

Lillian Edelmann



Lillian Edelmann, aka Big Lil, began her love affair with New Hampshire libraries when she was first recruited to run for library trustee in Twin Mountain in 1969. Her thirst for knowledge about what it means to be a trustee was relentless as she went about canvassing the North Country libraries.

Sensing a need for education among library trustees she began her long association with the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association in 1993 and was immediately elected Vice President. She has been a guiding force ever since and has served as President twice and has chaired the Education Committee for a very long time.

Over the years she has sponsored suitable director candidates and mentored them to provide necessary services to trustees throughout the State. Her legacy to the State of New Hampshire is that today the NHLTA is one of the strongest library trustee organizations in the country.

She was the driving force behind a movement of library supporters to successfully petition the State legislators to declare once and for all that New Hampshire libraries should remain autonomous from local government (RSA 202-A:6 adopted April 16, 2000).

Lil Edelmann decided to retire from active NHLTA activities the first of this year but the Board of Directors decided at the March 6, 2013 Board meeting it would be most fitting to appoint her the first Emeritus Director. She will forever be welcomed at any NHLTA function, meeting, workshop, etc.

She is known throughout the New Hampshire library world for her numerous quotes regarding libraries such as “Libraries are the Heartbeat of Democracy,” “Libraries are the citizens’ free university,” “Knowledge is Power” and many more.

Leading by example, Lil has always had that “fire in the belly” where libraries are concerned. She is our mentor, our friend, and our inspiration.

— Loring Webster, Vice President
NH Library Trustees Association
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