

New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL

Board of Directors Meeting - via Zoom

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 9:00 am.

Attending: Marcia McLaughlin, Connie Kirwin, Cathy Harvey, Tammy Hooker, Kathryn Parenti, Jeanne Palleiko, Ann Friedman Xavier, Susanne Whitbeck, Mindy Atwood - Assistant State Librarian, Katrinka Pellecchia, Sheryl Bass - NHLA VP

Absent: Renee Mallett

Marcia called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. She asked for a moment of silence to honor Mark Branoff, who had recently passed away.

Introduction: Sheryl Bass, NHLA VP introduced herself and noted she was also the former NHLA treasurer and had reorganized their financial processes and procurement policy. Mindy noted they had presented a program on library safety at the recent NHLTA conference.

Minutes: Marcia asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from January; there were none so she then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tammy made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Katrinka 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
December	2	15	1	4	3	19
January	5	23	1	6	6	29
TOTAL	88	515	59	449	147	964

- I e-filed the 1099s for Kelly Jensen, Janet Shaffer Hammond, and Ivás & Associates LLP.

Jeanne noted there wasn’t a lot of activity in January, which is normal. She did praise Janet H for her work in securing sponsors for the conference - they are almost \$6,000 above budget. She also noted Judith mailed out membership

invoices and we should see how many additional members result from that mailing. Sue W made the motion to approve the treasurer's report; Ann seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. PASSED.

State Library: Mindy began by noting she has submitted the annual report required for federal funding to receive the balance of the \$1,523,000 federal grant money. It must be accurate to the penny. Filing the report keeps them eligible to continue to receive federal grants. They are currently working on the 2028-2033 5 year plan. She also noted all agencies are currently funded, except for DHS. The state library, as of February 20, will be fully staffed with part time van drivers. The positions were posted externally.

There are 2 programs they are currently working on - the first is NH Emerging Leaders Award, which NHLA will have a curriculum and meeting dates for professional development. The second is another collaboration with NHLA - a small library summit, which last occurred in 2019. It is being offered this year since NHLA is not having a conference. It will be held May 11 at the Conway Public Library. There is open registration on a rolling basis, first to the smallest libraries, based on the service population of the library. She is grateful for the partnership with NHLA as the state library is not allowed to purchase food with their funds for these events - that's where NHLA helps out. It speaks to the power of collaboration.

Mindy also noted they are working on a 250th curriculum and how to incorporate items from the state library into the curriculum. They have several Josiah Bartlett (a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the Continental Congress) that educators can read and incorporate in their own programs and for summer reading programs.

NHLA: Sheryl noted several libraries are in line for grants for 250th watch parties. She noted Denise was now NHLA president and Heather Rainier is treasurer; this is a busy transition period. She is the head of the sub-committee for a new strategic plan. She also noted incorporating school librarians into NHLA had increased their reach throughout the state. They need to focus on smaller libraries that are struggling for connection - which is the purpose of the upcoming summit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Cathy noted there isn't much going on at the moment. They have discussed upcoming gatherings for the spring but nothing has been set at this time. Sue W will check with her library director to see if she would be interested in hosting a gathering. Katrinka noted the trustee chair of the hosting library is usually the moderator, with other NHLTA board members as facilitators. Cathy noted in the sign up process there is an area where items of concern or for discussion are listed. Also, the hosting library should provide refreshments. Ann will also check to see if her library is interested in hosting.

Annual Conference: Cathy gave Kudos to Janet and Tammy for doing their best to save money on conference expenses; it's really not sustainable any longer. Brainstorming will need to be done to come up with a viable solution. Tammy said there will be a continental breakfast, a lunch and an afternoon dessert break. This all cost \$22,000. They did negotiate the AV vendor cost down to nearly last year's cost (\$6,200) - it will be the higher cost next year - \$13,000. There was a discussion on whether checks will be accepted. They currently are not, as individual registrations are required. Sheryl noted NHLA and school librarians only accept credit card payments.

Communications: Connie said some survey results are in, but it will be available for another month. It will take time to extrapolate all the information. Tammy said Google has graphs that show the responses, she'll have the total responses and graphs at the next meeting. Katrinka said the deadline for the next newsletter was March 6.

Legislation: Sheryl said she has been hearing rumors on HB1214, that there is not much interest to move it along. The trespass bill was heard on January 27 and no action was taken. HB 1256 prohibits the state library from awarding scholarships to any ALA accredited program. The thought is that libraries should be run like businesses and library degrees aren't necessary - in reality, degrees elevate the profession. She noted this year wasn't as busy as last but NHLA's legislation rep is busy. Connie said she had sent a letter to the committee sponsoring HB 1214 to recommend they not push it forward and noted it had failed when presented in 2013. Katrinka noted email addresses for all bill

sponsors is on the NHLTA's website. Connie said it was a frivolous bill - you don't solve problems at one library by impacting all 200+ libraries in the state.

Governance: None.

Association Management Committee: Marcia said the committee will be meeting next week, February 11 to discuss the 2 companies that Janet had narrowed the search down to. She noted the NHMA contract runs through the end of the year so there is time to make the decision.

Old Business: Marica noted the application for the Library of Congress Federal Credit Union was approved and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Future of the Board: Marcia noted Tammy will be retiring from the board after the conference. She hadn't gotten any response from her plea for members in the newsletter. There is a need for new members and officers and the board is down 5 members from its full capacity. Positions to be filled are president, newsletter, conference committee, website, treasurer, assistant treasurer. Any thoughts on the matter should be emailed to Marcia. Sheryl said she would send an email to all the directors for recommendations for potential board members - directors know who the good trustees are. Tammy said a selling feature of the position is meetings are held by Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned: Marcia made the motion to adjourn; Sue W seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 10:06 am.

Next meeting: Next meeting **March 4, 2026**, at **9:00!** am via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti