

NHLTA MEMBERSHIP

The mission of the NH Library Trustees Association is “*to assist Trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire public libraries.*” We accomplish this mission by providing an array of services to our members.

Founded in 1957, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association is an independent nonprofit organization registered with the NH Division of Charitable Trusts. The NHLTA has no affiliation with the state library, nor does it receive any state or federal funding. The activities of the volunteer Board are funded from membership dues, registration fees, and grants.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The NHLTA’s goals and objectives are to develop a more effective body of public library trustees by providing educational opportunities to assist in understanding the responsibilities and duties of the position; to offer a forum for the exchange of information and ideas; provide current information about library developments; and to advocate for and promote public library services in New Hampshire.

The NHLTA provides the following resources:

- Annual Conference
- Orientation workshops
- Workshops on trustee duties and responsibilities
- Regional networking gatherings
- Trustee Manual
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Website (www.nhlta.org) containing resources and current information on programs and news
- LISTSERV®: a digital forum for networking and sharing (subscribe on the NHLTA website)
- Facebook: social media presence (link on the NHLTA website)
- Informational assistance via the NHLTA website “Ask Us”

Education: Our signature event is our annual conference where we provide speakers and workshops on a variety of timely subjects. We also offer several Trustee Orientation sessions each year, targeted to newly elected trustees, where we review trustee responsibilities, as well as NH State Laws governing libraries, budgeting, personnel and more. And, we offer additional workshops on specific topics relating to trustee duties and responsibilities, such as Writing Policies, Hiring and Firing, Working with the Budget and more.

Information Sharing and Assistance: Our quarterly newsletter, mailed to all members, provides a wealth of information on topics of interest to trustees. Regional Gatherings around the state provide trustee networking and sharing of knowledge and news. In addition, we are available to discuss issues and help address the challenges you face by contacting us through the trustee LISTSERV®, on the NHLTA website “Ask Us”, and by e-mail to one of our board members. Our website at www.nhlta.org is another valuable resource for trustees.

Advocacy: NHLTA represents public libraries at the State Legislature on topics specifically affecting library operations and trustee authority. We have been successful in defeating bills proposed that would have diminished trustee governance and infringed on the autonomous authority provided by current library RSAs.

Membership: Your membership in the NH Library Trustees Association supports our continued effort to provide these services to New Hampshire’s public library trustees.