

NHLTA

2026 Annual Awards

**Submission deadline is
Friday, July 10, 2026.**

**Email nominations to:
nhlibrarytrustees@
nhmunicipal.org**

www.NHLTA.org

Honoring Those Special Contributors Who Connect the Library with the Community

Each year NHLTA recognizes individuals and groups who have contributed to the excellence of New Hampshire public libraries in an extraordinary manner. Any library trustee board may nominate an individual or group or re-nominate an individual or group who has not received a prior award.

Nomination Instructions

Please note that all nominations **must be supported unanimously by the board of trustees**, at least one of whom must be a current member of NHLTA, and a statement certifying that support must be included in the submission. **Nominations without that statement will not be considered.** In the case of the Trustee of the Year award, all trustees with the exception of the trustee being nominated must support the award.

Nominations must be submitted via email and include the following information:

- ◆ Name and position of the individual or name of the group nominated;
- ◆ Name and address of the library;
- ◆ Name, phone, email and mailing address of the contact person. The contact must be a member of the trustee board;
- ◆ List of the current board members;
- ◆ Narrative supporting the nomination, limited to four (4) pages of text;
- ◆ Additional supporting material, up to 10 pages in length, may be scanned and submitted with the nomination.

NHLTA will select winners at the September board meeting and will notify all those who submit a nomination of the decisions.

Presentations will take place at a site and time agreed upon by the library trustees and NHLTA.

NHLTA Awards Criteria

All Nominees

- ◆ Must be presently connected with New Hampshire public library service.
- ◆ Must be an active advocate for promoting the public library as the community's most important resource.
- ◆ Must be endorsed by the full board of trustees of the library making the nomination, except in the case of the Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year.

Library of the Year

- ◆ Has demonstrated expansion and improvement of services and technology.
- ◆ Has enhanced services to a previously under-served part of the community.
- ◆ Has developed partnerships with other libraries and/or community organizations.
- ◆ Has proven value to the community measured by relationships with and support from town officials and members of the community.
- ◆ Maintains membership in NHLTA.

Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year

- ◆ Has served a minimum of three years on the board, and is a trustee as of July 31 in the year of nomination.
- ◆ Embodies the characteristics of a library trustee as outlined in the NHLTA manual.
- ◆ Maintains membership in NHLTA.

Library Director of the Year

- ◆ Exhibits professionalism, leadership and outstanding performance and has made notable contributions toward fulfilling the mission and goals of the library.
- ◆ Has been a public library director in New Hampshire for at least three years.
- ◆ Demonstrates initiative in developing programs and services to meet community needs and enhance the quality of life.
- ◆ Demonstrates effective management and development skills with staff and volunteers.

Special Library Service Contribution Award

Presented to an individual or group, other than current staff or board members, who have given outstanding service to New Hampshire public libraries. This contribution may have been in such areas as fund raising, volunteering services, organizing programs, spearheading a building expansion, or other areas of substantial contribution.

Dorothy M. Little Award

Presented to an individual who has demonstrated sustained, extraordinary public library advocacy and activism on a local, regional and state level. May be involved in library service in any capacity.

Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends Of The Library" Group

This award is being offered to recognize the tremendous value of Friends of the Library.