

LILLIAN EDELMANN TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 2009, the NHLTA Board of Directors renamed the Library Trustee of the Year Award in honor of Lillian Edelmann. Also known as “Big Lil”, Lillian began her love affair with New Hampshire libraries when she was first recruited in 1969 to run for library trustee in Twin Mountain. Realizing a need for education among library trustees she began her long association with the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association in 1992 and has been a guiding force ever since. She was elected president in 1994 serving until 2003 then re-elected in 2005 for an additional 2-year term. Her legacy to the State of New Hampshire is that today the NHLTA is one of the strongest library trustee organizations in the country.

Lillian was the driving force behind a movement of library supporters to successfully petition the State legislators to declare once and for all that New Hampshire libraries should remain autonomous from local government (RSA 202-A:6 adopted April 16, 2000). Leading by example, Lil has always had that “fire in the belly” needed to be a strong advocate for libraries. She is known for her numerous quotes regarding libraries such as “Libraries are the Heartbeat of Democracy,” “Libraries are the citizens’ free university,” “knowledge is power.” In 2013 Lil retired as an active member on the NHLTA board and was appointed Emeritus Director.

The **LILLIAN EDELMANN TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR** award is presented annually by the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association in her honor.