

NH & MA Paralibrarian Board Meeting
September 28, 2018
Memorial Hall Library
Andover MA

Attendance: MA- Gerry Deyermond, Lori Salotto, phone in Karen Horn
NH- Heather Rainier, Julie Spokane, Sarah Frost, Lee Ann Chase, Deb Hoadley,
phone in Kathy Watkins.

Meeting opened comparing the NH and MA guidelines and the differences between the states.

Each state handles applying to levels differently. In MA an applicant can apply for a Level 4 in their first approach. In NH applicants must start with a Level 1 or 2 so that the Review Board can work with them on a full understanding of the application process before they proceed to the next two levels.

Karen noted she likes the tally points sheets and that they have the cap level at the bottom that NH uses.

NH requires that the person working on certification to send 3 copies and a digital one either by email or thumb drive. MA requires the presentation notebook only.

NH Review Committee has 4 members and they review independently and then come together in person and phone to do their review. MA has 3 members and they like to sit together in person, but are now considering how to each have a copy prior to the review.

MA awards the certification at an award ceremony at their annual state conference, NH passes them out as we award them as we do not currently have an annual conference that allows for the more formal presentation.

~~MA grants points for people to earn points when they go to meetings, NH does not unless you are a committee member.~~

Discussion on whether to request a job description from the applicant to determine if any of the requested points are part of their job. NH currently does not, MA does.

The consensus was that the point values are a little different in each of the guidelines but not enough to cause an issue. Each state felt that we trust the equivalent Review Board's judgment on each application and do not feel a need to review one another's applications as we move forward with awarding reciprocal certification.

~~Discussed that yes there are a few differences between us but in the end we trust each other not to worry about the nitty gritty stuff and accept that we are both trusting the review boards judgment.~~

Moving forward, the Review Boards will have an annual meeting to review any changes needing to be made, any challenges in applications and if reciprocity to continue.

NELA Presentation: It was decided that we would not meet this year at NELA and bring it next year when we are solid in what we are doing.

Both states felt that awareness of the program and the importance of the certification is not being recognized, particularly feel that there is still a disconnect with most Directors.

Joy Worland, Vermont Department of Libraries, Library Advancement Division's Continuing Education / Small & Rural Libraries Consultant is interested in learning more about our programs and working with us moving forward. Joy's email is: Joy.Worland@vermont.gov

Karen and Sarah to reach out to Joy and talk about what we are doing and to explore possibilities for future collaboration or assisting Vermont in establishing a program of their own which could have reciprocity with NH and MA.

After a discussion about how applicants would receive or what we would use, it was decided that we would draft a reciprocity letter and we would give them the letter along with their certification. Letter would be given at each level. Letter would also go out to all prior certification recipients.

Next steps:

1. MA will get on the agenda for MLA Board meeting to share our efforts on working toward reciprocity.
2. Sarah will share our efforts with the NHLA Board to achieve approval from them on our efforts for reciprocity.
3. Karen and Heather will create a shared Google doc with all of the Paralibrarian certifications for both MA and NH.
4. Procedures to be drafted.
5. Document of shared reciprocity to be drafted and worked on by both MA and NH. Sarah Frost will send the first draft. Document will be signed by NHLA & MA Presidents, Paralibrarian Section Chairs and Review Board Chairs

Adjourned 11:41

Submitted by Lee Ann Chase/Hooksett Library NH