

Notes from the Chesterfield Regional Gathering

April 9, 2025

Thirty seven trustees, including two library directors, met on a sunny day at the Chesterfield Public Library. After sharing reminiscences of our first library experience, the group got down to some serious issues.

Topics of discussion:

1. Policies (list of recommended and samples on NHLTA website <https://www.nhlta.org/Pages/Index/228055/resource-materials>)
 - ❖ Collection and program policy; plus reconsideration forms
 - ❖ Safety in the library: gun policy (NH is an open carry state by law)
 - ❖ Reviewing one policy a month at board meetings
 - ❖ Assigning a sub-committee to review and report recommendations at board meeting
2. Monitoring RSAs that are applicable to libraries; <https://gc.nh.gov/>
 - ❖ Updating policies when new laws and changes to existing laws take effect
3. Security camera use in the library and privacy issues
4. Library cards and parental responsibility pending current parental rights legislation. Jaffrey Library has adopted a new Circulation Policy and will be updating library card for all patrons. Youth ages 5–17 will be updated with a new registration form that must be signed by the parent/legal guardian, in person. The policy is available on the library's website.
5. Update on IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) funding to the state library and its effect on Interlibrary Loan, Downloadable books, Talking Books, etc. How to keep the trustee board and patrons updated with objective information and avoid the misconception of lobbying. Dublin and Jaffrey Public Libraries use their newsletter to inform their patrons.

A tour of the newly renovated library concluded the gathering. One interesting feature was the movable book shelves and the carpeting that allows for smooth and easy arrangements.

NHLTA events announcement:

- May 1 • NHLTA Conference at the Marriot Downtown Manchester
- May 12 • Regional Trustee Gathering at the Newbury Library
- August 5 • Orientation Workshop at the NHMA Building in Concord