

NH Library Trustee

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The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

www.NHLTA.org

NHLTA 2023 Annual Conference May 9, 2023 *First Amendment: Censorship & Advocacy*

As long as there have been libraries, there have been challenges to those libraries. As we are all aware, there has been an increase in attempts at censoring library materials and programs – from all sides and interests. As the Library Bill of Rights, created in 1939 by the American Library Association, states:

Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

(The full text of the Library Bill of Rights may be found on the ALA website.)

NHLTA believes that libraries are the cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to

the books, ideas, resources, and information in our libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government. To that end, we are pleased to present a conference which will help us consider these issues in addition to other topics that are important to libraries: strategic planning, holding successful meetings, grant-writing, and that ever-popular favorite: learning the NH Library RSAs. We hope that the roundtable discussions which close out the conference will encourage attendees to ask questions and share their ideas and opinions.

Our keynote topic, **The First Amendment: Fighting Censorship through Library Advocacy**, will be presented by Martin Garner, the director of the Amherst College Library and editor of the 10th edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual. Martin will discuss the formal and informal challenges to library resources and services and the important role libraries have in providing access to the information their communities want and need. In this interactive presentation, we'll learn about the principles of intellectual freedom and find out what we can do to support the First Amendment in our communities.

After the keynote, there are five concurrent workshops to choose from. **RSAs & Hot Legal Topics**, presented by Natch Greyes who writes this newsletter's legal column, will cover the statutes that govern libraries (this workshop is recommended for new trustees). **Intellectual Freedom**



Keynote Speaker
Martin Garner

INSIDE

- 2** Letter from the President
McKay Scholarships
- 4** Gilmanton Book Chats
- 5** Legal Q&A: Spring Cleaning
- 6** Conversations with Neighbors

REGISTER ONLINE at www.nhlta.org

Registration deadline:
Friday, April 21, 2023

\$50 NHLTA members; \$75 non-members.
One submission per person

If you have questions,
please contact Ashley Methot at:
nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org

Scholarships to attend the Conference
are available. See NHLTA website:
www.nhlta.org. Deadline April 14, 2023

Continued on page 3

Letter from the President . . .



Marcia McLaughlin
NHLTA President

Spring 2023

Challenges to a library's collection or programming directly impacts their ability to make information accessible to all patrons for their enjoyment and their education. Our outreach to NHLTA members has shown this is an increasing concern among trustees and this is why we have made this issue the cornerstone of this year's annual conference. You recently received an email blast about the conference to be held on May 9. You will find expanded information about the conference in this newsletter. I encourage you and your fellow trustees to register to attend the conference.

The Spring Conference is just one of the numerous opportunities NHLTA provides to fulfill its mission of "assisting trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire public libraries." Additional education, training and trustee engagement opportunities scheduled this

year will include trustee training and regional gatherings.

The annual Trustee Orientation Workshop will be held in Concord on Monday, July 17. This will be a full day workshop as in past years. (Please note that there will be NO trustee session at the conference.) Information about the workshop and registration will be published later in the spring.

After an enforced hiatus due to pandemic restrictions, regional meetings are back! On April 17 Madbury Public Library will host a gathering for Seacoast area trustees that will include a tour of their new library and outdoor program space. Jefferson Public Library will host North Country trustees later this year. Information about these and future regional meetings will be posted on the NHLTA website and emailed out.

I hope to see you at one if not several of these educational and networking opportunities.

Calendar 2023

April 17 • 5:30-7:00 pm

NHLTA Regional Meeting

Madbury Public Library,
11 Town Hall Rd, Madbury

May 9 • 9:00 am

2023 Spring Conference & Annual Meeting

Registration and breakfast open at 8 am
Grappone Center,
70 Constitution Ave, Concord

July 17 • 10:00 am-2 pm

NHLTA Trustee Orientation Workshop

NHMA Building,
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

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McKay Scholarship Awards: 2023 Deadlines

NHLTA is pleased to announce that two \$1,000 graduate course scholarships were awarded in December 2022 for the spring 2023 semester: to Stacey Desrosiers of Goffstown Public Library and to Laura Abrahamsen of George H. Bixby Memorial Library in Franconia.

Scholarships are awarded for graduate courses (e.g., MLS and MLIS courses, etc.), library conferences (including NHLTA's 2023 Spring Conference on May 9, 2023) and library workshops.

Applications for summer 2023 graduate courses must be received by May 1, 2023, and it is expected that one \$1,000 graduate course scholarship will be awarded. Applications for fall 2023 semester graduate courses must be received by July 1, 2023; again, two \$1,000 graduate course scholarships will be awarded. Applications for library conferences and workshops should be submitted approximately one month before the event. Virtual courses, conferences and workshops are eligible for scholarship awards.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and a scholarship application can be found on NHLTA's website, www.nhlta.org. Past McKay scholarship recipients and past no-award applicants may apply again for a scholarship on that next course, conference or workshop.

Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942-1964. NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund in 1965 with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

NHLTA 2023 Conference *continued from page 1*

and Social Justice: Supporting All of Our Values will be presented by our keynote speaker Martin Garner. Martin will discuss what it truly means to welcome everyone to the library, no matter what their opinions and beliefs are. Library directors Jen McCormack and Melissa Mannon will discuss the importance of developing a library collection policy that meets your community's needs and how to best address patrons' concerns in **Developing Collections, Preparing for Challenges**. Library trustee Sarah Courchesne and library directors Zoe Sucu and Janice Wiers will discuss their experiences – good and bad – on presenting a program series on racial and gender justice in **Small Libraries Unite for Justice**. The fifth session is **Grow Your Library with Successful Grant Writing**, presented by librarians Brittany Overton and Corinne Chronopoulos; Tina Kriebel, who chaired the Building Committee during the Peterborough Town Library renovation; and Ben Amsden, who is with the NH Charitable Foundation. In addition to advice on writing, they will discuss the opportunities available to NH libraries.

After lunch, the first afternoon session includes **Rent Not to Own: Solving Copyright, Licensing, & eBook Threats to the Library Mission**, in which Kyle Courtney will lead a discussion on copyright and restrictive eBook licensing. Mike Morris will discuss his library's process for formulating and implementing a diversity audit in **Conducting Diversity Audits for Small & Midsize Libraries**. Goffstown Library Director Dianne Hathaway and James McKim return for another session on the topic of **Courageous Conversations: Can We Talk About Race?** Priya Rathnam will share her experiences in **How to Work with Your Town Government, Boards and Community to Promote DEI and Social Justice**. Greg Eaton and Melinda Gehris will focus on the specific tools for ensuring all trustees have the opportunity to participate in board meetings and decision making in **Every Voice Matters: Strategies for Including Participation of All Trustees at Meetings**. Boards of all sizes will learn tools they can use in this interactive workshop.

We will depart from our usual workshop format for the remainder of the afternoon, starting with a **Dessert Social** from 2:15-2:45 pm, offering a chance to meet and network with trustees from other libraries. Attendees will then break into smaller groups, choosing one of the following roundtables for interactive discussion: **Intellectual Freedom; Bringing the Library Out to the People; Strategic Planning; Social Media Risks and Rewards: Maximizing the Rewards; Making the Case for Your Library; Discussion for Newly Elected and Appointed Trustees; and Reconsideration and Collection Development Policies Before You Have a Challenge**.

We'll also have some fun with **Trustee Bingo** – answer questions and fill out three boxes in a row, any direction, for a BINGO! If you fill out all nine boxes, you'll also be entered in a special drawing! The winners will be awarded cash prizes for their libraries.

NHLTA 2023 Annual Conference & Annual Meeting

First Amendment: Censorship & Advocacy

May 9, 2023

Keynote Address: 9:15–10:00 am

The First Amendment: *Fighting Censorship through Library Advocacy*

Workshops 1-5: 10:15–11:30 am

- RSAs & Hot Legal Topics
- Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice: Supporting All of Our Values
- Developing Collections, Preparing for Challenges
- Small Libraries Unite for Justice
- Grow Your Library with Successful Grant Writing

Workshops 6-10: 1–2:15 pm

- Rent Not to Own: Solving Copyright, Licensing, & eBook Threats to the Library Mission
- Conducting Diversity Audits for Small & Midsize Libraries
- Courageous Conversations: Can We Talk About Race?
- How to Work with your Town Government, Boards and Community to Promote DEI and Social Justice
- Every Voice Matters: Strategies for Including Participation of All Trustees at Meetings

Roundtables: 2:45–4:00 pm

- Intellectual Freedom
- Bringing the Library Out to the People
- Strategic Planning
- Social Media Risks and Rewards: Maximizing the Rewards
- Making the Case for Your Library
- Discussion for Newly Elected and Appointed Trustees
- Reconsideration and Collection Development Policies Before You Have a Challenge

Gilmanton Corner Public Library Book Chats

By Barbara Swanson,
GCPL Trustee

The Gilmanton Corner Public Library (GCPL) has been run entirely by volunteers for over 100 years! In December of 1911, the town's Home Study Club leased the old Pennock Shop in Gilmanton Village in order to establish a public library. Built in 1845, the Pennock Shop has housed several different stores and served as a printing office and a clubhouse for Gilmanton Academy students. Since becoming a library, the only changes to the building have been the removal of the fireplace and an ell addition. The library was opened to the public in January 1912, with members of the club taking turns as the librarian. The library continues to be staffed by dedicated volunteers. While there are also two privately funded libraries (the Iron Works Library and the



ABOVE RIGHT: The
Gilmanton Corner Public
Library

BELOW: The February 2023
Book Chat meeting



Year Round Library) available for residents, GCPL is the only public library.

Last fall, the GCPL celebrated its 100th anniversary and recognized the volunteers who help keep the library running with a small get-together that included cake, punch and laughter. Of course, there were many lively discussions about books! One of the volunteers enjoyed the open discussion so much that she suggested that the GCPL might consider starting an informal chat about books. The others agreed and that great idea started "Book Chat" – monthly gatherings that are open to the public. Unlike a typical book club, everyone is free to read whatever author and genre that they want. Discussions include likes as well as dislikes and sometimes several readers have read the same book with varied impressions. It's been interesting to hear about different books and "Book Chat" has encouraged many of the library's patrons to try an author and/or genre that they might not have considered before.

What's going on at your library? We want to know about your events, programs, or a recent success! Please e-mail all submissions to the editor, Katrinka Pellecchia, at k.pellecchia@nhlta.org.

NHLTA Conference Travel Reimbursements Available to Coos County Trustees

NHLTA received many memorial contributions following the death of longtime NHLTA leader Lillian Edelmann. 'Big Lil' was a trustee in Twin Mountain and in Dalton before moving to the Concord area. Because Lil was so committed to education for trustees, especially those in the North Country, the NHLTA Board has again decided to use a

portion of the Edelmann Memorial Fund to support Coos County trustees who wish to attend the 2023 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting on May 9 in Concord.

NHLTA is offering \$75 to Coos County library trustees which they can use to cover travel costs, including mileage, tolls, parking fees, and hotel

charges. This amount is in addition to covering conference registration fees through our separate Mildred McKay Scholarship Fund.

The application process is simple: submit an application for a scholarship to cover the registration fee, and indicate in your application that you are a trustee in Coos County.

SPRING CLEANING

New library trustees will soon be welcomed into their roles, and it's the perfect time for some spring cleaning. First, help your newly-elected trustees become familiar with their responsibilities by walking them through the processes, procedures and relevant statutes. Second, libraries should ensure that the trustees are regularly reviewing policies – especially policies that they believe will be scrutinized more publicly than in previous years – in order to ensure that those policies meet legal and local standards.

Libraries need a strong book reconsideration policy and procedure in today's politicized climate. Typically, a library will have a specific form for book reconsiderations. (Those which do not should consider adopting one given the existing political climate.) This form must be coupled with a process for review of the specific material asked to be reviewed. Often, such a policy will have the library director review the material and a process whereby the challenger can appeal the library director's decision to the library trustees. This is an area that has been a hot topic in the library world and I would recommend checking with NHLTA and the State Librarian for further guidance on best practices.

Just as important are some of the more routine policies, such as how to regulate use of meeting rooms. Libraries should be aware that when the government allows groups to gather on government property, the government creates what is known in legalese as a “public forum.” There is extensive case law on “public forums” and how those may be regulated, but, largely, it boils down to: the government may not regulate based on content. So, if the library, for example, allows the girl scouts to use a meeting room, it must also allow the boy scouts to use a meeting room.

Guns in the library are another flashpoint. RSA 159:6 allows anyone who is not lawfully prohibited from carrying a firearm to transport or carry a firearm in a vehicle or on or about one's person. There is no ability to prohibit someone from having a gun in a library – or anywhere else – in New Hampshire. (Please note, of course, that there is a

difference between someone “carrying” a firearm and someone brandishing or otherwise threatening others with a firearm. Libraries – like other public institutions – should work with local law enforcement to train staff on appropriate responses in the case of someone brandishing or otherwise threatening others with a firearm.)

Homeless individuals utilizing the library for bathroom facilities, heat, cooling, and other services are another topic that can arise in the context of library operations. Municipalities are obligated to provide aid to those “who are poor and unable to support themselves,” RSA 165:1, and have appointed local welfare officers to coordinate care pursuant to RSA chapter 165. As such, libraries should work with their municipal welfare officer to ensure a smooth delivery of services and coordinate municipal aid efforts that may help alleviate use of the library as a provider of services for the homeless.

There are, of course, a variety of off-the-wall incidents that occur in everyday life. It is unrealistic to think that every possibility can be considered and planned for in advance. Therefore, in addition to making sure newly-elected trustees become familiar with RSA chapter 202-A, it's a good idea for all library trustees to review these statutes as they help outline some of the activities libraries can regulate – and other relevant laws related to activities that they may see patrons engage in while at the library.

Editor's Note: NHLTA will present a Trustee Orientation on July 17, from 10 am–2 pm at the NHMA Building in Concord. For those unable to attend, there is a three-part Orientation webinar complete with downloadable handouts available on the NHLTA website. A recommended list of policies and some sample policies are also available on the website.



By Natch Greyes,
Government Affairs
Counsel, NH Municipal
Association (NHMA)

Libraries need a strong book reconsideration policy and procedure in today's politicized climate.

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NHMA Legislative Bulletin**

[www.nhmunicipal.org/
legislative-bulletins](http://www.nhmunicipal.org/legislative-bulletins)

Conversations with Neighbors at the Cook Memorial Library

AMY CARTER is the children's librarian and program director at the Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth. She has developed a wonderful program called **Face to Face: Zoom Conversations with Neighbors**. The program takes place on the first six Wednesdays of the year; it began in 2021, at the height of the pandemic. Anne Chant, vice president of NHLTA and vice chair of the board of trustees at Cook Library, spoke with Amy about the program.



ABOVE: Amy Carter

Anne: Hi Amy! Thanks so much for speaking with me. Our boys have known each other since they were two years old, and I feel lucky to have you as our town's children's librarian. Tell me about Face to Face. How did the idea develop?

Amy: Thank you, Anne. Before the pandemic, Cook Library hosted in-person programs on Wednesday nights. People would come to share photos and experiences of recent trips, to share their hiking expertise and to talk about other adventures. This took place during January and February each year, as it was a good thing for people to gather, learn and socialize at the library in the middle of winter. I tried to think of ways to keep this going and to keep our community active. At the time, the library was not using Zoom for any programming.

The thought was to have people in the town come together in the comfort and safety of their homes, and connect via Zoom. The goal was to maintain personal connections.

Anne: How long is each "conversation" and how is it organized?

Amy: The zoom starts at 6:30, and usually lasts about 45 minutes. I leave time at the beginning to chat briefly and introduce the speaker, and time at the end for questions and comments. I am in the library monitoring the call, but almost all others (participants and speakers) are at home.

Anne: What types of speakers did you line up?

Amy: Our first program was led by one of our long-time Select Board members, who described his role in the town. Other popular programs have been about our town's general store, the Tamworth's Farmers' Market, solo hikes in the north country, cold water dipping, and a small shop that fixes and gives away bikes for free. We've had 18 programs in all now. They are available on the library's YouTube channel and can be accessed with this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UCR-1Up-vPWl6Sb3rDAUeVw6g. Cook Library has 65 subscribers to its YouTube channel.

Anne: That's awesome. Have people watched the recorded zooms?

RIGHT: Face to Face: The Tamworth Outing Club.





Amy: Yes! As a matter of fact, the program about the bike “shop” (Bear-camp Bikes) has been viewed 138 times. It comes up when a person researches this concept of repairing and giving away bikes. I feel that these recordings can be used as resources. A piece of history has been preserved, and we can hear stories and the voices of Tamworth’s past. I’ve found that the most popular programs are the town-centered ones, the ones that highlight happenings in Tamworth.

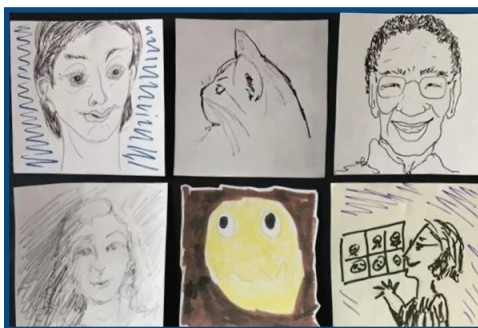
Anne: I can see that. Tell me about the fun introduction to the programs.

Amy: The introduction was created by a local artist. It is a stop motion animated collage of caricatures of people and pets

who reside in or near Tamworth. Lots of community members collaborated to draw all of the faces.

Anne: I was able to participate in a few of the zooms, including the one on cold water dipping, which I do with a hardy group of souls. I so enjoyed being a part of it, and describing my experience and connection with the people on the screen. It was pretty magical. I look forward to future Face to Face: Zoom Conversations with Neighbors.

Amy: I think of the program as part of the Tamworth Booster Club! Face to Face has been a way to highlight some of the elements that make our town so amazing, and for all of us to reflect and more deeply appreciate our community.



Notice to all NHLTA Members

April 1, 2023

Per bylaw Article X, this is notification of the proposed amendment to the NHLTA bylaws. The Board of Directors voted to recommend the following change at the March 1, 2023 board meeting. This change is recommended in order to improve processes and align with existing procedures.

Recommended change: Article VIII: revision to Parliamentary Authority

Key to change: The previous bylaw is identified by black regular type followed by the recommended change identified by red bold italic type.

The complete list of bylaws is on the NHLTA website: www.NHLTA.org. Please be prepared to discuss and vote on the amendments at the annual meeting on May 9, 2023.

Marcia McLaughlin, President

ARTICLE VIII: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis shall serve as the reference guide as to parliamentary procedure in the conduct of meetings.

Section 1: Roberts Rules of Order shall serve as the reference guide as to parliamentary procedure in the conduct of meetings.

NH Library Trustee

The Newsletter of the
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