



New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL

Board of Directors Meeting - via Zoom

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 9:00 am.

Attending: Marcia McLaughlin, Connie Kirwin, Cathy Harvey, Mark Branoff, Kathryn Parenti, Jeanne Palleiko, Renee Mallett, Denise Van Zanten - NHLA VP, Ann Friedman Xavier, Susanne Whitbeck, Mindy Atwood - Assistant State Librarian, Katrinka Pellecchia

Absent: Cliff Blake, Sue Nieman, Tammy Hooker

Marcia called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Minutes: Marcia asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from November; Jeanne noted that the last sentence of her report regarding the moving of \$200 should be removed. Marcia said her name was misspelled and Mark noted the date was incorrect. Marcia then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Jeanne made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Connie seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. PASSED.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanne noted the following:

Month	NHMA		Credit Card		Total	
	# Libraries	# Members	# Libraries	# Members	# Libraries	# Members
May	1	11	0	0	1	11
June	5	36	14	114	19	150
July	45	282	24	196	69	478
August	17	90	15	110	32	200
September	12	57	2	10	14	67
October	1	1	1	4	2	5
November	0	0	1	5	1	5
TOTAL	81	477	57	439	138	916

•Jeff Ivas CPA has completed the financials for 2024-2025. The report is attached. •The two CDs held at Stifel will mature in December. The 12-month CD earning 4.25% will mature on December 5. The 6-month CD earning 4.35% will mature on December 11. I plan to reinvest this money in two more CDs at the best available rate: one for 6 months, the other for 12 months, \$25,000 in each. All agreed she should roll over the CD's. •I contacted the Charitable Partnerships Manager for Revo Casino and learned we need to complete an additional application in order to be considered for a charitable partnership with them in 2026. I have attached the questions that are part of the application in order to obtain your input. •The Scholarship Committee awarded a second \$1,000 Mildred McKay graduate scholarship for the Spring 2026 term to Kate MacLeod, a library assistant from Dover. Kate has already completed two courses toward her degree at Plymouth State University and is currently enrolled in a third. We intended to award two scholarships for the Spring 2026 term, since we had no applications for the Fall 2025 term and, prior to Kate's application, had only one application for the Spring 2026 term. (As stated in October 2025's Treasurer's

Notes, a \$1,000 scholarship for the Spring 2026 term was awarded to Meghan Stewart, also a library assistant from Dover. Meghan had been accepted into her master's program but had not yet started her first course.) Ann made the motion to approve the November treasurer's report; Sue W. seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. PASSED.

State Library: Mindy began by noting that Commissioner Sarah Stewart (Natural and Cultural Resources) will be retiring in June and will be missed; she is a champion of libraries. Jill Witham, van coordinator and 28 years in the state library, will also be retiring. Mindy is hoping to get a waiver from the governor to replace her. Her staff is currently down by 5 people. Due to the lack of staffing, she was wondering if the state library would have to reduce hours. It is now federal reporting season and IMLS requires extensive reporting including 3 year goal plans. State funding is looking good and grants should all go through. She is also keeping an eye on a proposed bill that would eliminate all vacant positions at the state level.

Mark noted there was a nice article about the state library in the Union Leader a couple of Sundays ago. Commissioner Stewart emailed the article to all commissioners and the executive council.

NHLA: Denise began by stating the NHLA conference in November went well. They are currently watching all library related LSR. Cheryl Bass, the new VP will be the new NHLTA liaison; Denise will be president. She is currently co-chairing the legislative committee with Becky White of Plymouth, who will take over the committee.

LSR's they are currently following are HB1214, which is trying to take away library trustee duties and give them to the town. This was brought forward in 2013. Connie sent that information to the legislative committee, along with talking points to use in opposition of the bill. Hearings on this can start as early as January 8. Trustees need to attack this bill. Other LSR's are the removal of vacant positions and the trespass bill, which has returned. Denise submitted the following: Legislative Service Requests that are library related or may be school library related:

- [HB1214](#)- relative to public libraries. Rep Kristine Perez
- [HB1256](#)- removing the authority of the State Librarian to award scholarships to students attending ALA accredited library graduate schools. Rep Mike Drago
- [HB1184](#)- relative to issuance of no trespass orders on municipal and or school district property. Rep Juliet Harvey-Bolia
- [HB1244](#)- relative to exceptions to the charge of criminal threatening involving responses to trespass and threats of harm. Rep Samuel Farrington
- LSR3005- relative to parental consent and age verification for digital application platforms. Rep Margaret Dryer
- [HB1363](#)- relative to employee candidate background checks. Rep Terry Roy
- [HB1233](#)- relative to the minutes of non-public sessions. Rep Calvin Beaulier
- LSR3159- permitting public employees to bargain individually with a public employer without union intervention. Rep Brian Labrie
- [HB1150](#)-requiring disclosure of complaints to public employees within 5 business days. Rep Stephen Pearson
- LSR2401- increasing the enforcement of the prohibition of DEI in public entities and establishing a right of private action for citizens where the prohibition of DEI in public schools is violated. Rep Rich Valevanko
- [HB1132](#)- prohibiting the display of flags in public schools not authorized by law and establishing penalties for display of prohibited flags. Rep Lisa Freeman
- LS2440- prohibiting school districts and personnel from the instruction of critical race theory and LGBTQ+ ideologies in school as well as establishing a private right of action for violations. Rep Mike Belcher
- LSR2673- requiring a logic and critical thinking course within the state high school education curriculum. Rep Ellen Read

- LSR3023-relative to prohibiting the use of personal ideology in public school instruction and policies. Rep Melissa Litchfield

Legislative Service Requests to watch:

- [HB1359](#)- relative to municipal association lobbying dues. Rep Jason Osborne
- [HB1360](#)-establishing a legislative commission on municipal association oversight. Rep Jason Osborne
- LSR2303-Relative to health education and requiring the viewing of certain videos demonstrating development from embryo to fetus by public school students and college/university students. Rep John Sellers
- LSR2415- removing all references to gender identity in NH statutes- Rep Seth King
- [HB1165](#)- relative to gender designation on state issued identification- Rep Seth King
- LSR3074-establishing a teacher bill of rights- Rep Melissa Litchfield
- [HB1309](#)- relative to town meeting warrants
- LSR2584- establishing an exception to public employee freedom of expression. Rep Jason Osborne *Appears to have been pulled.*
- LSR2026- relative to vacancies in State Offices. Rep Joe Sweeney *Appears to have been pulled*

Still in play from last year:

- HB314 prohibiting the use of federal, state or local funds for lobbying activities is still in play from last year as it was retained in committee to be worked on October 8th and October 29th.
- SB33- school materials policy

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Cathy noted the conference committee has been meeting regularly. Marcia asked if there was anyone in line to take over the conference planning. She said she and Sue N were attending the meetings but weren't ready to take over the duties. Marcia was concerned with succession planning on the board and the conference committee.

Library of Congress Federal Credit Union: Janet wasn't present but Marcia said she would look at the website. Jeanne made the motion to join the credit union. Cathy seconded. All were in favor with Connie opposing. PASSED. Marcia said she would fill in the application form and if there were any monetary requirements, she would bring that back for a revisit.

Communications: Katrinka created a draft template for the member survey. She sent it out to Ann, Tammy, Jeanne and Marcia and no one had gotten back to her with questions. Tammy had offered to put it into a Google Docs format but Katrinka said at this point it's 4-5 pages. Marcia noted she would get in touch with Katrinka next week about the survey. Jeanne asked if there should be any questions about recommendations for the board and various committees. Katrinka noted that historically, those questions don't get answered. There will be an article by Marcia in the next newsletter addressing this subject. Marcia asked what the intent of the survey was. Katrinka said it was to let the membership know of the resources provided by NHLTA, along with the website and regional gatherings. Marcia wondered if it was appropriate to send emails to library directors to see if they had any recommendations for board positions. Denise thought it would be appropriate. Katrinka reiterated the copy deadline for the winter newsletter is December 5.

Legislation: Marcia would meet with Renee to discuss her email blast ideas that were mentioned at the November meeting.

Governance: None.

Other Business: The board needs new members NOW! Get in touch with anyone you think might be interested in working on the board.

NHMA contract: Marcia stated the only difference in the new contract was the price, which had increased, and the language regarding early cancellation. She had sent the contract to Connie for review. Connie asked if NHLTA can still use 25 Triangle Park in Concord after the contract expires. Marcia said NHMA considers NHLTA a “preferred client” and can still use the building. Connie noted someone should find out if there are any NHLTA files there. Renee noted that Mindy said, at the last meeting, that someone also has to look at the files at the state library. Cathy noted she would send an email to Katrinka to meet sometime in early 2026 to go through the files. Once the files are cleaned out, the storage unit can be emptied and closed out and the files will be stored at the state library.

Meeting Adjourned: Mark made the motion to adjourn; Cathy seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 10:07 am.

Next meeting: Next meeting **January 7, 2026**, at **9:00!** am via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti