

# NHLTA Library Trustee

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

[www.NHLTA.org](http://www.NHLTA.org)

## NHLTA 2022 Annual Conference May 10, 2022 Trends Shaping the Future: The Basics and Beyond

As the world seems finally to be emerging from its two-plus year COVID-19 fog, we look hopefully and resiliently to the future. For New Hampshire libraries, these have been years of challenge and uncertainty. After cancelling our 2020 conference and holding last year's virtually, we will hold the May 10, 2022 NHLTA conference in person at the Grappone Center in Concord, and we are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to engage in that personal way which is not always possible in the virtual realm. Look for some new, fun things including a Trustee Trivia quiz; test your knowledge about New Hampshire's libraries and win a chance to win a prize for your library!

The conference features workshops and roundtable discussion groups on a wide range of topics. Some of these are our evergreen sessions particularly important for new or recently elected trustees,

but also of value to the seasoned trustee looking for a refresher. There are also some relatively new topics of interest, and we are committed to continuing the focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our keynote topic **"The More Things Change..."** will be presented by **David Paige**. David is the Director of Libraries Unlimited and served as the 2020-21 president of United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. David has previously served as a trustee in Conway, NH.

In this keynote, we will "look to the past to look forward," exploring how libraries' evolution has been surprisingly constant and how many of the services we take for granted today were once novel themselves. How did libraries of the past evolve to meet the demands of their times? How can our libraries today rise to the challenges of hyper-partisanship, filter bubbles, and misinformation? How do we seize new opportunities to enact our values – access, equity, intellectual freedom – throughout our communities? There is no single flashy trend or technology that will keep your library relevant. Instead, the sustainability of our institutions actually hinges on something very old-fashioned – reconnecting to our core values and mission while facing the specific challenges of our time.

After the keynote presentation, we have a number of excellent concurrent sessions. From 10:15-11:30 am, you can choose from among the

By Rosemary D'Arcy,  
Conference Co-chair



David Paige

**REGISTER ONLINE** at  
[www.nhlta.org](http://www.nhlta.org)

Registration deadline:  
Tuesday, **April 22, 2022**

\$50 NHLTA members; \$75 non-members.  
One submission per person

If you have questions,  
please contact Ashley Methot at:  
[nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org)

**Scholarships** to attend the Conference  
are available.

See NHLTA website: [www.nhlta.org](http://www.nhlta.org).  
Deadline April 15, 2022.

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Marcia McLaughlin  
NHLTA President

## *Happy Spring!*

The newsletter this spring highlights our in-person Annual Conference, the keystone of NHLTA's educational opportunities for trustees and other library-lovers, to be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord on May 10. The theme, "Trends Shaping the Future – The Basics and Beyond," was chosen with an eye on the nuts and bolts of what we trustees need to know and do, as well as help us cast our vision for future planning. Be sure to read the entire issue to familiarize yourself with the wonderful speakers and workshops our conference chairs have scheduled. And then, make sure you register! I look forward to seeing you on May 10th.

Our annual conference is normally not the only educational opportunity offered during the year, and this year will not be an exception. The Education Committee has lined up two workshops designed to enable trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in their roles. The workshop on June 13 will be an extensive trustee orientation; the ins and outs of library financials will be addressed on

August 9th. Both workshops will be held in-person in Concord with a 10-2 time frame and are open to new and "old" trustees alike.

In addition to the workshops there is the possibility of a roundtable or two popping up sometime in the year. We will be sure to keep all abreast should they occur.

April is the time of year when nomination information will be sent out to all NHLTA members for the NHLTA Annual Awards. This is an opportunity for trustees to nominate individuals, groups and libraries who have been exemplary in their contributions to their communities. It isn't too early to begin thinking about who you might nominate.

As we all move forward in the year there may yet be big impacts on our libraries – can you envision a time when things will be "back to normal?" What will that look like – old hours reinstated, full programming, in-person everything, no masks? We as trustees will need to be ready to pivot yet again and perhaps blend the old and the new, as part of that visioning for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a personal style.

## McKay Scholarship Awards: Important Information

NHLTA is pleased to announce that two \$1,000 graduate course scholarships were awarded in late 2021 for the spring 2022 semester, to Julie Watt of Hampstead Public Library and to Liz Erikson of Goffstown Public Library.

More scholarships are available in 2022 for New Hampshire public library staff and trustees from NHLTA's Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are awarded for graduate courses (e.g., MLS and MLIS courses, etc.), library conferences (including NHLTA's Annual Conference) and library workshops.

Applications for library conferences and workshops should be submitted approximately one month before the event. Virtual courses, conferences and workshops, including the NHLTA

Spring Conference, are eligible for scholarship awards. Applications for fall 2022 semester graduate courses must be received by July 1, 2022; NHLTA plans to award three \$1,000 graduate course scholarships for the fall semester.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and a scholarship application can be found on NHLTA's website, [www.nhlta.org](http://www.nhlta.org). Past McKay scholarship recipients and past no-award applicants may apply again for a scholarship for that next course, conference or workshop.

Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942–1964. NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund in 1965 with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

# Silby Library Celebrates Completion of a LCHIP-Funded Project



By Judith A Baraly,  
Trustee

The Trustees of Silby Free Library are pleased to announce the completion of the renovation and restoration of their 1896 historic landmark building on Main Street in Charlestown, NH. This multi-year project was supported by the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. “We are delighted to wrap up this important project to preserve and enhance this historic building,” said Jim Fowler, Trustee Chair. “Although Charlestown taxpayers had generously supported the project since 2011 with annual contributions to a capital reserve

ABOVE: Silby Library.  
BELOW: The library during renovation.



fund; the projected labor and material cost increases reduced our chances of funding the needed repairs. The LCHIP award was critical in achieving this goal.”

Upon award of the LCHIP grant, work was begun in 2018 with the hiring of Jeffrey Roush of American Terracotta, Weare, NH. A historic masonry specialist, he analyzed the original mortar mix and worked

with materials experts to replicate the correct formula, as well as the texture and color of the mortar. For eighteen months Jeffrey meticulously removed and repointed the brickwork, and restored brownstone profiles and the brick facings eroded by weather exposure. As he raised the brownstone steps to level and rebalance the front entrance, Jeffrey exposed not only a well-hidden bee’s nest but a cavern beneath the portico. Recognizing he was the first to explore the underpinnings of this historic building, he didn’t hesitate to crawl in and then later enthrall us with the architectural details of its construction. Jeffrey’s instinctive curiosity also led him to discover water runoff and drainage problems by tracing masonry stains, and he was able to resolve these long-standing problems by working with a variety of contractors and town crews. His untimely death in early 2021 was deeply felt by the trustees, library staff and all who had interacted with him during his time in the community.

With six months remaining to complete the project under the LCHIP deadline, historical



Steps before (TOP) and after repair.

specialist Glenn Rosinski of Brattleboro Vermont was hired and he welcomed the opportunity to complete Jeffrey’s work. Closely matching Jeff’s work ethic and personality, Glenn and his crew from Rosinski Masonry completed the library’s north wall and the portico work that had been interrupted, matching tool marks and surfaces to the original structure.

The Silby Free Public Library was erected during 1893-1896 from a bequest by Ithiel H. Silby, and designed by Boston architect C.C. McAlpine.

## NHLTA Spring Conference & Annual Meeting

# Trends Shaping the Future: THE BASICS AND BEYOND

MAY 10, 2022

9:15–10:00 am Keynote Address:

## *The More Things Change...*

**Workshops 1-5: 10:15–11:30 am**

- Orientation Highlights
- Censorship, First Amendment Audits, and Intellectual Freedom: Preparation for Library Trustees
- Policies and Practices for LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Libraries: What Trustees Need to Know
- Keeping Your Strategic Plan Alive and Thriving
- Roundtables

**Workshops 6-10: 1:00–2:15 pm**

- Running Effective Meetings (and complying with the Right to Know Law)
- The Human Library: Gaining New Perspectives through Your Neighbor's Eyes
- Navigating the NH Library Planning & Building Process
- Budgeting for Success
- Who's the Boss? The Library as Employer

**Workshops 11-15: 2:30–3:45 pm**

- RSAs & Hot Legal Topics
- Library Money, Friends and Foundations
- What Should a Library Trustee Know about Technology?
- Disaster Planning: Fires, Floods, Lightning Strikes and COVID
- Social Media: How to Build Your Brand/Offer Innovative Programming



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## Trends Shaping the Future

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following: **Orientation Highlights** with Liz Tentarelli and Marcia McLaughlin, will cover the fundamentals of what it means to be a library trustee in New Hampshire, including a focus on the responsibilities of trustees regarding policies, personnel management and budgeting. In **Censorship, First Amendment Audits and Intellectual Freedom: Preparation for Library Trustees**, Lori Fisher will provide practical tips and resources to prepare for First Amendment Audits, book challenges, and program challenges. Participants will leave with an overview of national/regional trends, as well as steps they can take to make sure trustees and staff are prepared. **Policies and Practices for LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Libraries: What Trustees Need to Know**, presented by our keynote speaker David Paige and his colleague Lucy Santos Green, will discuss how policies and procedures form the necessary foundation for an LGBTQIA+ positive culture in your library and explore strategies for driving change. In **Keeping Your Strategic Plan Alive and Thriving**, Deb Hoadley will discuss best practices and tips on how to keep your strategic plan from gathering dust on the shelf. Finally, there are three small-group **Roundtable Discussions** on topics of interest: **A) Raising Trustee & Staff Awareness; Keeping the Conversation about Equity Diversity and Inclusion Alive** with Lara Berry and Mary Hubbard; **B) Rebuilding or Upgrading Your Library** with Ron Lamarre, Dore and Whittier Architects; and **C) Housekeeping/Are Your Policies in Order?** with Thomas A. Ladd. Please note that registration for each roundtable is limited to 12 participants.

After lunch, the first afternoon session includes **Running Effective Meetings (and complying with the Right to Know Law)** presented by Christine Fillmore, who will offer guidance for holding efficient and productive meetings, including preparation, procedures, handling public comment, and the ever-changing landscape of remote meeting access. There will also be information to help ensure meetings comply with the Right to Know Law (RSA 91-A), including a discussion of recent changes to this law. **The Human Library: Gaining New Perspectives through**

**your Neighbor's Eyes** will be presented by Dianne Hathaway, MLIS. The "Human Library" is a living library where humans are the books and the stories are their lives. Join Dianne as she shares her experience as host for four Human Library events. **Navigating the NH Library Planning & Building Process** features a panel discussion with architect Ron Lamarre; Craig McLaughlin, chair of the Weeks Public Library Building Committee; and Susan Leonardi, a North Hampton Public Library trustee. These project leaders from the new North Hampton Public Library and the expanded historic Weeks Library in Greenland NH will discuss how their successful projects navigated this process. You will learn how to turn obstacles and obstructions into opportunities that result in even better outcomes. In **Budgeting for Success**, presented by Brittany Overton, the basics of effective budget presentations will be covered, as well as examples of how library directors and trustees from any size library can go beyond the numbers and use storytelling to engage decision makers in the value of libraries. Finally, **Who's the Boss? The Library as Employer** will be presented by Lara Berry and Rosemary D'Arcy. Competent leadership of the library is essential for efficient management and future success. Library trustees and directors each hold significant authority over the library, which may lead to conflict if their roles are not clearly defined and understood.

The last group of concurrent sessions, from 2:30-3:45 pm, includes **RSAs & Hot Legal Topics** presented by Natch Greyes. Natch, who writes the legal column for this newsletter, will focus on the fundamentals of RSA chapter 202-A, pertaining to municipal libraries, and will also incorporate discussion of related statutes, such as RSA chapter 91-A, the Right-to-Know Law. In **Library Money, Friends and Foundations**, presented by Terry Knowles, you will learn about all sources of money, public and private, available for public libraries. You will also learn the role Friends and foundations play in raising money for libraries and how they interact with library trustees and directors. **What Should a Library Trustee Know about Technology?** will be presented by Bobbi Lee Slossar. While technology is not new to librarians and trustees, the scope of technology-related issues impacting

libraries is constantly growing. In **Disaster Planning – Fires, Floods, Lightning Strikes and COVID**, Hopkinton library director Donna Dunlop will talk about how a lightning strike changed her thinking about how to be prepared. She will tell how she, the trustees and staff coped when Mother Nature came to call at the library in 2018, and will offer some basic recommendations on how to be ready for (almost) anything. Last, but most certainly not least, is **Social Media: How to Build Your Brand/Offer Innovative Programming**, presented by Mark Glisson. Social media, when used strategically and effectively, can be a powerful form of digital marketing to connect, engage, and even influence potential audiences. Getting noticed on social media begins with developing or sharing relevant content that sparks conversations and meaningful interactions.

We hope we have managed to entice you with the variety and depth of the presentations we have planned. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

*Thank you to our sponsors!*

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## NHLTA Conference Travel Reimbursements Available to Coos County Trustees

NHLTA received many memorial contributions following the death of longtime NHLTA leader Lillian Edelmann. 'Big Lil' was a trustee in Twin Mountain and in Dalton before moving to the Concord area. Because Lil was so committed to education for trustees, especially those in the North Country, the NHLTA Board has again decided to use a portion of the Edelmann Memorial Fund to support Coos County trustees who wish to attend the 2022 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting on May 10 in Concord.

We are offering \$100 to Coos County library trustees which they can use to cover travel costs, including mileage, tolls, parking fees, and hotel charges. This is in addition to covering conference registration fees through our separate Mildred McKay Scholarship Fund.

The application process is simple: submit an application for a scholarship to cover the registration fee, and indicate in your application that you are a trustee in Coos County and would like to also apply for an Edelmann Travel Expense Reimbursement. The scholarship application is on the NHLTA website. The scholarship application deadline is April 15.



By Natch Greyes,  
Government Affairs  
Counsel, NH Municipal  
Association (NHMA)

## Legal Q&A: Legislation & Lobbying

The past few months have seen an uptick in legislative filings across the nation specifically aimed at libraries. While we haven't seen similar legislation filed here in New Hampshire, that's not an excuse for librarians and library trustees to ignore what happens at the legislature. In fact, some of what happens that may not appear to affect libraries at first glance can have serious ripple effects. For example, this year saw filed House Bill 1033. That bill would significantly burden the ability of local, school, and county officials to speak and engage in the legislative process by prohibiting subdivisions of the state from spending money on lobbying the state legislature. Without the ability to lobby the legislature, it would be difficult for municipalities – and entities within them – to explain to the legislature how proposed legislation would impact them.

The lesson here is that it is important to pay attention to what is occurring at the legislature. That can seem overwhelming, but there are groups – like NHMA – that publish periodic bulletins to let members know what is happening at the legislature. It's also important to get to know who your state representatives and senator are, and not just by name. Invite them to events. They'll view it as a great opportunity to campaign, and you'll get the opportunity to talk about issues that are important to you and your organization. It's also a great educational opportunity. They'll know who to call when an issue that impacts your organization comes up.

That's a lesson that I learned back when I was a municipal prosecutor. After identifying an issue in the law that needed to be fixed and reaching out to my representatives, I became the *de facto* source of information on criminal law issues for them. Whenever they had a question, they'd give me a call, and I was happy to help explain how things worked and help them work through the policy considerations of whatever issue had come up.

In the context of libraries, take this year's House Bill 1529 as an example of an issue where the voice

of libraries and library trustees is important to help policy makers determine the appropriate policy. As filed, House Bill 1529 would require all prospective employees and all volunteers of public libraries to obtain a federal background check before beginning employment or volunteer service. That includes any individual who "volunteers" his or her expertise to speak, conduct a program or activity, or volunteer at a one-time event would be subject to fingerprinting and federal background check requirements. So, when a library wants local author Natch Greyes to come in and talk about carnivorous plants for an hour, he'd have to undergo a background check, as would every other speaker and every kid shelving books for community service credit and the list goes on and on. That could seriously impact a local library's ability to plan programs, book speakers, and plan activities – but how much would depend on how much of that kind of activity a particular library does. The only way for legislators to know is for librarians and library trustees to have that conversation with them. (Update: HB 1529 was voted inexpedient to legislate and HB 1033 was laid on the table, effectively killing the bill.)

One of the most important things that I've learned about the New Hampshire legislature since transitioning to my new role as Government Affairs Counsel, is that our legislature is typically a year or two behind other legislatures in considering nationally branded legislation. In other words, the legislation that is pushed by national organizations typically doesn't come to New Hampshire's legislature until a year or two after making it to other state legislatures. The reason for that is because the dates when our legislators must file legislation is much earlier than most other states. That's largely a factor of having the largest legislature in the country, and it gives us some time to see how things have worked elsewhere before we consider it here.

The lesson for libraries is that it's probable that we'll see some library-specific legislation next

*Continued on next page*

The lesson for libraries is that it's probable that we'll see some library-specific legislation next year.

year. As that's the case, it's a good idea to start reaching out to your legislators and having conversations with them – not only about this year's legislation but also about the issues that might come up next year. In that way, you'll become to your legislators what you are for the rest of the community – the resource to find out more.

NHLTA recommends signing up for the NHMA Legislative Bulletin at: [https://mailchi.mp/nhmunicipal/legislative\\_bulletin](https://mailchi.mp/nhmunicipal/legislative_bulletin). It is published each Friday during the legislative session (early January through the end of either May or June, depending on the year), highlighting bills of municipal interest as they move through the legislative process. Each **issue** contains a brief analysis of key legislative developments during the past week, a legislative calendar listing municipal bills to be heard in the next two weeks, a call to action on scheduled hearings, and updates on federal issues of interest to municipalities.

## 2022 Annual Awards

### Honor Those Special Contributors Who Connect the Library with the Community

Each year NHLTA is pleased to recognize the individuals and groups who have contributed to the excellence of New Hampshire public libraries. This year, the **submission deadline is July 15**. Email nominations to [nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org). Instructions, all criteria and a description of the awards can be found on our website [www.NHLTA.org](http://www.NHLTA.org).

- Library of the Year
- Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year
- Library Director of the Year
- Dorothy M. Little Award
- Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support from a Friends of the Library Group
- Special Service Contribution Award

## Orientation Makes for a Well-Prepared Trustee

Trustees generally run for office because they value their public library and want to support the role it plays in their community. Rarely does a prospective trustee have any knowledge of state library laws or a full understanding of the responsibilities of a trustee. NHLTA works to help new trustees get off to a solid start in several ways.

First, the recently revised Library Trustee Manual (available at every library and online at [www.NHLTA.org](http://www.NHLTA.org)) provides a good overview of the trustee's role and responsibilities. If you know of someone who plans to run for a trustee post for the first time, share the manual with them so they'll have a better idea of what they'll be undertaking if elected.

Orientation workshops are offered in the Spring following the March elections. The next workshop has been scheduled for Friday, June 6 in Concord. There will also be a Cliff Notes version of the orientation at the Spring Conference on May 10.

Finally, we also recommend watching the three-part webinar series on our website that covers the main elements of the orientation workshop. While the webinars lack the interactive aspect of the on-site workshops and the informative Q&A exchanges those sessions always inspire, they will allow trustees who cannot travel to a workshop to benefit from the knowledge and experience of several seasoned trustees.

# NH Library Trustee

The Newsletter of the  
New Hampshire Library Trustees  
Association

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**MISSION**  
The NHLTA assists Trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire Public Libraries.

## Calendar 2022

**May 10 • 9 am**  
**2022 Spring Conference & Annual Meeting**  
Registration and breakfast open at 8:00 am  
Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave, Concord

**June 13 • 10 am-2 pm**  
**NHLTA Trustee Orientation Workshop**  
NHMA Building, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

**August 9 • 10 am-2pm**  
**Library Finance Workshop: The Budget and Beyond**  
NHMA Building, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord