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# READS

REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES SECTION

## April/May 2023 Newsletter

### Call for Submissions: READS Award of Excellence



Do you know an amazing librarian who provides outstanding services to adults? We bet you do!

The purpose of the READS Award of Excellence is to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual who has been instrumental in improving library services to adults.

Criteria for the award include:

- Currently employed in a New Hampshire library in one of the following categories: public, academic, correctional, or corporate
- Nominee may be a librarian or library support staff member
- Nomination shall describe nominee's professional performance as a NH library employee
- Individuals may only receive the award once
- Current READS Board members are not eligible

Nominate someone for the READS Award of Excellence right [here!](#)

Submissions are due by **June 30, 2023**. For more information about the award, feel free to contact READS Past President Natalie Moser at [nmoser@laconialibrary.org](mailto:nmoser@laconialibrary.org).

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## READS Spring Roundtable: Thank You for Joining Us



The virtual READS Roundtable met on Tuesday, March 14th, a very snowy day. The READS Roundtable this year focused on advancing workplace mental health. Some technical difficulties illustrated everyday hurdles which can contribute to ongoing work-related stress. (One program committee member lost power just before the scheduled start time and another's microphone was not working.) Roundtable contributors shared individual stories of feeling a lack of support. In some cases, situations involving trustees or fellow employees led to an ongoing lack of motivation. Some attendees mentioned quietly supporting colleagues who needed extra assistance. Directors in the chat mentioned feeling pressure from all directions. There seem to be very few official sources of mental health support, though there were individual anecdotes of welcomed aid. We briefly discussed managing others' expectations and the drain that empathy can be on our personal resources. Some participants have been able to re-enforce personal boundaries, such as not working off the clock. Librarianship is a "caring profession" and we must care for each other in tangible ways.

Thank you to our programming committee for organizing this event, as well as all those who participated and shared their insights. We hope you all found a take away or two from this insightful workplace mental health discussion!

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## READS at the NHLA Spring Conference



Connect with READS at the NHLA Spring Conference! Join us on Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th through a variety of presentations from your Executive Board Members.

### Presentations

#### **Thursday, May 4th at 11:30 AM**

##### *The Reference Interview and the Art of Asking Questions*

"The reference interview is a fundamental service that information professionals provide to library patrons. By asking questions, librarians can help patrons refine their search query and locate useful information sources. Not only does this reduce the time a patron might spend on unfruitful searches, it also increases patron satisfaction in the service they receive. This workshop will give an overview of why and how we conduct reference interviews, and give special focus to the types of clarifying and sensemaking questions information professionals can use to conduct a successful interview."

#### **Friday, May 5th at 10:15 AM**

##### *BookBoxes: Library Subscription Boxes for All Ages*

"During the Pandemic, libraries came up with creative ways to reach their readers. For the Wadleigh Memorial Library, this took the form of their monthly BookBox program that they continue to offer to the Milford, NH Community. BookBoxes are free personalized library subscription boxes filled with two hand-selected books, treats, reading recommendations, and so much more! In this presentation, Wadleigh Memorial

presenters will talk about how they run their BookBox program, including how they come up with monthly themes, select books for their subscribers, purchase materials, keep track of reading recommendations and statistics; while providing you with tips on how to make this program customizable to your library so that you can get started with your own BookBox program. Join us to learn how to bring BookBoxes to your community!"

**Friday, May 5th at 3:30 PM**

*Gatekeepers*

"How do you maintain a current, fact-based collection that also meets the demands of your patron base? How do you handle requests for books that blatantly skew or deny science? Join us to discuss our role as information professionals in an age of 'alternative facts' and pseudo-science. This program is a roundtable discussion. Respect and civility among our colleagues are presumed."

*READS-to-Go Book Bag Tasting Event*

"Come find out about and sample some of the more than 225 book discussion kits available for NH libraries to borrow. You can discover these new kits at this book tasting and learn how to use Kit Keeper to reserve a kit for your library's programs or the book discussions in your community. READS-to-Go is a program of the Reference and Adult Services (READS) section of the New Hampshire Library Association."

For more information, and to register for the NHLA Spring Conference, click [here!](#)

**We can't wait to see you there!**

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**The READS Programming Committee Wants YOU!**



READS is looking for individuals to join the Programming Committee. This committee typically organizes 3-4 Roundtables, the Annual READS Fall Conference, and occasional event collaborations with other sections. Responsibilities include arranging for speakers, choosing venues and caterers, and reviewing surveys. The approximate time commitment is 2-3 hours per month.

Please contact Eileen Gilbert, Programming Committee Chair, at [director@belmontpubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@belmontpubliclibrary.org) for more information or if interested.

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## READS-To-Go Tip: Discussion Questions



Did you know that the Discussion Questions for each READS-To-Go Kit are available online 24/7? Discussion Questions are available for viewing and download [here!](#) Librarians and patrons can access these questions before the discussion to enhance your group's conversation for each kit.

If you have any questions or feedback please contact the NH KitKeeper team at [nhkitkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:nhkitkeeper@gmail.com) or by phone at the Laconia Public Library (603-524-4775) or Hooksett Public Library (603-485-6092).