

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

Board of Directors Meeting, 25 Triangle Park Dr, Concord NH

Thursday September 7, 2022, 10 a.m.

Attending: Deb Caplan, Katrinka Pellecchia, Mark Branoff, Anne Chant, Kathryn Parenti, Connie Kirwin, Lori Fisher, Mindy Atwood.

Absent: Marsha McLaughlin, Rosemary D'Arcy, Renee Mallett, Conrad Moses, Tammy Hooker, Denise Van Zanten, Michael York.

Anne called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes: One addition - There was a vote to approve William J. Shea, CPA, PLLC of Nashua, NH to review the last fiscal year accounting with Mark making the motion and Connie seconding. All in favor - PASSED. Katrinka moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Connie seconded. All in favor - PASSED

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report for August was reviewed. Deb moved to accept the reports; Connie seconded. All in favor - PASSED.

Mark noted the conference trivia winner checks went out in August as well as the \$1500 donation to ULA, as requested by the conference keynote speaker, David Paige.

State Library: Lori Fisher (filling in for Michael York, said the state library is now fully staffed and they are working on spending the remaining ARPA funds. The state United for Library membership was expiring at the end of September (purchased via ARPA money). There is only enough ARPA money (\$11,400) left for a 6 month membership but ULA only does annual memberships. She wondered if NHLTA would donate the remaining amount (\$11,400) for a full year membership totaling \$22,800. She didn't have the statistics at meeting time regarding engagement by users but encouraged the board to vote in October on this when all the data had been submitted. Deb asked if there were any other less costly resources out there; Lori stated there wasn't, especially regarding Friends groups. Lori also noted individual libraries couldn't join; it had to be state wide or nothing. Katrinka noted the NHLTA was a member of ALA and wondered if that membership allowed access to ULA. Lori said she'd check with Beth Nawalinski about this. She again encouraged discussion at the October NHLTA meeting. She was also looking to extend the expiration date as there were some issues with access last year.

NHLA: Mindy Atwood, NHLA vice president, stated they are working with the NH school library media association and speaking with their executive board about joining NHLA. They seemed excited about advocacy and access. They'll discuss with the membership and it looks promising. NHLA is looking to access more ARPA funds and are looking to highlight what libraries have done with funds they have received. NHLA is looking forward to the conference in Manchester October 23-25 at the Doubletree hotel. As a state host, it will be easier for folks to attend. Mark noted it's a great place to shop for future NHLTA speakers and sponsors.

Mindy said they are getting ready to start a conversation with NHLTA regarding an intellectual freedom committee to work on policies. She encouraged everyone to look at forms, policies and perhaps adding an addendum to the Trustee Manual. Lori noted the state has been getting calls from trustees whose libraries don't have reconsideration forms. She said she wouldn't be surprised to see legislation regarding the banning of books. Mindy said trustees need guidance on how to deal with this...don't get into a conversation with regard to content - just refer the person to the policy. Lori suggested each library check their collection development policies as well. It is important for libraries to be prepared for this - it is coming. She suggested it might be a good idea to practice the procedure ahead of time as a helpful exercise. Katrinka, Connie (and Marcia) would volunteer to work on the addendum and will come back to the board with their thoughts.

Education Committee: Finance Workshop Report - Connie said they needed to find new presenters after the financial workshop survey. Some attendees found it difficult to hear and presentations need to take smaller libraries into consideration. Each library has a different way of doing things so it's difficult to address each specific need. Lori thought the state could help come up with resources and best practices.

Annual Conference Update - Deb stated the new RFP for conference speakers would be going out today to trustees, directors, past speakers with a deadline of mid-October. They have a keynote speaker booked - Martin Garner, who agreed to do a session and run a roundtable. He's asked that his stipend be donated to Freedom to Read. The conference theme is First Amendment Issues/Challenges. Deb thought this would be a good place for a handout to be placed in the conference packets on information regarding resources, etc.

Fall Workshop - Katrinka noted it would be a regional meeting and had suggested it would be at Madbury Library to showcase the new building. She is working with the trustee chair and will invite appropriate libraries (in the area) and it should be sometime in October.

Executive Committee: Anne announced the award winners: Special Library Service Contribution Award - Robert Grano of Chesley Memorial Library, Northwood; Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" Group - Weeks Public Library, Greenland; Library Director (s) of the Year - Diane Hathaway - Goffstown Public Library and Tracy Waldron - East Kingston Public Library; Lillian Edelman Trustee of the Year - Kathryn Parenti - Wadleigh Memorial Library, Milford. Anne made a motion to accept the award winners, Deb seconded and all were in favor. PASSED.

Communications. Katrinka reminded the board that the newsletter deadline was today. There are lots of articles and it might run 12 pages.

Facebook: Renee was absent so nothing to report at this time. Lori suggested the NHLTA page follow the state library page as they have a lot of content

OLD BUSINESS: - none

NEW BUSINESS: New Directors - Mindy stated it was important to let people know what was involved with being an NHLTA director. She had an Excel sheet that listed all the positions and duties for NHLA and would forward that to the board. Anne had a list of potential directors and asked if people would volunteer to take a few names. Deb and Kathy volunteered to take a few names to contact. Lori noted succession planning is important and if anyone is passionate about a subject, and will be leading a roundtable at the conference, see if they are interested in attending NHLTA. She said it was important to have job and committee descriptions so people know what is expected. Deb noted virtual meetings were key in getting people involved as most have to drive quite a distance for in person meetings. Lori agreed and said there was greater participation on the state level when meetings are held virtually.

OTHER BUSINESS: none

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm. Katrinka made the motion; Deb seconded. All in favor. PASSED.

Next meeting:

The October 5, 2022 meeting is via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti