



The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ENJOYED BY A RECORD CROWD

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

There was something for everyone at this year’s Spring Conference. The keynote address by Norm Jacknis set the stage, challenging participants to explore the changing role of the public library. As one attendee commented, “The transition from library as book museum to library as vital public center resonated.”

But some noted that while the ideas Mr. Jacknis shared were excellent, they were “not sure our town or library is ready for such steps,” while others questioned how his ideas “can be applied to our small town libraries with small budgets.” That kind of response is the mark of a good opening address, in that it shows we



have been challenged to think outside of our usual frame of mind. Perhaps the most powerful take-away was summed up by one trustee: Jacknis gave us brilliant advice on how to get started—“Just do one thing.”

According to the evaluations submitted by attendees, most of the speakers hit the mark, imparting valuable

information and engaging well with their audiences. Many commented that they attended workshops that addressed specific issues they are working on at their libraries. For example, one person wrote, “We’re in the process of creating our library’s brand and Ms. Doucett’s presentation [‘Creating

—continued on page 3—

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

October 15 • 10:00 am–1:00 pm

NHMA (NH Municipal Association)

25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

Directions on the NHLTA website: 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. The workshop will cover the following topics and will include time to answer your questions.

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

The presentation slides are available on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

There is no fee and the registration deadline is one week prior to the workshop. Handouts and morning refreshments will be provided; please bring your own lunch.

Online registration only; details and registration link are on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

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Message from the President . . .

Our 2015 Spring Conference on 18 May was the most widely attended since we began presenting these informational sessions. The keynote speaker observed that New Hampshire has a far better attendance record than New York State. Clearly our statewide library community can be proud of our active engagement.

There were fifteen informative sessions throughout the day ranging from future focus—broad trends identified by Aspen Institute studies to future library design—as well as many practical symposiums including mastering library RSA's, financial policies and foundation investments for managing your library's funds, hiring for the future, and the like. The sit-down luncheon which allowed for more discussion time was also well received.

The success of the conference was the result of much work by many people and NHLTA wishes to thank all of you for your involvement. Libraries are clearly still dynamic, important components of our communities.



Ed Moran
e.moran@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. 📖

SUE PALMATIER, 1944–2015

By Tom Ladd

Lancaster - Susan M. Palmatier, 70, passed away Tuesday April 21, 2015 at Country Village Genesis Health Care in Lancaster after several years of declining health.

A 1966 graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Sue completed graduate school with a Master's Degree in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University. Sue was a librarian for the US Federal Reserve Library in New York City. In 1975, she began 33 years of work for the NH State Library as a public library consultant working in Library Development first in the Keene and Concord offices, and from 1983-2008 in the North Country Office. From 2001 until her 2008 retirement Sue served as Supervisor of Library Development. She was also a partner in Upcountry Consultants, a library planning business.

An expert in library space planning and strategic planning for libraries, Sue taught classes in all aspects of librarianship, training many North Country librarians. The SUE PALMATIER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT BY A "FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY" GROUP is presented annually by the NH Library Trustees Association in honor of Sue's many years of work helping local libraries to organize "Friends." She was also noted for her collection of Library tote bags!

A memorial service was held on May 31, 2015 at the Weeks Memorial Library in Lancaster, NH. A time of sharing and remembrance followed. Sue will be remembered for her immeasurable help to many librarians and trustees. 📖

*The soul of a New England town rests
in its library.*

— Robert Frost

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Your Library Brand' presented by Liz Doucett] was not only helpful with regards to the appropriate process, but made it clear how constructive a really effective brand can be." The mark of a great workshop is when a participant says, "I left feeling like I had a real plan for reworking my library's brand."

Presentation style is often as important as the content itself in creating an enjoyable and memorable experience, and some speakers are better than others in this regard. When a trustee comments on a topic as dry as Right to Know law, "Super clear and useful information, charming delivery," you know the speaker (Cordell Johnston of the NH Municipal Association) did a stellar job. We were fortunate to have many such presenters at the 2015 conference.

About half the attendees attended one of the final workshops of the day, "Successful Libraries for an Uncertain Future," presented by Ohio library consultant George Needham. One participant wrote of this session, "He spoke knowledgeably about very practical ideas with a fresh perspective. I felt affirmed in some of our library's recent choices, and also motivated to take a second look at other changes we could effect. This was a really encouraging presentation and very up-beat!"

Another successful aspect of the conference is the sponsorship that we enjoy from many businesses [see acknowledgements on page 9]. Our sincere thanks to these partners, who help us to bring national experts to New Hampshire, while keeping registration fees low.

Of course, there is always room for improvement, and we appreciate the suggestions many offered in their evaluations. The NHLTA Education Committee will be combing through all the comments and incorporating some changes as we plan for the 2016 conference. If any NHLTA members would like to apply to become a committee member, please contact Susan Gaudiello at s.gaudiello@nhlta.org. It's a big job, so we can always use "new blood!" 📖



NHLTA display board: who we are and what we do.

The New Hampshire Curmudgeon

Bowling Alone

In this book published in 2000, author Robert B. Putnam identified a societal deficit developing with the emergence of the Baby Boomer or Me Generation. This generation has focused on self-fulfillment rather than accepting social responsibility. The result has been ever-decreasing numbers of membership in organizations, both social and societal. The nuclear family unit defined by a wage-earner and an at-home parent has disappeared, and volunteerism has dwindled in all aspects of society. If we as a society are to thrive, this trend must be reversed.

Putnam recommended a number of solutions to this problem including reducing urban sprawl, smaller, more centralized, walkable communities, and creating a more interactive art and culture atmosphere. We have seen some efforts in these directions, including planned, walk-able communities, more interactive cultural opportunities, and the institution of "community service hours" within some school curricula; but still significant disconnects remain.

So what does this all mean to the library community? I believe we have an obligation to build upon our existing library facilities and services to make the library an even more broadly welcoming community center where all generations can find resources, culture, and fun—often together! So often our programs are geared to the young with minimal interest for the adults. How refreshing it would be to see the young, the parents and the grandparents enjoying a program together, encouraged by staff to "bring" each other, actively engaged in shared activities. More stimulating programs reaching all ages would help to reinforce the family unit, provide togetherness opportunities, and build shared memories to carry forward.

Some communities have engaged their teens to design their own space in the library; why not the preteens and the adults as well? When was the last time your library did a patron survey, to see if the needs/wishes of the community have shifted? Everyone takes satisfaction in seeing their ideas taken seriously and resulting in something others can enjoy. A scout or teen project with adult facilitators for the betterment of the library could help patrons of all ages to feel included. ***Has your library updated your community outreach lately?***

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee oversees the management of NHLTA's finances, and it also serves as the Scholarship Committee for the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. The committee establishes and periodically reviews financial policies, procedures and practices to ensure proper financial management. Finance Committee members are Mark Branoff (Chair), Thomas Wallace, and Loring Webster.

In calendar year 2014, the Scholarship Committee awarded twenty full or partial McKay scholarships, including four MLS course scholarships. For 2015, as of May 18, thirteen scholarships have been awarded, including one MLS course scholarship.

Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942–1964. In 1965, NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation annually grants NHLTA new funds for McKay scholarship awards. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the scholarship fund.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and an application can be found on NHLTA's website at www.nhlta.org.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee continued a working relationship with the legislative specialist attorney in the legal department of the NH Municipal Association. The primary purpose is to keep the NHLTA apprised of legislative initiatives that could impact libraries. The committee also dealt successfully with several library-related initiatives that would not have been in the best interest of NH libraries had these proposals made it through the legislature. Members of the committee are Ed Moran (Chair), Mark Branoff, Susan Young Gaudiello, and Thomas Ladd.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A milestone of the year 2014–15 for the Communications Committee was the conversion to color printing with the Summer 2014 issue of the quarterly newsletter. News coverage expanded with the addition of regional reporting about the Libraries of the Upper Valley. The popular library profiles articles featured Abbott Memorial Library, Sunapee; Bethlehem Public Library; Boscawen Public Library; Carpenter Memorial (Manchester City Library); Langdon Public Library, Newington; North Hampton Public Library; Philbrick-James Library, Deerfield; and Stratford Public Library, North Stratford. Regular articles of interest included regional trustee networking updates, sample policies, trustee toolkit, unique programs, RSA review, FAQs, and the philosophical musings from the NH Curmudgeon.

Content on the website provided a resource of information for trustees including current news, links to newspaper and magazine articles, calendar of events, resources materials, sample policies, sample job descriptions, and management best practices shared by other Trustee Boards. Website features added or expanded were: Search the Website, Ask Us, Ask the Curmudgeon, news and resources on Advocacy and Friends Groups, and Additional Educational Opportunities offered by other associations.

NHLTA's 998 members represented 204 libraries—85% Trustees and Alternates, 14% Library Directors, and 1% Individuals and Friends.

Members of the committee are Connie Kirwin (Chair), Adele Knight (Newsletter Editor), Karen Sheehan Lord (Newsletter Feature Editor), and Marty David (Membership.) Technical Advisors are David Hallenbeck, and Conrad Moses.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee presented three New Trustee Orientation workshops during the past year, one in June 2014 and two in April 2015, including a well-attended Saturday session.

In October 2014, the committee offered a new workshop on personnel management topics, which, like the orientations, was offered to members free of charge. This program covered state laws relating to library personnel, presented by NHLTA's legal counsel; evaluation and supervision of staff, and guidance on conducting a library director search, presented by a human resource professional; and tips on volunteer management and personnel policies, presented by NHLTA board members.

Much of the committee's time throughout the year was devoted to planning and organizing the 2015 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting. The committee added three more workshops to the line-up, and again brought in a number of national speakers, as well as many local experts. The sponsorship program again raised funds to support the event, allowing NHLTA to keep registration fees at the same level as last year. The turnout was the largest ever, and evaluations of the event have been positive.

Committee members are Susan Young Gaudiello (Chair), Jan Clark (Vice Chair), Karen Sheehan Lord, Dee Santoso, Tony Frederick, Adele Knight, Carol Snelling, Mark Branoff, Margaret Walker, Ed Moran. Technical advisors are David Hallenbeck, Connie Kirwin, Conrad Moses, and Loring Webster.

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PILLSBURY FREE LIBRARY

Warner, New Hampshire

By Sara McNeil, Chair, Board of Trustees

The Pillsbury Free Library was built and given to the Town of Warner in 1890-91 by former residents, George and Margaret Pillsbury and their son Charles, who (with George's brother John) founded the Pillsbury flour company in Minnesota. The residents of Warner (population 2,862) are extremely fortunate by the manner in which Mr. Pillsbury presented the library to the town. Mr. Pillsbury offered to erect a library building for the citizens of Warner upon the condition that the town agree to support the library by providing one-fifteenth of one percent of the town's annual valuation forever. Records reveal "the town voted unanimously to accept the Library upon Mr. Pillsbury's conditions with an enthusiasm unparalleled in Warner affairs."

The architect was Harry W. Jones of Minneapolis and the land was donated by Nehemiah Ordway, a Warner native who later became Governor of the Dakota Territory. The original building is of red brick and Concord granite, with slate roof, and stained glass in the door and over many windows. The library was determined eligible for the National Register in 1992, as an example of the late 19th century library move-



ment in New Hampshire, and the role of philanthropy (by natives who achieved their fame and fortunes elsewhere) on community development and culture.

Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style (particularly identified nationally with library design). Although one of the smallest "Richardsonian" libraries in the state, it has been described as an "architectural gem" that packs an amazing number of major features into one tiny building. (Architectural details are found in *Nineteenth Century Libraries of Warner, New Hampshire* by Larry Sullivan – 2012.)

In 1993, a two-story brick and granite addition with copper roof was added to the rear of the building. This added 2500 sq. ft. to each level, with a handicap-accessible entrance on the lower level, a new upper level entry, and an elevator.

In early 2014, an evaluation of the masonry, slate roof, and flashing was done due to ongoing issues with poor drainage off the roof resulting in exterior and interior damage. Many problems were found but the need to repair the drainage issue was paramount to preserving the original 1891 building. These findings resulted in applying for a Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant. In December 2014, our efforts were rewarded by receiving a \$50,000 matching grant! After many meetings with town officials, a warrant article was submitted asking the town

to approve the sum of \$42,000 toward establishing Warner's first-ever, "Library Building Capital Reserve Fund" to be used for LCHIP matching funds plus current and future major repair expenses. With minimal discussion, the Article passed!

This past year also saw the formation of our library's Circle of Friends, a group of individuals who came together to support the library in various ways. In March, the Circle or-

ganized and presented a Wine, Cheese and Silent Auction of over fifty locally donated items, raising almost \$5,000 toward matching the LCHIP grant!

Our library's collection of books, audios/DVDs, etc. continues to be well-circulated as we also update and add new technology for our patrons. The computer stations are in constant usage for free access to the Internet and we recently added two Chromebook laptops that may be used in-house or borrowed. Online genealogy, ebook, and magazine resources are available, and this year we added Transparent Languages Online.

Children's programs continue to flourish and include well-attended story hours, crafts, Grade 4-7 reading group, the summer reading program, plus an annual theatrical production for the entire town. And, last fall, the children entered a float in our town's foliage parade extolling the virtues of reading! Our small, but very busy meeting room is in constant demand for programs, tutoring sessions, and a variety of community meetings.

In this age of growing, and changing technology, the Pillsbury Free Library has found ways to adapt and embrace the changes. Like many small libraries in New Hampshire, we are thriving! As one local business leader recently commented, "This library is really the heart of our town." Well said. 📖

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee continued to research, interview and recommend candidates for open director positions. When you get a chance, please welcome Janice Clark of Deerfield, our newest director, with experience in education, planning and conference program generation. However, vacancies remain and anyone interested in a position on the Board of Directors should speak to any member of the Governance Committee. We are specifically looking for persons with skills in graphics, technology, conference planning and logistics.

We were particularly fortunate to have received three donated laptop computers for use at workshops and orientations thanks to American Towers.

The committee continued to review and modify policies, procedures and the annual strategic plan.

Committee members are Loring Webster (Chair), Connie Kirwin, Adele Knight, Tom Ladd, Conrad Moses, and Ed Moran

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee is charged with identifying and evaluating new forms of information technology, and developing strategies and systems that will enable NHLTA to educate and communicate with trustees in a more effective and efficient manner.

Efforts this year included enhancing the website with a multimedia library; supporting the Listserv; providing email blasts and surveys; videotaping conference sessions, a legal reference workshops, and interviews with trustees; creating short educational videos; developing an educational DVD loan program in cooperation with the Manchester City Library; designing and recruiting national speakers for this year's conference on re-envisioning libraries; supporting the conference technological infrastructure; and keeping the NHLTA Board current on both new technologies and current projects through periodic Tech Bits presentations. Committee Chair is David Hallenbeck.



Membership renewal invoices were mailed April 1. Don't miss out on receiving NHLTA news and mailings. Payment is due July 1.

Please note our new address:

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

Ask the Curmudgeon at www.nhlta.org

Dear Curmudgeon,
Freud stated that the superego contains the moral aspects of one's personality. Is the superego a toaster waffle that wears a cape and fights crime?
— Psycho

*Dear Night Owl,
The superego is a universal Lego piece that fits all other Legos and allows for the building of a Lego toaster or a Lego roadster or just about anything. It would be extremely difficult, however to build a Lego personality without encountering various psychopathic personalities, but there, I'm waffling.*

— Thank you for asking The Curmudgeon

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL AWARDS NOW!

Deadline for submissions: July 31, 2015

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

If you have not already done so, please send in your nominations for those special contributors who connect the library with the community. A full description of the award criteria was mailed to every NHLTA member in April and is also available on the NHLTA website at www.nhlta.org.

The awards are: Library of the Year, Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year; Library Director of the Year; Special Service Contribution Award; Dorothy M. Little Award; and the Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" group.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

By Mark Branoff, NHLTA Treasurer

Scholarships are available from the NHLTA Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are awarded for graduate courses (e.g., MLS and MLIS courses), certificate courses, conferences (including NHLTA's Annual Conference) and workshops.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and an application form can be found on NHLTA's website, www.nhlta.org. Past McKay Scholarship recipients may also apply for another scholarship for that next course, conference or workshop.

A brief historical perspective on the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund was printed on page 11 of the Spring 2014 NHLTA Newsletter. Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942–1964. In 1965, NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the scholarship fund.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NETWORKING

NHLTA encourages regional 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, Souhegan Valley Area Trustees, Rockingham–Strafford Counties Trustees, and the Seacoast Region. Check with your neighboring library trustees and enjoy the benefits of meeting your peers and learning from each other.


MONADNOCK AREA TRUSTEES

By Connie Kirwin, NHLTA Director

The Monadnock Area Trustees met on April 10 at the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim. There were nine attendees representing six libraries: Troy, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Greenfield, Amherst, and Antrim.

Among the topics discussed were issues dealing with trust funds, relationships with town administration and the board of selectmen, budgets, and storing minutes.

Ron Haggett, trustee from Antrim, related the history of the Tuttle Library building addition and renovation project including the pitfalls and successes.

If schedules permit and the group would like to meet again before taking a summer hiatus, please contact Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org if you are available to host a meeting. 


NORTH COUNTRY CO-OP ROUND TABLE

By Claire Martineau, NHLTA Director

The second North Country Trustees Roundtable was held at the Bethlehem Public Library on April 29. Libraries represented were Bethlehem, Haverhill, North Stratford, Pike, and Whitefield. While the group was small, a lot of useful information was shared between the private libraries (Haverhill and Pike) and public libraries (Bethlehem, North Stratford, and Whitefield.)

Time, distance, and funds are the most common obstacles most often faced by trustees north of the Notch in their ability to attend workshops, orientations, and conferences presented by the NHLTA. The need for information and help in grant writing and understanding the RSAs are also important issues.

While programs are the primary focus for getting patrons into the library, fundraising keeps the programs viable. And, maintaining the InterLibraryLoan van route to the libraries in the north is crucial to their service.

The Whitefield Public Library will host the next gathering—date and time to be determined. Please contact Claire Martineau at c.martineau@nhlta.org if you live in the North Country Library Co-op area and have any questions or news about your library. 

PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY – 2015

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

Some interesting statistics and comments were compiled from the 126 people who responded to the pre-conference survey.

What is your age?

20% 30–50 years

20% 50–60 years

40% 60–70 years

20% 70–80 years

How are you connected to your library?

75% Library Trustee

3% Alternate Trustee

19% Library Director

3% Other Library Staff

How long have you been a trustee or an alternate?

18% less than 1 year

21% 1–3 years

10% 6–10 years

9% 10+ years

How well do you think your library is positioned for the Future?

2% Outstanding, we are a shining example to other libraries

32% Very well, we are ahead of the curve

48% Fairly well, we are working to incorporate technology and other new programs as our budget and skills allow

14% Mediocre, we are trying, but budget and other issues slow progress

3% Not very well or not at all 

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/or 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 or Feature Editor, Karen Sheehan Lord at ks.lord@nhlta.org.

THANK YOU CONFERENCE SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

Photos by K.S. Lord



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SMP Architecture



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POLICIES EVERY LIBRARY NEEDS

Thank you to the Newbury Public Library for sharing their Donations, Gifts and Collections policy. This is a sample and should be tailored to fit your library. More policies are available on their website at www.newburynhlibrary.net.

DONATIONS, GIFTS AND COLLECTIONS

DONATED MATERIALS.

If donated materials are new or are of special interest to the community, Newbury Public Library may add them to its collection. Otherwise, the Library reserves the right to make whatever disposition it deems advisable, including sale as a fundraiser. The library gladly accepts items that are in merchantable condition. The rules:

YES, PLEASE:

- Hardcover fiction and non-fiction
- Trade and mass-market paperbacks
- Travel books – current year only
- Audio books on CD*
- DVDs*
- Gently used children's books
- *Must be operable and include casing with artwork*

SORRY, NO:

- Textbooks
- Audio books on cassette, VHS tapes
- Music
- Software
- Puzzles
- Leftovers from book sales
- Journals/magazines
- National Geographic magazines
- Encyclopedia sets
- Reader's Digest Condensed Books

PROHIBITED

Materials that are dirty, moldy, smelly, or water damaged, or have yellowed pages, missing covers or pages, excessive markings, or damaged bindings or pages.

PERSONAL DONATIONS

In accordance with NH RSA 202-A:4-d, Acceptance of Personal Property Donated to Libraries:

- Newbury Library shall retain the right to accept or refuse any non-monetary gift offered to the Library. This may include but is not limited to furnishings, artwork, computers, equipment, books, videos and audio books, plants, lighting, and children's toys.
- The Library will accept only those items that will serve a useful purpose in the Library.
- The Library retains the right to dispose of any items it has accepted if those items no longer serve a useful purpose, if they become unusable because of damage or wear, or there is no longer space for those items to be used. The Library shall have no obligation to inform the donor of its intent to dispose of the items.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS BY ORGANIZATIONS

Town associations such as the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, the Newbury Beautification Committee, and the Friends of Newbury Public Library may, with the permission of the Library Director, sell or distribute materials on library property. Outside organizations may not do so without permission of the Board of Trustees.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM


SUPERHERO ACADEMY *Become Your Own Hero*

By Karen Sheehan Lord, NHLTA Director and
David Basora, Assistant Children's Librarian

This year the 2015 Summer Reading Program theme will be called "Every Hero Has a Story," and will include superheroes as well as community heroes. The Manchester City Library Assistant Children's Librarian, David Basora, will be hosting a "Superhero Academy" program for eight weeks. Each week will have a different hero theme and set of activities designed to "train" the attendees to be the best heroes they can be. These weekly activities will be different and interactive, with each theme designed to train a different hero skill. The plan is to try to have kids attend as many weeks as possible. The suggested age level will be grades 1-5. Dressing up as your own hero is encouraged for each program.

The first week, June 25, will be "Discover the Hero in You," where kids will make their own superhero name and design a costume however they like. There will be a superhero registration form they can fill out to decide their own abilities and super powers. They can then create a sidekick paper doll, make a hero airplane, or write down/act out ideas for a hero origin story. From there, the themes will be imaginative and varied heroic tests and trials culminating in a Superhero Graduation on August 13th



After each program, the little heroes will be encouraged to help fill up the "Reading Signal" book tracker in the Children's Room by reading books toward the community goal of 3000 books read. Library books that are available will be laid out for the weekly program as well. David is hoping that this goes well and that the children learn a bit about themselves as well as what makes a hero. 

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND VOLUNTEER

NHLTA offers an opportunity to trustees to apply their skills in support of the mission and activities of the Association. The Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of current and former library trustees. We need volunteers to work on a project-by-project basis and on a long-term basis as working members of the board.

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, special skills, and degree of passion for libraries!


If you care about libraries and want to make a difference—step up and volunteer. 

BEHIND THE SCENES

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

Our 2015 conference was the biggest and best ever. What attributed to the success? There are many factors. To begin with, a Conference Planning Committee is constantly on the lookout for programs that will be helpful to all trustees. A lot of time is spent considering current trends in the library world. Evaluations from past conferences are reviewed—they are a valuable resource letting the planning committee know what works and what doesn't work, and what else trustees might like to learn. Thought is given to the questions that have been asked throughout the year at other workshops or through "Ask Us" on the NHLTA website, to determine if there is a pattern or an area that specifically needs to be addressed. Gradually it all comes together. The theme of the conference and the topics for the workshops are finally decided. The next step is to enlist engaging speakers who will present them.

And the details—the everlasting but critical details—schedules, checklists, recruitment of sponsors that will help underwrite some of the costs of the conference, designing and mailing brochures and other notices, making travel arrangements for the presenters, considering menus, and arranging for the technology which will enhance each workshop. The list goes on, but you get the idea. As the deadline approaches and the registrations pour in, breakout rooms are assigned according to the number of people registered for each workshop. On the day of the event, the NHLTA Board of Directors arrives early to set up the registration and exhibitor tables and to welcome all to enjoy the conference.

All in all, many, many hours have been spent in planning, organizing and coordinating the Annual Conference. If they were to be counted, the number of emails and phone calls made on behalf of the event would be phenomenal. Is all this work justified? Absolutely! The mostly positive results of this year's conference evaluations (thirty-seven pages) have just been distributed to the NHLTA Board of Directors and discussed by the Education Committee. The planning for the 2016 NHLTA Annual Conference has already begun. 



Board of Directors (from left): Connie Kirwin, Marty Davis, Claire Martineau, and Tina Larochelle



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CALENDAR 2015

August 5	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
September 2	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
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

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