

2023 NHLA President's Annual Report

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your NHLA president this year. It was a pleasure and an honor to work with so many talented and dedicated library professionals.

The vision of the 2022-23 NHLA leadership to create a Strategic Plan that is informed by a survey of the membership made my work this year very easy. I'm so pleased with the good progress made on almost all aspects of the Strategic Plan and much of my annual report consists of a progress report on the goals of the Strategic Plan.

I would like to particularly thank Denise van Zanten, NHLA Past-President, who has served more like a co-president this year. It's in large part to her continued work and dedication that so much was accomplished in 2023.

NHLA's total assets remain steady. As of January 31, 2023, total assets were \$266,795.15 and as of September 31, 2023 total assets were \$282,651.26. Thank you to Jessica DeLangie for her careful stewardship of NHLA's finances and welcome to our new Treasurer, Sheryl Bass.

Significant steps were taken this year to document the processes and procedures of NHLA including the creation of an Executive Board report template, an Officers and Executive Board Monthly task list and an Executive Board FAQ document. This was of particular focus because the officers of NHLA realized that as a volunteer-run organization, documents such as these provide needed continuity and communication. I'm sure these documents will continue to be refined and improved, especially with Corinne Chronopoulos returning for a second year as Secretary.

It's my pleasure to welcome Deb Hoadley as your next NHLA President. I'm sure under her strong leadership, NHLA will continue to thrive. Also, Amber Coughlin steps down as the NHLA representative after serving in that role for six years! In addition, Amy Lappin graciously returned this year to serve as our ALA Liaison when that position was vacated. Amy has represented New Hampshire to ALA well through the years.

Finally, I think it's important to recognize that these are challenging times for libraries in our state and across the country. In some ways, it might seem very appealing to hunker down in our individual libraries and hope the hubbub dies down. But if my year working with all of you has shown me anything, it's how much good happens when we all offer what we can. There's never been a more important time for a strong New Hampshire Library Association. Please continue to support, encourage and serve each other. We are stronger together.

All my best,



Mindy Atwood
2023 NHLA President

2022-23 Strategic Plan Progress Report

The goals identified in the Strategic Areas of Focus were a focus of both Denise van Zanten's 2022 NHLA Presidency and my 2023 term. It's my pleasure and honor to report, on behalf of both of us, the progress that has been made on the first-ever NHLA Strategic Plan. Notes on progress made are in italics.

ADVOCACY NHLA advocates on behalf of libraries in New Hampshire (NH), connects to the library community within the state of New Hampshire and beyond, and promotes intellectual freedom for all.

- Inform the NH library community about current and relevant state and national issues and empower library workers and advocates to respond on a local level
 - *Made updates and edits to <https://nhla.azurewebsites.net/Pages/Index/225420/advocacy-homepage> so that there is more information about NHLA Advocacy and Legislative activities*
- Empower libraries to advocate within their communities through partnerships and collaboration with NH State Library (NHSL), New Hampshire Library Trustees Association (NHLTA), New Hampshire School Library Media Association (NHSLMA), New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC)
 - *NHSL communication was improved through the efforts of Lori Fisher and because from May to December of 2023 the NHLA President and the Assistant State Librarian were one and the same. Particular attention may be required to keep these lines of communication at their current levels as NHLA leadership changes to new individuals.*
 - *Implemented the practice of sending the NHLA VP/President-Elect to NHLTA Board meetings and having an NHLTA liaison attend NHLA EB meetings. This was very helpful to increasing collaboration between NHLA and NHLTA.*
 - *Communication with NHSLMA has taken place through several meetings between the NHLA and NHSLMA past-presidents and presidents, in particular, communication around legislation and the steps needed for NHSLMA to merge with NHLA. In addition, NHLA Treasurer-Elect, Sheryl Bass, has met with the NHSLMA Treasurer about the transfer of accounts when the merger occurs.*
 - *Since the departure of NHCUC liaison Anne Jung-Matthews, we have not had an NHCUC representative attend an NHLA EB meeting.*
- Employ a lobbyist to provide tracking of and insight into New Hampshire legislative issues
 - *NHLA employed Teresa Rhodes Rosenberger of Bernstein and Shur as lobbyist in 2022 and 2023.*
 - *In the 2023, New Hampshire legislative session, NHLA submitted statements pertaining to HB 61, HB 72 and HB 514.*

- Reinvalidate the Intellectual Freedom Committee by appointing a new chair and recruiting new committee members
 - *Thanks to Julia Lantner and Lauren Rettig, co chairs of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, this section has been re-invigorated with regular meetings, new committee members and even a new logo!*
- Appoint a Digital Collections task force to track industry developments and issues and to keep the NH library community and public informed
 - *Thank you to the ULAC section of NHLA for agreeing to track industry developments and issues around ebook and digital resources.*

COMMUNICATION This strategic area focuses on communication within the association governance, to and from the membership, and NHLA communication methods (i.e. website, social media, Google Workspace, and Wild Apricot).

- Launch a new NHLA content-managed website
 - *A new NHLA website, managed by Piper Mountain Webs LLC, was launched. All sections and committees were encouraged to identify someone to attend a training on website maintenance via this content-managed solution. Yvette Couser has stayed on as the website content manager– thank you, Yvette!*
- ● Review and revise the NHLA mission statement to include the values of diversity, inclusion, collaboration, and sustainability, for approval by the Executive Board
 - *Thanks to the work of an ad hoc committee led by past-president, Denise van Zanten, a new mission statement and a values statement has been drafted for consideration by the membership.*
- Create and implement communication standards for keeping membership and sections informed
 - *The Executive Board discussed communication around legislative positions and Denise van Zanten presented a draft Media Relations Policy to the Executive Board at the April 11, 2023 meeting. Upon review of the year’s minutes, it appears the Executive Board still needs to approve that policy.*
- Create and implement templates for meeting agendas and reports to the Executive Board from sections/committees
 - *A section and committee report template has been shared with all sections and committees with approximately 75% of the sections and committees opting to utilize it. In addition, a folder on the NHLA for All shared drive has been created for all Executive Board members to upload their reports to. Again, there is about a 75% participation rate in this practice.*
- Continue the process of merging NHL SMA into NHLA as a section and communicate consistently with the current membership of both organizations

- *NHLA will vote to amend its bylaws to allow for a new School Librarians Section in Fall 2023. NHSLMA will vote to dissolve itself as an organization and to join NHLA in Spring 2024.*
- Provide transparency to NHLA operations on the new website.
 - *All sections and committees of NHLA were provided an opportunity to send a representative to be trained on the maintenance of pages on the new NHLA website.*
- Assess how to effectively use Google Workspace for association leadership communication and document a process for transition of online access to new Executive Board members at the December meeting
 - *Secretary Corinne Chronopoulos has created a draft on-boarding document that will be reviewed by the officers at their November meeting.*
 - *A shared folder has been created for Executive Board reports*
- Utilize ITS section expertise to keep the Executive Board up-to-date on existing and emerging technologies that support efficient and effective communication
- Create a Social Media Task Force to draft standards for NHLA's social media communication, and present to the Executive Board for approval and implementation
 - *Adopted by the Executive Board at the October 10 meeting*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT This strategic area addresses the education and professional development of librarians in New Hampshire.

- Offer a wide range of opportunities for professional development that take advantage of traditional partnerships and novel collaborations (in-person and virtual)
 - *Of particular note is the work of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee which has successfully advocated for the addition of EDI training at the annual December NHLA meeting for out-going and incoming officers and section and committee chairs. Funding for this training will come from the Macdonald Fund.*
 - *The biennial NHLA Conference was a great success thanks to the work of our Conference Committee, headed by Deb Hoadley. A full list of presentations can be found [here](#).*
 - *In addition, the Fall Business meeting included a presentation from Dorothy Stolz on "The Six Thinking Hats."*
- Support paraprofessionals by reviewing and revising the current certification program
 - *Thanks to much work done by Julie Spokane, Hope Gardner and Heather Rainier, the Paraprofessionals section is revived. All but one position on their Executive Board is filled, a series of classes are being offered.*
 - *There is a new position on the Board for a Director Liaison which is currently held by Rubi Simon of the Howe Library in Hanover.*

- Offer scholarships to NHLA members through the McDonald trust fund to support professional development
 - *Ongoing*
- Phase out the graduate loan program through the Mabel Winchell trust fund and reallocate those funds to scholarship opportunities
 - *No action taken*
- Offer resources and learning opportunities regarding staff burnout/retention concerns of members
 - Thanks to ULCA for sponsoring Carol Kilmister of Primex to present “Using the 9-box Grid as a Performance Management Tool” and “HR Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Covid World”
- Share information and training about emerging technologies throughout the library community
 - *No action taken*

Possible Tasks For the Future

- Re-establish a relationship with NHCUC by identifying an NHCUC liaison
- Consider the increased cost of Wild Apricot and the other available options for member databases
- Consider the creation of a Members Only page on nhlibrarians.org

Vice President & Conference Committee Report for NHLA Executive Board
10/10/2023

Upcoming Activities/Programs/Events:

Fall Conference/NHLA Business Meeting is November 9 at Common Man in Plymouth.

Registration **deadline is October 18.**

Dorothy Stoltz is the keynote speaker and will be presenting on the Six Thinking Hats, a creative way of thinking and solving problems.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

2025 Spring Conference: April 17-18, 2025

ALA State Chapter Advocacy Academy - Chapter Leaders from each state have been invited to go to Chicago to participate in a day and half workshop on Dec 8-10, 2023. Also attending from NH is Jennifer Toth, Vice-President of the NH School Library Media Association.

Other News:

Met with the Strategic Planning Committee. Currently working on surveys to go out to the general library community and also one for the Executive Board.

Attended the 2nd meeting of the ALA Chapter Relations Committee. These meetings will be scheduled regularly now to keep up-to-date on what is happening in terms of censorship, banned books and responses for state chapters and other affiliates to withdraw from ALA. Media Tips were shared by Shawnda Hines, ALA's Communications and Public and Advocacy Offices.

Attended NHLTA meeting on Oct 4. There was some discussion about the LSRs and there meeting in December will be in person and Natch Greyes from NHMA will be reviewing upcoming legislative actions. On Oct. 23 from 10-2, there will be a Trustee Orientation Workshop in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Hoadley

NHLA Treasurer's Report

September 2023

Jessica DeLangie, NHLA Treasurer

Financial Report

Please find attached a copy of

- NHLA's September 2023 Profit & Loss Statement
- NHLA's Balance Sheet as of September 31, 2023
- FY23 Income and Expenses as of September 31, 2023
- DRAFT Financial Statement

We have finished up the Financial Review with Wipfli. Please see attached DRAFT. Wipfli will present at our meeting.

Sheryl and I continue to meet for training and treasurer work.

NHLA's total assets as of September 31, 2023 were \$282,651.26.

Below is a listing of cash held by each account as of September 31, 2023.

NHLA checking	\$4,643.73
NHLA savings – non-interest	\$36,717.84
NHLA savings	\$108,772.39
CLNH	\$17,379.35
READS	\$4,408.33
PARALIB	\$9,485.84
ULAC	\$5,840.08
YALS	\$5,469.03
ITS	\$1,878.13
WINCHELL LOAN (revolving fund)	\$24,998.55
NORRIS (scholarship)	\$2,196.06
MACDONALD FUND (continuing ed/professional development)	\$20,823.20

NHLA Past President Annual Report 2023

The past year was a very busy one and I am honored to have been able to work with a very talented executive board! I especially want to thank my fellow officers for working together to guide us through a stressful year with many decisions made and goals achieved.

It was a pleasure to work with Mindy Atwood and Deb Hoadley as we faced new challenges and set the stage for our membership to be heard and supported as we enter a legislative cycle where the impact on libraries will be very much front and center.

The Mission Statement Task Force worked on reviewing and updating the mission and vision statements for the organization and these new statements will be presented at the Annual Meeting 2023. The work done by the Task Force led to discussions about the Bylaws and suggested changes were clarified by our very talented Bylaws Committee members.

In a very small way I got the opportunity to assist Deb Hoadley with the Spring Conference this year.

Working on the process to bring NHL SMA back into NHLA as a section has been rewarding and our school librarians needs us now more than ever. A united front is going to be very important to protect access to books for all members of our communities. Final steps will be completed in early 2024.

With the help of fellow officers, we were able to recruit and put forth a very talented slate of officers who will continue to support NHLA's mission as we face future challenges to libraries.

And finally, I will proudly continue to support NHLA as the Co-Chair for the Advocacy and Legislative Committee as we enter a busy Legislative cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve NHLA as an officer these past three years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. van Kanten

Past President

Bylaws Committee Annual Report 2023

The Bylaws Committee gained two more members this year, Brittney Bergholm and Elizabeth Bolton. The committee currently consists of:

- Kersten Matera - Chair (Nashua Public Library)
- Brittney Bergholm (Goffstown Public)
- Elizabeth Bolton (Barrington Public)
- Yvette Couser (Merrimack Public Library)
- Alyssa Jobin (Merrimack Public Library)
- Amy Lappin (Lebanon Public Libraries)
- Eric Stern (Derry Public Library)

This year the Bylaws Committee:

- Reviewed and condensed a draft of the NHLA Media Relations Policy and a Social Media Policy WIP Draft
- Offered suggested edits and gave input on NHSLMA’s Constitution and Bylaws in order for them to become a section of NHLA
- Worked on the amendments in the chart below. These amendments have been voted on by the NHLA Executive Board and are ready for the NHLA membership to vote on at the Annual Meeting:

Article amendment	Summary of change	
<i>Bylaws</i> – Article 3 – Executive Board/Non-voting members	Add Social Media Coordinator to list for non-voting members and list each Liaisons (i.e. Center for the Book, NHLTA Liaison, NH Colleges and University Council (NHCUC))	Approved by NHLA 4/11
<i>Bylaws</i> – Article 3 – Executive Board/Standing Committees/Section Representatives	Add the NHSLMA (New Hampshire School Library Media Association) as another Section of NHLA	Approved by NHLA 4/11
<i>Constitution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rewrote the Mission Statement • created a Values Statement • cleaned up and moved some of the text which currently shares the “Mission Statement” section. 	Approved by NHLA 9/8

Respectfully submitted,

Kersten Matera
Bylaws Committee Chair

2023 CLNH ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Christina Finemore, CLNH President

CLNH holds monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month at 9:30 am. We currently have seven active members and will be electing two new members during our annual meeting at the CLNH conference this week.

CLNH has spent the year primarily planning our first in person conferences and workshops since 2019. In the spring CLNH organized and facilitated a performer showcase during the NHLA spring conference that was very well liked and well attended by members.

We are still searching for a membership chair and will be letting members know about this vacant spot on the board at the fall CLNH conference.

Additionally, we clarified and revised our bylaws which was approved unanimously at the CLNH spring conference.

CLNH worked hard to organize and facilitate our fall conference at Pat's Peak that has 60 members registered to attend. We have multiple speakers who are experts on the behavior and neurology of children. We also have a children's author present and speak as well as librarians sharing some of their favorite programs. NAMI NH is also going to be doing their Ending the Silence Training to wrap up the conference.

We have all enjoyed serving our members and are enjoying being able to provide in person conferences one again!

READS President Annual Report October 2023

Executive Board and Membership

The READS Executive Board met six times this year, and we continued to meet virtually. Our current Executive Board consists of: Sue Harmon, President; Brianna Hammah, Vice President; Natalie Moser, Past President; Matthew Gunby, Secretary; Tanya Griffith, Treasurer; Liz Ryan, Membership Chair; Eileen Gilbert, Programming Chair; Jane Martina, Public Relations; Martha Simmons, Reads-to-Go Chair; Alexa Moore, Website Coordinator. Our current membership count is 156 members.

This year, the Vice President and Secretary positions are up for election. The nominating committee consisted of Natalie Moser, Brianna Hammah, and Jane Martina. Jane Martina is running for Vice President, and Sarah Frost is running for Secretary. The board was happy to congratulate Gail Zachariah (Keene Public Library) on her retirement, and welcome Martha Simmons (Hooksett Public Library) as the new Reads-To-Go Chair. In January this year, Laura Pezone stepped down from Treasurer. After a brief search, Tanya Griffith was appointed to fill the remainder of Laura's term. Thank you to outgoing Past President, Natalie Moser, and to the current Executive Board for their dedication and hard work.

Programming

This year, the READS Programming Committee offered three spring roundtables in March, focusing on advancing workplace mental health and work-related burnout. Our Fall Conference was held on October 13, and the topic was *Navigating the Storm: Empowering Librarians to Address Political and Social Challenges*. Thank you, Eileen and the programming committee, for a relevant and insightful conference!

NHLA Spring Conference

A big thank-you to the READS board members who stepped up to present four sessions at the NHLA Spring Conference. READS presented three programs on *The Reference Interview* (Susan Harmon), *READS-To-Go* (Brianna Hammah), *BookBoxes* (Jane Martina), and co-chaired a discussion panel on *Gatekeepers* (Natalie Moser). Our Vice President, Brianna Hammah, served on the NHLA Conference Planning Committee.

Adult Programming Resources

READS continues to offer resources to members online! The repository continues to grow, with additions from the Intellectual Freedom Committee for their *Live Free and Read* campaign! You can use these templates to create a campaign featuring your local elected officials or prominent community members. Our program database receives new submissions every month, and we will highlight new submissions in our bi-monthly newsletter. This year, READS has launched a [Goodreads group](#) to help you put together staff-picks displays and quick reader's advisory recommendations. Each recommendation has a brief summary and two to three appeal terms taken from NoveList. There are also bookshelves for the NHLA Sustainability and DEI committees to highlight important books, and a bookshelf for all of the currently circulating books available through READS-To-Go.

READS

Reference and Adult Services

A section of the New Hampshire Library Association

Finally, we're excited to announce the formation of an ad-hoc committee dedicated to creating resources for adult programming librarians! Over the past three years, we've seen a steady rise in dedicated library positions focused on adult programming, as well as other librarians taking on some programming duties. Jane Martina will chair this ad-hoc committee, so if you are interested in joining the effort, please reach out! More information can be found on the READS website.

Public Relations

We continued to promote READS activities with our bi-monthly Newsletters, Social Media posts, the NHAIS Listserv, and the READS NHLA website. With our Website Coordinator, READS News and events were published on our website.

READS-To-Go

There are currently 230 circulating kits. There have been 8 new kits added and 2 removed. 485 reservations were added to the system in the last year. The most popular kits include *Inheritance*, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, *Born a Crime*, and *The House in the Cerulean Sea*.

READS-To-Go has now added Genres to each kit in Kit Keeper! These genres include: General Fiction, Historical Fiction, Mystery/Thriller, Science Fiction/Fantasy, General Nonfiction, Biography/Memoir, and History (Nonfiction).

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Harmon

READS President

NHLA Executive Board Meeting 11.14.2023

2023 Annual Report – Website Coordinator

This year the activity on the website has settled into something that will probably become routine. When new Board members join, or Sections and Committees have new members who volunteer to manage their page, I have contacted Dale Dormody to set up passwords, log ins and time for training with Dale. On the rare occasion that I've had to reach out to Dale a second time, he has followed up with the new person and the training has been completed.

I keep a running list in a document as requests come in and have addressed website additions and corrections and have forwarded more challenging issues to Dale. A few instances to note:

- NHLA Secretary Corinne Chronopoulos contacted Dale directly for help in creating subfolders for meeting minutes
- Cyndi Burnham had emailed the NHLA Membership that the Paralibrarian Section was going inactive due to a lack of Board members; the Section had new members join and they now have someone managing their page.
- I received a GoDaddy renewal notice that had been sent to a former NHLA Treasurer and forwarded this to Dale; he said we don't have to renew this because NHLA had never used this version of the GoDaddy site features when they hosted the site.
- Treasurer Jessica DeLangie asked me to contact Dale about this year's invoice
- Links to the Conference handouts and presentations we posted
- The ALA Councilor page has been updated as requested
- I've posted email content from the NHLA President as it seemed necessary/timely
- Dale corrected the Facebook link and made requested additions to the READS page
- To change the front page top image to a slider where different library pictures are presented is probably possible but because of the current measurement of the space the images would not display well. The space could be increased but that would push the rest of the content down the page.

My Goal for 2024 will be to streamline/edit the horizontal tabs (with user feedback and suggestions for improvement) and to settle on another image for the front page. We should be ready for when the Advocacy and Legislative Committee will want to update their page more frequently given the upcoming LSRs. The President can use the home page message section "From the President" for other important messaging; this space may also be used to keep the membership updated on the LSRs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvette Couser

2023 Technical Services Committee Annual Report

The Technical Services Committee (TSC) meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday at 2pm via Zoom. A couple times a year we host a cataloging and Ask-a-Cataloger presentation via Zoom as well. A few members of the committee research and create these presentations based on feedback from our regular meetings. So far we've done several presentations on various MARC fields and series cataloging. We are always looking for new presenters and hope to recruit more people in the coming year.

This year the TSC hosted a technical services roundtable at the NHLA Spring conference. The roundtable was attended by 19 people and was a very engaging discussion of topics including Library of Things, weeding, classification systems, and more. On June 27th the Committee hosted a presentation on series cataloging that had 19 attendees. These Zoom meetings and presentations have continued to attract more engaged participants, so it might be worthwhile to hold them more often (perhaps monthly).

The committee saw the retirement of our website coordinator Anne Murphy and Martha Simmons was appointed to serve in her place. Once she is trained the TSC section of the NHLA website will be updated regularly.

We continue to brainstorm engaging technical services presentations and programming for the greater NHLA community and ways to get more members involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Brown
Technical Services Committee Chair

Wild Apricot Database Administrator Annual Report NHLA Annual Business Meeting (November 2023)

This year provided an opportunity to explore alternative software options due to the announcement by Personify of an additional price increase for the second year. After discussion with the former New England Library Association database administrator (who has much experience with Wild Apricot (WA), and has navigated various membership software over the years), it was found that staying with our current selection was the best option since it has such robust functionality for an organization of our size, and seems to be priced fairly at the current market value. As a result, our annual membership was renewed at the new rate effective 5/26/23. The option to join other library associations in the region to negotiate a bundle rate with Personify could be a possibility in the years ahead.

As in the past, after the annual December handover meeting and transition periods, I have added, removed, and adjusted administrator access privileges as requested by respective section and committee chairs, and directed them to training documents as needed. Other database responsibilities involved confirming & updating contact details of members in positions at new libraries, and continuing to be a liaison between the NHLA Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Bookkeeper for deliveries.

Existing administrators were assisted with: the setup and review of event pages and outgoing WA email; resolving registration, membership, and financial discrepancies due to incorrect or unsettled payments; identifying duplicate, missing & unlabeled payments, activating joint NELA memberships and invoicing/adding section memberships. I also re-routed emails to respective event organizers when settings were not adjusted during setup, and researched credit card re-repayment feasibility for a Winchell loan recipient, including possible surcharges and legal stipulations.

I also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the NH Library Trustees Association & the NH Municipal Association this year to discuss and demonstrate Wild Apricot functionalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jose

NHLA Wild Apricot Database Administrator

2023 EDI ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Melissa Mannon, Committee Chair

EDI holds monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 1pm. We currently have five active members in the group and seek new members who would like to learn about and promote EDI to support the NH library community.

The EDI Committee has spent the year discussing their role within NHLA. Toward this end, they have recommended training for the NHLA Executive Board, bringing forth a list of potential diversity trainers. We will begin with a workshop by James McKim on December 12th from 9-12. We are exploring the possibility of an EDI assessment with the New Hampshire Equity Collective using the group's "Culturally Effective Organizations Framework" in 2024.

EDI decided to have a chair for the first time this year so that work could be streamlined and spearheaded.

Charged by the Executive Board with examining the NHLA banner on the website, the committee made the recommendation to have a new banner designed that did not show human figures. The banner representation on the website is controversial to some NHLA members.

In the spring, the EDI Committee hosted a roundtable at the NHLA spring conference.

The Committee brought a resolution and draft mission statement before the Board early this year. It was tabled until a future date once EDI work has been clarified.

EDI has begun a quarterly newsletter to share information and sources about EDI with NHLA members.

EDI has teamed up with the New Hampshire University Librarians (NHCUC) Professional Development Committee to offer a self-care and patron care workshop through an equity lens in spring 2024.

ITS Section - Annual Meeting

10/13/23

The ITS section met virtually and in a hybrid format for each month during the past year (with a few exceptions). Some meetings have been informal in nature providing the opportunity to share technology news, challenges, and solutions. Other sessions have featured product demos, guest speakers, and panel discussions on topics of importance to the NH Library Community. Attendance at section meetings has varied from 5-20 people.

Highlights from the past year include:

- A return to in-person meetings with hybrid style meetings held at the Manchester City Library, Jaffrey Public Library, Tucker Free Library, and Concord Public Library.
- ITS organized 3 presentations for the Spring NHLA Conference, including a “Marketing for Small Libraries” program in conjunction with the ad-hoc Publicity & Marketing Committee; “ELI5 (Explain Like I’m 5): Artificial Intelligence & Future Implications” presented by Bobbi Slossar and Mark Glisson; and a program by Chuck McAndrews on the topic of how to read and interpret technology documentation.
- The ITS chairs assisted the new adhoc Publicity and Marketing committee launch a new Google Group for discussion.

Mat Bose (Assistant Director, Concord Public Library) and Mark Glisson (Assistant Director, Hooksett Public Library) have been co-chairs of the ITS section since Dec. 2020, and have agreed to continue as co-chairs through Sept. 2024. Steve Viggiano (Head of Information and Technology, Manchester City Library) is the Treasurer for the ITS Section (since 2018).

The ITS section will meet monthly (either virtually or in-person (w/hybrid option) as opportunities allow) to maintain strong attendance and to provide a valuable forum for conversations on timely and relevant tech topics. The section also continues to be a forum for discussions via its ITS listserv.

ITS’s last reported savings account balance was \$1,878.13.

The section’s next scheduled meeting is for **Wednesday, November 29th at 10:30 a.m. at the Moultonborough Public Library and via Zoom**. We look forward to organizing more engaging speakers, panel discussions and individual presentations, and technology demonstrations during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mat Bose & Mark Glisson, ITS Section Co-Chairs

NHLA ALA Councilor Annual Report 2023
Amy Lappin, NHLA Chapter Councilor
October 18, 2023

It was a privilege to be able to serve the remainder of Lori Fisher's term, once again representing the New Hampshire Library Association on the American Library Association Council.

Actions and news of note from 2023 include:

At LibLearnX in January, ALA Council debated and ultimately passed a major revision of the [Bylaws of the American Library Association](#) and a dissolution of the ALA Constitution. The revised bylaws went to the entire membership and was adopted in a vote of the membership in April.

At their Annual Conference in Chicago in June, Council passed ALA Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated and Detained ([CD #14.1](#)). This important work came from the ALA Committee on Diversity.

A Resolution Condemning Discrimination against Library Workers and Supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community ([CD#58](#)) was approved.

The resignation of ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall in early October. At this writing, it is expected that an interim director will be named soon and a search for a permanent executive director will commence before the end of the year.

Council will next meet at [LibLearnX in Baltimore, MD](#) from January 19 -22, 2024. Registration is open.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lappin
NHLA ALA Chapter Councilor

Section/Committee Name: Center for the Book

Current Board members:

Dan Szczesny (2023 Chair State Librarian Appointee), Selma Naccach-Hoff (2023 Vice Chair State Librarian Appointee), Michael York (New Hampshire State Librarian), Sarah L. Stewart (Commissioner, NH Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources), Frank Edelblut (Commissioner, NH Dept. of Education), Alexandria Peary (New Hampshire Poet Laureate), David Elliott (State Librarian Appointee), Michael Haley Goldman (NH Humanities), Moriah Churchill-Calkins (Children's Librarians of New Hampshire), Chandra Boudreau (New Hampshire Library Association), Rachel Hill (New Hampshire School Library Media Association), Don Kimball (Poetry Society of New Hampshire), Paul Jenkins (Libraries Committee, NH College and University Council)

Upcoming Activities/Programs/Events:

Ladybug voting is open in schools and libraries. The deadline for votes is December 17, 2023 at 11:30pm and the voting guide and the ballots are all linked through <https://nhbookcenter.blogspot.com/2023/09/ladybug-voting-guide.html>.

The NH Dublin Committee nominated Demon Copperhead for the 2024 award. Details are at <https://nhbookcenter.blogspot.com/search/label/Dublin%20Award>. The committee happily takes suggestions and looks for new members regularly. If you are interested, reach out to the chair at charles.a.shipman@dncr.nh.gov.

The NH Humanities Council Big Read, in which we are a partner, is going very well. Details are at <https://www.nhhumanities.org/BigRead>. It kicked off in September with libraries and organizations in 10 NH counties handing out copies of *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak to their communities. It also featured a conversation with the author at the Capitol Center for the Arts here in Concord and a planetarium show at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center. Over 5,000 participants throughout the entire event are expected.

Other News:

The Center for the Book participated in the National Book Festival in August – State Librarian Mike York and C4B Deputy Director Felicia Martin were at our table in the Parade of States. We featured the work of Sy Montgomery as our contribution to the Great Reads project at the Fest. See <https://nhbookcenter.blogspot.com/2023/08/2023-national-book-festival.html>

NHLA Scholarship Committee Annual Report for 2023

The New Hampshire Library Association supports graduate education for members through two programs.

F. Mabel Winchell Loan Fund

- \$2,000 interest-free loan to be repaid within 4 years
- Funded through lifelong memberships to NHLA
- Applicant must be a resident of New Hampshire or currently employed by a NH library, enrolled in an ALA accredited school of Library or Information Science, and a member of NHLA.

Rosalie Norris Scholarship

- \$1,000 outright grant
- Funded through a bequest to NHLA from Rosalie Norris
- Applicant must be a resident of New Hampshire or currently employed by a NH library, enrolled in an ALA accredited school of Library or Information Science, and a member of NHLA.

Current committee members are:

- Tom Ladd
- Sarah Leonardi
- Carlos Pearman
- Jess Ross
- Becky White

Spring Application Cycle

The committee met virtually in April and awarded the Rosalie Norris grant to **Amanda Alwyn** of the Laconia Public Library for study at Valdosta State University and **Kelly Montagano** of the Durham Public Library for study at San Jose State University.

Fall Application Cycle

The committee met virtually and awarded the Rosalie Norris grant to **Christina Finemore**, of the Maxfield Public library for study at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis and **Natalie Moser** of the Laconia Public Library for study at Valdosta State University

Loan Repayments

The committee received a loan payoff from Natalia Bairamova, the 2018 and 2019 awardee of the Winchell Loan, and payments from Samantha Milnes, 2020 awardee.

Membership Updates

During this year, Marilyn Borgendale decided to retire from the Scholarship Committee after years of service. The committee thanks Marilyn and wishes her the best in her retirement. Becky White of the Pease Public Library agreed to step up and fill our vacant position.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Pearman
NHLA Scholarship Committee Chair

ULAC

Annual Report for NHLA Executive Board

10/13/23

Current Board members:

Eric Stern, Chair

Upcoming Activities/Programs/Events:

As of writing this, ULAC's next meeting is on Friday, October 27th, 10am at the Lebanon Public Library. This will be the group's first trip to the Lebanon Public Library since I've been chair. (We had traveled to the Kilton Library (also in Lebanon) last October.) We will then be meeting either on Friday, December 8th or Friday, December 15th, location TBD.

Income/Expenses and Balance of Account:

At the most recent ULAC meeting, the current balance was reported to be \$5,840.03.

Year in Review:

- ULAC has met regularly in 2023. The group met on 1/27 virtually, 2/24 in-person at the State Library in Concord, 3/24 in-person at Londonderry Leach Library & virtually, 4/21 at the State Law Library in Concord, 5/26 virtually, 6/23 in-person at the Keene Public Library, 7/28 virtually, 8/25 in-person at the Dover Public Library, 9/22 aboard the Winnepesaukee Spirit (on Lake Winnepesaukee), and as noted above we have 2 more meetings scheduled for October and December. As is typically the case, there will be no meeting in November.
- The officers for ULAC in 2023 were Eric Stern from the Derry Public Library as Chair; Sheryl Bass from the Durham Public Library as Secretary; and Heather Rainier from the Hooksett Public Library as Treasurer.
- ULAC has had robust attendance and active engagement throughout 2023.
- Topics of discussion this year have thankfully been able to pivot from the pandemic. The following topics appeared on ULAC agendas this year:
 - Tracking digital collections situation – laws/publisher news
 - Book challenges at our libraries
 - NHLA Spring Conference sponsorship of Carol Kilmister & a cocktail hour
 - Acquisition of free Covid test kits
 - Weather closures and staffing challenges
 - Tour of NH State Library
 - HB 514
 - *Court-Ordered Supervised Visitations in Public Libraries
 - Food allergies and policies related thereto
 - Tour of NH Supreme Court and Law Library
 - Outsourcing and privatization of public libraries
 - Covid after-action reports

- Unattended children policies
- Narcan
- Video surveillance
- Capital improvement plans
- First Amendment audits
- Public PCs – changes since Covid
- Staff appreciation events/activities
- Patron hygiene issues
- HB 321 and the impact on nonpublic meeting minutes
- Discussion of the role of the public librarian as an advocate
- **The most discussed topic this year, by far, has been the uptick in supervised visitations in public libraries. As Chair of ULAC, and Director of a NH State Law Library partner library (Derry) I spent significant time corresponding with folks across the state about this issue. I met with representatives from DCYF and spoke with DCYF's general counsel. I worked with the Derry Reference Staff to craft a memo that provides the history of "how we got here" with supervised visitations. This memo has been shared with the State Library, and NH State legislators. Hopefully by this time next year, action will have been taken to assist children, families, and libraries to avert what is (and will become for others) a challenging situation.*
- ULAC looks forward to another great year in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Stern, ULAC Chair

NHLA Sustainability Committee Annual Report 2023



Current Sustainability Committee members: Judy Russell, Converse/Lyme (Chair/submitter of this report); Tess Kimsey, Manchester; Brittany Overton, Moultonborough; Melissa Mannon, Kingston. **New members:** Michelle Baker, Gale/Newton; Mary Cronin, Cook/Tamworth; Nancy Ladd, Warner.

Web Page: [Sustainability Committee | New Hampshire Library Association](#)

The Sustainability Committee generally meets the first Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m., usually via Zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend one meeting or get further involved. Details and agendas are posted to the NHLA calendar.

The “SusComm” has spent the past year adjusting to its relatively new role as an official committee of the New Hampshire Library Association. We are creating documents to guide us and future committee members.

We are always wrestling with the reality of having more ideas than volunteers to help make them a reality. Among our potential and current programs: a book discussion group for librarians, semimonthly newsletters containing shared local and global resources, panel discussions regarding the role of electric vehicles and public transportation for libraries and our communities, tools for planning green/small-footprint meetings and conferences, suggestions and methods for reducing the use of plastics in libraries, and examining ways we can emulate and activate the United Nations’s Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

A sampling of our work can be found on our web page at [nhlibrarians.org](#), including videos of past meetings, collection development tools, past newsletters and meeting minutes.

Questions and/or suggestions are welcome. Please contact Committee Chair Judy Russell (Converse/Lyme) at jrussell@lymenhlibrary.org or 603-795-4622.

NHLA Membership Report 2023

Linda Pilla – Membership Chair

The number of active NHLA members has increased again this year from 534 in 2022 to 580 as of September 30, 2023 – an increase of by nearly 9%. All memberships that have been inactive since 2022 have been archived. Members are also increasingly making use of the option to pay online as the number of checks being processed has decreased this year.

Following a question at the October 2023 meeting the Membership Chair has been reviewing the lifetime memberships. Currently there are 47. It is almost certain that some of these members have passed away and some of the other membership records are incomplete to the point of being useless. The goal is to contact lifetime members by whatever means possible to confirm they are still alive and wish to be considered “active” as a NHLA member.

Looking ahead, the first reminder for the 2024 membership drive will be sent out around the beginning of November. Payments for the 2024 membership year will be accepted starting on December 1, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Pilla

Paralibrarian Annual Report 2023

2023 continued to be a year of rebuilding and growth for the Paralibrarian section. As of October 2023, we have 77 active members.

We continued to offer hybrid classes, allowing us to increase our reach to a broader scope of individuals to benefit from our section. We will have offered a total of 8 classes by the end of the year including:

- Basics of Cataloging and Classification
- Preparing your Paralibrarian Application
- Book Repair Workshop in Peterborough
- Weeding Class in Meredith
- Weeding Class in Peterborough
- Canva I
- Book Repair Workshop in Whitefield
- Weeding Class in Merrimack

The Paralibrarian Section would like to thank all of our presenters for generously sharing their time and knowledge with our members to aid in attaining Paralibrarian Certification. We would like to recognize Alex Planchak, Julie Spokane, Hope Garner, Nik Beachemin, Matthew Gunby, Corinne Chornopoulis, Stacey Desrosiers, and Yvetter Couser. Special thanks to those who taught more than once to reach the majority of people. The Paralibrarian Section would also like to thank our Education Chair, Hope Garner, for her tireless work in organizing these classes.

From November 2022 through October 2023, two Paralibrarian Certifications were awarded:

- Nik Beauchemin, Peterborough Town Library, Level 1
- Katie Ondre, Wadleigh Memorial Library, Level 1

The section is looking for new members to join our Board, particularly in the role of Membership and Public Relations Chairs.

A new position for the Board was created this year, the Director Liaison which has been filled by Rubi Simon.

Board Members:

- Cyndi Burnham, President-Elect
- Heather Rainier, Past President
- Julie Spokane, Treasurer
- Katie Ondre, Secretary

Review Board Chair: Carla Ferreira

Review Committee Members: Lee Ann Chase, Anne Meyers, Edmund Lowe,
Cheryl Ingerson

Education Chair: Hope Garner

Education Committee: Crystal Schimpf

Webmaster: Amanda Alwyn

Interstate Reciprocity Chair: Heather Rainier

Mini-Conference Committee Chair: Cyndi Burnham

General Board Member: Mary Ann Shea

Pam MacDonald was appointed Interim Treasurer in May allowing Julie Spokane to move into the role of Interim Vice-President.

We will be reinstating our biannual Paralibrarian Mini-Conference in the Spring of 2024.

Respectively submitted,

Cyndi Burnham and Heather Rainier



Intellectual Freedom Committee

Co-Chair Report

Submitted by Lauren Rettig (lrettig@sps.edu) & Julia Lanter (exeterpljal@gmail.com) Committee Co-Chairs

Officers: Lauren Rettig & Julia Lanter continue their second year as Co- Chairs of the IFC and Sara Ballard as Secretary.

The following are the tasks accomplished by the Committee in 2023:

- January: Updated the IFC Webpage to include Right to Know and Libraries slideshow by New Hampshire Attorney, Natch Greyes and CT Library Association slides on Talking to press and patrons about challenges.
- February: Created and shared content for poster project including Style Guide for Poster Project (Logos, Font & How to's), how to share poster project info for NHLA Sections, and how to save to READs Drive. Shared our new email from NHLA (ifc@nhlibrarians.org).
- March: Promoted Awareness of Hide the Pride Campaign for libraries to take notice.
- April: Julia made buttons for the NHLA conference: “Ask me about Intellectual Freedom!”
- May: Created a passive table at NHLA Spring Conference where we offered “NHLA IFC” and “Ask me about Intellectual Freedom” buttons, “Live Free and Read” posters featuring Sy Montgomery, and sign-up for 1:1 library policy consultations.
- June: Voted and approved new NHLA IFC logo created by Janel Flanagan. Voted on Summer Hiatus until October meeting.

- September: Emailed NHAIS list to remind libraries of the upcoming Banned Books Week in October, including a link to free resources and asking people to share their displays.
- October: Emailed NHAIS list to share NHLA IFC website and resources for Banned Books Week as well as asked libraries to submit bans they've experienced to the NHLA IFC through our reporting form.
- November: Next Meeting will be November 6th @ 3:30 PM

2024 Co-Chair Goals:

- Complete NHLA IF Poster project in time for 2024 National Election
- Improve website resources.
- Continue to educate NH Librarians on the state of Book Bans in NH and USA and help prepare NH librarians for Book Bans.
 - Share with members any resources on the topic of IF & add these to Website, NHLA Listserv
 - Share any webinars on topic of IF
 - Create social media content

2023 Report to the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) from the New England Library Association (NELA)

Changes at NELA will be coming in 2024. NELA will embark upon planning a new strategic plan in the coming year and the incoming executive board will be able to drive that process. The departure of the estimable Bob Scheier in April of 2023 has been challenging for NELA as his responsibilities and talents were many and varied. The Personnel Committee is looking at staff roles afresh and will reassess NELA's future staffing needs in the wake of his departure.

I was on the nominations committee this year and it was a pleasure to help assemble a strong slate of candidates for the election. New Additions to the Board are incoming Vice President/President Elect Jennifer He and incoming Member-at-Large Aaron Coutu.

Additionally, as a member of the awards committee along with my fellow New England State representatives, we were pleased to award the Emerson Greenaway Award to Janet McKenney of Maine.

This year's New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) was held in-person for the first time since the COVID pandemic put things on hold in 2020. It was held at the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont and facilitated by Jami Yazdani. As the State Representative for New Hampshire, I was asked to help the NELLS committee in selecting candidates for this year's cohort as well as the NH State Mentor. This year's cohort had five New Hampshire librarian leaders and Amy Lappin was the State Mentor.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to serve NHLA as the NELA representative for two terms over the past six years. This is the end of my term as the New Hampshire representative to NELA, and I have truly valued the experience of working with you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Coughlin

NELA Representative