

**New Hampshire Library Trustees Association- FINAL**

Board of Directors Meeting - via Zoom

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 8:45 am.

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

Absent: Cathy Harvey

Marcia called the meeting to order at 8:46am.

**Minutes:** Marcia asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes from February; there were none so she then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jeanne made the motion to accept the minutes as amended; Ann 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
February	1	3	2	10	3	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>977</b>

- Form 1099-NEC tax return has been officially accepted by the IRS.
- I paid the Wild Apricot invoice by credit card, which incurred a 3% fee. The fee could have been avoided by doing a direct ACH transfer from our checking account. However, since we earn 2% cash back by using the credit card, the actual cost to NHLTA is about \$27. I am reluctant to give another organization direct access to our checking account.
- I submitted the 2025 Annual Report on the Mildred P McKay Library Scholarships to the NH Charitable Foundation.
- A \$4,048.92 check from NH Charitable Foundation from the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund will arrive shortly.

- We received 19 conference scholarship applications. Five of these were not eligible (not an NHLTA member, unsupported conference, graduate study, cannot attend conference). Four of the remaining applicants had received a scholarship before, and two were running for library trustee positions in the March town elections. We will have enough money from NHCF to provide three \$1,000 graduate study scholarships and fund all 14 remaining applications.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether to drop funding for any ALA conferences from the scholarship applications. Jeanne made the motion to remove the wording; Tammy seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. J. Hromjak abstained. PASSED.

Jeanne made a motion for a new procedure with regard to scholarship applications: If there is not enough money to award scholarships to all who apply, those who have gotten scholarships in the past will move to the bottom of the list of applicants. Tammy seconded the motion. All were in favor with none opposed and no abstentions. PASSED. Jeanne then made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Tammy seconded. All were in favor with none opposed. J. Hromjak abstained. PASSED.

**State Library:** Mindy began by noting there have been some staffing changes: Commissioner Stewart resigned and Adam Crepeau is the interim director until June 2, when Commissioner Stewart had planned to step down. Mr. Crepeau is the former DES assistant commissioner and has policy experience.

She continued by saying the state library had hired a new library circulation assistant who started on Monday. In addition, reference librarian Jacob Powell gave notice. Staff is continuing to support NH libraries and have a new system of machine readable cards (MARC) that is similar to the old card catalogues. She also noted that her offer to NHLTA to store items at the state library had to be rescinded due to an investigation of DNCR by the attorney general - she felt it would not be a good look to store information from other entities at the state library.

Mindy said she had attended the grand opening of the Deland Library in Mont Vernon and had a conversation with state senator Denise Riccardi who has agreed to champion libraries throughout the state and will help them in getting paperwork together to take advantage of available charitable gaming funds. Kathy noted applicants must be a 501.c.3 to apply for the funds. Tammy thought it would be good to invite the Deland director to come to the conference to talk about fundraising. Katrinka noted there were 3 people from Deland who will be presenting a fundraising section at the conference.

Mindy then moved on to library advocacy and changing the way it is presented. It should be a 1-2 punch of data - what people think of libraries & state data and then the usual anecdotes. She felt the ongoing presentation was becoming stale. She noted UNH has a polling center where any entity can put questions on a poll, to get people to respond and get hard data on the perception of libraries, etc. She is putting together a work group to come up with questions (it is \$900 per question). She noted polls are out of date and there is no NH data.

There was a brief discussion regarding a bill to stop the state library from awarding ALA scholarships. One of the factors is none of the other state agencies had grant award ability, even though the state library had not awarded any ALA sc scholarships in the past 26 years. It was not passed.

**NHLA:** Sheryl noted NHLA had issued a vote to change the bylaws and they will not give out lifetime memberships and to include school librarians. The next NHLA conference will be at the Common Man in Plymouth and they have planned their budget. She had started her outreach to library directors for NHLTA board recommendations.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Annual Conference:** Tammy noted conference registration opened today; Janet said a donation button was added to the registration. Tammy continued by stating she is moving out of state and will not be on the board after the conference and said Janet can't do all the conference work alone. Jeanne said she had sent out a comparison of the Grappone and Doubletree conference costs and they were pretty similar. The location will need to be decided after the conference in order to get the optimal date. She noted last year there was \$5500 extra expense, even with the \$5000 anonymous donation. There will not be a donation for the 2026 conference to rely on. There was an increase of \$7000 in conference sponsor revenue, Janet and Tammy negotiated the cost of food down by \$5000 so there will be no loss of income this year. NHLTA will have increased administration fees for 2027 and she proposed raising the registration fee

to \$80 for members and \$100 for non-members (an increase of \$5 and \$10 respectively). She did note that a large percentage of attendees preferred Concord. AV costs have risen substantially and that cost isn't known for the Concord location at this time. Renee asked if we were required to use the in-house AV firm. Janet replied there was a \$500 fee to use an outside firm, plus that firm's price. Jeanne noted if NHLTA didn't pay for parking in Manchester, the cost would be a savings of \$2000. After a discussion on Janet continuing to work on the conference, Ann agreed to help and she will start attending conference meetings this week.

There was a short discussion on other conference locations and Tammy reminded the board that they had put out an RFP for sites - these 2 entities were the only ones who could handle the volume of attendees and provide enough break out rooms.

**Communications:** Katrinka discussed the survey results and was concerned that people aren't using the website, listserv and Facebook enough. Half of the respondents preferred the physical newsletter. Tammy suggested sending out a follow up email to those who responded and left an email address, asking if they want to have a voice, sign up to be on the board. There were over 200 responses out of 900 members. Katrinka was planning to put a thank you in the newsletter. Renee said she could start adding Instagram posts along with Facebook posts without any additional work.

There was a discussion, as part of the survey responses, regarding the annual awards - whether a plaque or a donation was preferred. Marcia said this would be on the agenda for April.

**Legislation:** Renee said there was nothing major to report other than libraries have been saved from being taken over by municipalities. All bills have been heard but not all have been voted on. Marcia thanked her for testifying in Concord.

**Governance:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Future of the Board:** Marcia noted she had not gotten any responses from her letter in the last newsletter.

**New Business:** Jeanne suggested raising the dues \$5, from \$35 to \$40 for the potential increased administration fee. Connie noted that the entire membership votes on increasing dues. This will also be on the April agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Sue made the motion to adjourn; Marcia seconded. All in favor. PASSED - 10:02 am.

**Next meeting:** Next meeting **April 1, 2026**, at **9:00!** am **via ZOOM**.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Parenti