION

Videos that were recorded at NHLTA Conference sessions are available for circulation from the Manchester City Library.

HELP!

Does your library need help? Are your trustees tired? Do you need a bigger budget or building? Are you exhausted by trying to “defend” the library? Learn the steps toward a successful library campaign and how to effectively build relationships with local government to collaborate for a better library, and a better town! Melissa Prefontaine, trustee from Langdon Library in Newington, explains it all in this video, **“How to Fight for the Library (and not with the town): Collaborating with Town Officials.”**

FIRM FOUNDATION

Explore the advantages—and disadvantages—of forming a Foundation. What it is—and is not; how a foundation can be used; understanding applicable RSA's; and whether a Friends group is a better choice. Terry Knowles, Assistant Director of Charitable Trusts at the NH Department of Justice and a recognized authority on charitable trusts and foundations, offers expert advice in this video, **“Firm Foundation: When a Library Needs One.”**


BE A BFF

The ideal local public library serves the community well: led by Trustees, run by staff, and supported by Friends. These three groups have the same general goal, but fine-tuning the working relationships can be “interesting.” In this video, Tom Ladd, well known NH Librarian, Consultant, and Trainer, guides and explores the ways to make a Friends Group work in **“Making Friends with Friends.”**

WARRANT ARTICLES BASICS

Learn how to make your library more visible to the community and to communicate more effectively about its value. Data-driven insights into voter attitudes are explored in a practical discussion about ways to market and advocate for your warrant article. In this video, **“Planning a Warrant Article: Advance Planning for Effective Advocacy,”** John Chrastka, Founder and Executive Director of *EveryLibrary* and president of the Board of Trustees for the Berwyn, IL Public Library will lead you along the path to success.

CIRCULATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make your request to the Manchester City Library using InterLibraryLoan; reference NHLTA Videos plus the Video Title using this email address: mcill@manchesternh.gov or through NHU-PAC.
2. If you are a GMILCS (Greater Manchester InterLibrary Cooperative System) Library cardholder, you can borrow the video directly from the Manchester City Library or request one and have it sent to your GMILCS Library. 

TRUSTEE PROFILE

By Cara Barlow, Library Director
Derry Public Library

Elizabeth Ives, Derry Public Library, Trustee from 1995–2004 and 2007–present. Previously served as Treasurer and Vice Chair and currently serves as Chair. Member of the NHLTA from 1995–present. Former NHLTA Director and President of Board and former member of the NHLTA Conference Planning Committee. Awarded Trustee of the Year, 1998.

Anyone who's met Elizabeth Ives knows that she's a force of nature. I took the opportunity to ask her a few questions for the NHLTA newsletter; I enjoy Elizabeth and what she has to say, and hope that NHLTA readers will too.

— Cara Barlow, Director, Derry Public Library

Q: *What was your favorite book when you were growing up?*

Ives: I grew up in a family of readers. My dad read to us every night, the four of us hanging off him and his chair. One of the books he read to us that I dearly loved was *Rolf in the Woods* by Ernest Thompson Seton. Rolf meets an Indian named Quonab and they and a dog named Skookum have many adventures together. When they were out in the woods and it was time to do the dishes, they would put the dishes down for the dog to lick. I thought that was swell!

My mother read poetry to us. I remember one poem in particular—Richard Corey by Edward Arlington Robinson. Richard Corey is a man who has seemingly everything, but then commits suicide. One line was “He glittered when he walked” and I can remember having long discussion with my siblings about what that could possibly mean.

Q: *How has your life experience informed your work as a library trustee?*

Ives: Well, I worked in theater mostly (as a stage manager). My family was and continues to be great readers, so books were honored.

When you work in theater you have a goal, you work hard and take risks to reach that goal. That's what I feel libraries do. They try new things, take risks, sometimes it works out, sometimes not, but you've tried! And that's good.

The other thing, big time, and it's both a blessing and a curse, is attention to detail. When you're a stage manager you notice details, such as whether or not the props are set correctly, if an electrical outlet is placed in the correct spot or even something small like the trash needing to be emptied. So I still notice those sorts of things when I walk through the library.

Q: *What part of being a trustee do you enjoy the most?*

Ives: I like policy making. I like thinking about the what-ifs. I know it's weird, but I enjoy it.

Q: *What three things would you say to a new library trustee?*

Ives: Really study New Hampshire RSA202-A and RSA91-A. The library laws (202-A) give authority to trustees, and 91A is about how to hold meetings, particularly nonpublic meetings. There are so many violations of that law—it's important to know it.

Learn how to read the budget. It takes a while. Don't get discouraged. If you need help ask whoever keeps the books for your library. Don't be afraid to ask more than once!

Read your library's job descriptions. Get to know the personnel and how they do their jobs. You need to know what the staff is being held accountable for; they enable the library to function. It's not a library without staff.

Q: *Do you think public libraries will be relevant in the future and why?*

Ives: Absolutely.

I think the community will play a bigger and bigger role. Residents will use the library as a place to meet, connect with others and learn. I'm all for libraries becoming more prominent centers of community activities as long as they (libraries) don't lose sight of their purpose.

As to why—as more and more technology becomes available, it will also be increasingly important for libraries to be there to sift through what's available to and locate good information for users.

Libraries are also the only public entities trying to bridge the digital divide, providing access and support for those who don't have personal computers or Internet access.

If libraries continue to preserve the past, inform the present and inspire the future, then they will continue for a long time. 📖



Elizabeth Ives with a young violinist after the December 2014 Christmas Open House

MILDRED P. MCKAY

New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942–1964

By Mark Branoff, NHLTA Director

2015 is the 50th Anniversary of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association's (NHLTA) Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. In recognition of this anniversary, a brief biography, focusing on Mildred P. McKay's library career, follows.

“An institution,’ Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, ‘is the lengthen shadow of one man’. The New Hampshire State Library is just such an institution. For more than two decades the lengthen shadow of a remarkable person—Mrs. Mildred McKay.”¹

Like every real professional, Mrs. McKay served an apprenticeship. After graduating from Wheaton College, she worked four years as an assistant in the Nashua Public Library. Then, after a year's study at Simmons College which led to a degree in library science, she became librarian at Colby Junior College. “In her eight years at Colby, she became known as one of the state's most promising young librarians.”²

Mildred P. McKay was appointed New Hampshire State Librarian on September 1, 1942 by Governor Robert O. Blood, succeeding State Librarian Miss Thelma Beckett. “In less than two decades she became one of the nation's best known and respected state librarians.”³

A formidable challenge for one so young, Mrs. McKay's first task was the merger of the New Hampshire State Library with the Public Library Commission, which had operated the state's bookmobile service as an independent agency. Despite wartime shortages of personnel, material and money, the State Library continued to expand and improve its service. In the slightly more than two decades that she was State Librarian, circulation rose four-fold.²

A pioneer in the development of interstate library cooperation, she conceived the idea of the bi-monthly “North Country Libraries”, published jointly by the state libraries of New Hampshire and Vermont, which won the H. W. Wilson Library Periodical Award. She was also instrumental in the North Country Libraries Film Cooperative with Maine and Vermont. Mrs. McKay was one of the first to recognize the need for interstate compacts and took an active part in the development of model legislation which has been subsequently adopted by many other states.³

Within New Hampshire, Mrs. McKay carried interlibrary cooperation many steps further. Smaller, nearby libraries were encouraged to pool book orders, placing them through the State Library. Regional cooperatives were formed by more than forty towns. The cost savings were substantial.²

Through Mrs. McKay's encouragement, Public Library Techniques courses were established for public library

personnel, local Friends of Libraries groups developed and library trustees were organized formally, including NHLTA in 1957. Because of her strenuous efforts, legislation creating the Statewide Library Development Program passed.³

Mrs. McKay was most remembered in the state's political circles for inducing Governor Lane Dwinell and the Executive Council in 1957 to approve an unprecedented public relations contract for improving the statewide image of libraries.³

Mrs. McKay engaged UNH's Government Department in 1960 to make a survey of all library services in the state, which resulted in Governor Wesley Powell appointing a Governor's Committee for Better Libraries. “On many occasions, the State Department of Administration & Control informed sitting Governors and Legislatures, that Mrs. McKay was an astute, effective administrator with extraordinary executive abilities.”⁴

A native of New Hampshire, Mrs. McKay received an A.B. degree from Wheaton College in 1929 and a B.L.S. degree from the Simmons School of Library Service in 1933. On April 20, 1959, the University of New Hampshire presented her the “Ben Thompson Citation”, “in recognition of a life and career marked by exceptionally meritorious service.”⁵ In 1961, as an alumnus, Wheaton College awarded her an honorary M.A. degree in recognition of her achievements.

Mrs. McKay held several committee appointments in the American Library Association, including the Standards Committee for State Libraries. She was a Director of the New England Library Association and was President of the NH Library Association, 1939–1941. She was Chairman of the State Public Library Commission, 1940–1943. In 1956, she was President of the American Association of State Librarians. She wrote many articles for professional journals.³ In 1956, she testified before a Congressional Committee on the National Library Services Act. In 1963, she testified again on an expanded Library Services & Construction Act.⁴ She was widely and favorably known throughout the nation.²

On May 10, 1964, University of New Hampshire awarded Mrs. McKay an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) degree. For the degree presentation, UNH President John M. McConnell wrote about McKay: “... for thirty-five years you devoted yourself to bringing books to people, and people to books. As a young assistant librarian in Nashua, as the librarian of Colby Junior College, and for twenty-two years as the New Hampshire State Librarian, you performed this double task with love, skill and an energy that left your associates breathless. You were the guiding

spirit behind 'North Country Libraries', a prize-winning magazine which has done much to improve library service in New Hampshire and Vermont. You strengthened the New Hampshire State Library until today it is one of the finest of its size in the nation. Most important of all, through all these years you lavished your energy and devotion upon the goal of getting books and people together, from the smallest toddler to the most senior citizen. You are an educator in the noblest sense of the word..."⁶

In June 1972, the State Library dedicated the McKay Reading Room. In honoring Mrs. McKay at that time, Governor Walter Peterson said, "We have known many, many fine administrators in state government who commanded our respect for their dedication. In that respect Mildred McKay was outstanding."³

Due to declining health, Mrs. McKay elected to retire early as State Librarian in 1964. After retirement, Mrs. McKay and her husband, Mr. Austin B. McKay, moved to Arizona. She passed away there in 1984.

In remembering Mrs. McKay, former Governor Sherman Adams remarked that she "had developed a professional capability of displaying an interest in the problems of every person who had anything to do with her institution—she was a real professional who worked for everybody."³

In 1965, NHLTA formally established the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund with the New Hampshire Charitable Fund. The scholarship fund is now managed and invested by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. A brief historical perspective on the scholarship fund was printed on page 11 of the Spring 2014 NHLTA newsletter, "New Hampshire Library Trustee." Criteria for Mildred P. McKay Scholarship eligibility and a scholarship application can be found on NHLTA's website, www.nhlta.org.

The author thanks Michael York, New Hampshire State Librarian, for supplying the McKay reference materials so that this article could be prepared.

¹ Dr. Robert B. Dishman, Prof. of Government, UNH, and Chairman, NH State Library Commission, "North Country Libraries", March–April, 1964

² Robert B. Dishman, "North Country Libraries", March–April, 1964

³ Shirley Gray Adamovich, NH State Librarian, "Granite State Libraries", May 1984

⁴ Hamilton S. Putnam, April 1984

⁵ Mildred P. McKay's "Ben Thompson Citation", University of New Hampshire, April 20, 1959

⁶ Mildred Peterson McKay's L.H.D. Diploma, University of New Hampshire, May 10, 1964 

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NHLTA is actively seeking volunteers to work on a project-by-project basis or on a long-term basis. Do you have skills to share to fill in some gaps? Are you looking for something to sink your teeth into in support of libraries?


The NHLTA Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of current and former library trustees. We need help in the following areas:

Education: Help us put together exciting and educational annual conferences, orientation sessions for new trustees, and topical workshops.

Technology: We need a computer savvy person with experience working with MSWord, Excel, PowerPoint, and Photoshop. Knowledge of MailChimp and SurveyMonkey would be a plus.

Communications: Support the Editor in creating our quarterly newsletter with content, regional reporting, and feature articles.

For information on how to volunteer with the NHLTA, please contact Loring Webster at l.webster@nhlta.org or Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org with an estimate of the time you can offer, areas of interest, and special skills.

If you care about libraries and want to make a difference, volunteering with NHLTA is a great way to do it! 

Friends Plant Sale



Lisa Hanson, Barrington

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know is the location of the library."

— Albert Einstein

Ask the Curmudgeon at www.nhlta.org

Dear Curmudgeon,

The dog ate my library card. Now how will I be able to borrow a book?

— Petlover

Dear Petlover,

Bring your dog in quickly and we will try to scan his/her stomach. If not, you need to check the yard. Lastly, you may need to get a new card.

— Thank you for asking The Curmudgeon

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The content provided by this FAQ is for informational purposes only. It is not and should not be considered legal advice. Additional FAQs are available on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

QUESTION:

Our board has a tradition of rotating the position of President (Chair) so that all the trustees get an opportunity to be in the position. Is this an advisable practice?

ANSWER:

This is not advisable because the job requires special skills that not everyone has. It is important that you select a president or chair who has the skills needed to succeed in this leadership role. The following are some desired attributes:

1. A good understanding of library services, the library budget, library issues and problems, and the applicable RSAs.
2. The ability to develop and maintain a good working relationship with the other board members and with the library director.
3. The ability to lead the board in problem-solving and guide the library toward better service to the community.
4. The ability to be an effective spokesperson for the board of trustees and the library.
5. The ability and willingness to develop political relationships with key government officials. 📖

CONSERVATION LICENSE PLATE GRANTS

“Moose Plate Grants”



<https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose>

The NH Division of Historical Resources Conservation License Plate Grant Program awards grants through this program for a maximum of \$10,000 for the preservation and restoration of publicly owned historic resources.

Below are some types of projects that **ARE** eligible.

- Preservation projects for publicly owned historic buildings, bridges, cemeteries and other historically significant resources that are eligible for or listed to the N.H. State Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Places.
- Conservation, stabilization, and/or preservation of significant publicly owned historic artifacts and archaeological sites.
- Projects that preserve historical properties owned by towns, cities and counties or by state and federal agencies.
- Projects that do not request more than the \$10,000 grant maximum.

Below are some types of projects that **ARE NOT** eligible.

- Projects for privately owned historic resources.
- Archaeological research.
- Engineering studies or reports.
- Preservation projects that do not demonstrate adherence to the Secretary of the Interior Standards.
- Applications from any organization submitting more than one Conservation License Plate Grant application to the N.H. Division of Historical Resources for a project or projects in a single grant cycle.
- Applications from any organization submitting Conservation License Plate Grant applications to more than one of the Department of Cultural Resources' divisions for a project or projects in a single grant cycle.
- Work that has been begun or completed, in any part, prior to N.H. Division of Historical Resources Conservation License Plate grant award acceptance by the Governor & Council.

If you have any questions about the Division's Conservation License Plate Grant Program or have a project idea you would like to discuss regarding eligibility for this program, contact the Grants Coordinator, Deborah Gagne at 271-3559 or by email: deborah.gagne@dcr.nh.gov. 📖

MY BOOKSHELF

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

For the past several years, two of my friends and I have been emailing each other about books we have read and whether or not we recommend them as good reading. We do not always agree but through our emails, which we have designated MY BOOKSHELF, we have introduced each other to new authors, new ideas and reading entertainment for sure. Some of the books I mention below were recommended; others I found by perusing the shelves of my local library.



Among the authors whose books I had not previously read but really liked was Laura Lipmann who produces some page turner mysteries. Famous news correspondent Tom Brokaw who wrote about what he called The Greatest Generation (World War II soldiers and veterans) as well as his recent battle with cancer is another author to be admired.

I enjoyed *Swimming to Antarctica* by Lynn Cox. This is a true account of a girl who met the challenges of swimming in difficult open waters such as the English Channel, the Strait of Magellan, the Cook Strait of New Zealand, and then to Antarctica. She won many prizes and acclaim as being the first or among the first to break records by accomplishing these daring feats.

The *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah is yet another story of the horrors of war but is positive in that it reveals the courage that one girl demonstrated to save many lives. *It Doesn't Take a Hero* by H. Norman Schwarzkopf seemed intimidating when I first hefted its 503 pages, but it was truly interesting and very readable.

I especially liked the multi-award winning *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kruger and would recommend it as worthwhile reading. It is both a mystery and a story of a teenage boy trying to understand the world around him. My favorite of all is *The Boys in the Boat* authored by Daniel James Brown. A crewing team of nine Depression Era boys from the State of Washington pull together in their quest for gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and demonstrate that it is **trust in each other that makes a winning team.**

What have you read recently? I realize we do not all have the same tastes in subject matter but it would be interesting to learn what titles and authors you think others would like to know about. The name of this column could be changed to Our Bookshelves.

Please e-mail suggestions to a.knight@nhlta.org. 

NORTHWOOD CHESLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SENIOR CAFÉ

By Margaret Walker, Trustee
Chesley Memorial Library, Northwood


The Librarian and Trustees started talking about adding programs for Seniors in September 2013 and made that one of our goals in our Five Year Strategic Plan. Donna Bunker, our librarian, heard about the Alzheimer's Café in Durham and decided to take her mother-in-law there to check it out in early June 2014. It was a small group and one of the Durham participants was from Northwood. That same June, a "Memory Café" formed in Northwood at a local café.

The Northwood Chesley Memorial Library Senior Café started in July 2014 and has been a success from its beginning. The Senior Café has become a fixture each Monday from 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. The Library Staff and Trustees supported the concept of Senior gatherings in an effort to meet the needs of our older citizens.


Some Mondays have small groups in attendance, but for most Mondays, our big table is full with great conversation and fun. What is a Senior Café? A place to gather and socialize for older folks from Northwood and surrounding towns. (The library is handicap accessible so don't let that stop you from joining us.) The heat is on in the winter and the air conditioner is on in the summer, so it's a perfect place to keep warm or cool while meeting up with friends! Participants come to share stories, pass time with old friends and meet new ones. There is no specific program planned for each week; we might talk about books, make decorations for the library, listen to local musicians, play Trivial Pursuit, or we might just visit and enjoy each other's company. Light refreshments are always served.

Over time, as the word has spread, more musicians and entertainers have found their way to our Monday Senior Café. Consider bringing an elder to our library for a good time.

Caretakers are welcome to stay with seniors for the café but can also enjoy some time away on their own, if appropriate. Our purpose is to provide a place for Senior gatherings and activities that would allow caregivers a short respite to pursue personal activities.

Chesley Memorial Library continually seeks to meet the needs of the community and our setting is often referred to as a community center as we have a small space that is filled with continuous activity. Our Seniors are happy with this program and come back each week with interest and great enthusiasm. 

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NETWORKING

NHLTA encourages networking among trustees. If you need help organizing, contact Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org. We will publish your meeting date/time/location in the NHLTA newsletter and on the website calendar: www.nhlta.org. Area groups that have had gatherings are: Greater Hooksett Area, Monadnock Area Trustees, North Country Trustees, Seacoast Region Trustees, Rockingham-Strafford Counties Trustees, and Souhegan Valley Area Trustees. Check with your neighboring library trustee boards and enjoy the benefits of meeting your peers and learning from each other. 



**New Hampshire
Library Trustees Association**
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CALENDAR 2015

October 7	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
October 15	10:00–1:00 p.m.	Orientation Workshop NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
October 25–27		NELA/NHLA Conference: <i>Back to the Future, Libraries in 2015</i> New England Library Assoc. & NH Library Assoc. joint conference Radisson Hotel, Manchester
October 28	10:00–1:00 p.m.	Leadership Boot Camp: A Workshop for Trustee Presidents/Chairs, Secretaries, and Treasurers NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
November 4	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
December 2	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

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