

Paralibrarian Board Meeting approved 11/17/23

Friday, September 15, 2023

Hooksett Public Library, 10:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Attending in Person:

Past-President and Interstate Reciprocity Liaison: Heather Rainier, Hooksett Public Library. *President & Mini-Conference Chair*: Cyndi Burnham, Goffstown Public Library (arrived at 10:20 a.m.). Vice President: Julie Spokane, Amherst Public Library. Education chair: Hope Garner. Review Committee board member: Anne Meyers, Deerfield Public Library. Treasurer: Pam MacDonald, Amherst Public Library. Member at Large: Mary Ann Shea, Wadleigh Memorial Library.

Attending via Zoom: None

Absent from the meeting: Webmaster: Amanda Alwyn, Laconia Public Library. Review Co-Chair: Carla Ferreira, Amherst Town Library. Review Co-chair: LeeAnn Chase, Hooksett Public Library. Review Committee Member: Edmund Lowe, Nashua Public Library. Review Committee Member: Cheryl Ingerson, Elkins Public Library. Secretary: Katie Ondre, Wadleigh Memorial Library. Member at Large: Danielle Arpin, Pelham Public Library, Education Committee member and Newsletter Committee Member: Krista Bordeleau, Pelham Public Library. Membership co-chairs: Alison Wood and Molly DiPadova, Richards Free Library, Newport.

Meeting called to order: 10:12 am.

6 board members in attendance.

We do not have a quorum; discussion deferred on items needing a vote.

Treasurer's Report (Pam MacDonald)

Current Balance as of 8/31/23: \$9195.69

Treasure and Education Chair will work on coordination of payments for a more efficient process.

Webmaster Report (Amanda Alwyn):

Board contact information and Paralibrarian Section Guide have been updated.

The list of certification holders has been updated.

General cleanup of wording and links on site has been done.

Amanda is often unable to attend meetings due to work commitments; the Webmaster is currently required to attend meetings. Is there a way to add flexibility to the requirement?

NHLA updates (Heather Ranier)

There is currently some political pressure on the NHLA to pull out of the ALA due to comments from the current ALA president. Amy Lappin and Mindy have drafted a letter addressing this topic.

Hope mentioned that there is also a state representative who is pushing for the removal of library trustees and having town governments run libraries in the state.

Cyndi arrived at 10:20; we now have a quorum.

Return to discussion of requirement for Webmaster to attend all meetings; suggestion to have them attend every other meeting. The question was tabled. Someone will reach out to Amanda, and we will discuss again at the November meeting.

Meeting time-Motion to move meeting time to 9 a.m. so everyone can get back to their libraries earlier.

Moved by Pam (?), seconded by Hope. 6 in favor, Mary Ann abstains, Motion passes.

A few minutes were devoted to bringing Cyndi up to date on what was discussed prior to her arrival.

- Approval of Minutes from May:

One correction: Cyndi appointed Julie as Interim Vice President (not President as stated in the minutes).

Cyndi moved to accept minutes as amended, Heather seconded. All in favor.

President's Report (Cyndi)

Nothing to report.

Past President's Report (Heather)

Nominating committee

Current ballot:

President: Julie

Vice President: Katie

Secretary: ???

Treasurer: Pam

The Secretary prepares the ballot; positions change in January. Appointed positions are interim until elections.

Cyndi will reach out to Christa in Pelham.

Newsletter: We need to send one out soon.

Review Chair Report

One certification was submitted for our approval. Anne moved that we approve of Nik Beuachemin's Level One application. Cyndi seconded. All in favor. Congratulations to Nik!

There followed a discussion on getting more people on the board, particularly those in the section.

Various options were discussed-personalized invitations to come to a meeting, "bring a friend," as well as focusing on members with certifications-invite them to the November meeting? If invites are by email, possibly do follow up phone calls? Heather will get a list to Cyndi; it was noted that the list on the website should now be up to date. A different message to certificate holders and general membership was suggested. Hope volunteered to assist with contacting people. The last certification approval (before today) was in September of 2022.

Education Chair Report (Hope)

Linda Kepner has volunteered to do her cataloging course again, but in a shorter version than what she

did before. (possible Spring 2024 program)

Other ideas discussed:

ILL class-reach out to State Library? Use their information for part of the class, then discuss how each library handles the task (Best Practices)-round table?

Several people have offered to do classes-need to pin down what class they would like to provide.

General discussion:

How many classes should we offer (Spring and Fall)? What is a sustainable level for the Education Chair to provide? How many classes will Paralibrarian candidates be able to attend?

Heather suggested that there be an education collaboration between our section and READS and CLNH; we provide classes, but other groups benefit, so perhaps they can sponsor some classes?

Discussion of differentiating between in-person attendees and virtual attendees at programs.

Book repair workshop 10/25/23 in Whitefield. Not opened to all yet-Hope gave priority to those on the previous class waitlist. The general announcement will be out soon.

Discussion of stipend for presenters. It has been an option; some decline. Hope thinks it makes sense to give each presenter a stipend. Is this sustainable? If there are enough attendees. At the current rate, it takes 10 members of the section to attend to cover the presenter fee. Should we raise fees? Short discussion followed.

Heather made a motion to raise class fees to \$15 for section members, \$25 for non-members as of January 2024. Cyndi seconded. All in favor; motion carries.

Heather made a motion that all presenters receive the \$100 stipend per class beginning in January of 2024. Julie seconded. All in favor; motion carries.

Hope is working on a list of steps that others can help with re: Education Committee.

Updated role descriptions are on the website but were never voted on. Cyndi made a motion to accept the descriptions as posted. Hope brought up examining the Education Chair description to tweak as needed; positions should be reviewed annually, possibly each September along with ballot creation-add it to September calendar. A one-page Paralibrarian overview would also be nice to add to our documents. Tables the question for now-add to next agenda under "Old Business". Hope may have time to work on this.

Mini Conference (Cyndi)

Tentative date of April 12 chosen. Cyndi will reach out to Audubon again and check on catering.

Discussion of topic and speaker-we did some brainstorming but did not reach a definitive conclusion.

Think about an uplifting and educational topic and/or a great speaker and share with board members.

One suggestion was to have some certified paraprofessionals talk about their experience in getting certified; this might be helpful to those just starting out and to inspire others to keep going. Pricing was discussed-we will wait until we have numbers for costs before deciding on ticket pricing.

Julie will send out an action item list so everyone can stay on target.

Meeting adjourned: 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Ondre