



**NHLA Annual Business Meeting**

**Friday, October 16, 2020**

**9:30-10:30**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:**

Lara Abrahamsen, Patrick Arnold, Mindy Atwood, Lara Berry, Maxwell Blanchette, Marilyn Borgendale, Sylvie Brikiatis, Alexis Britton, Angela Brown, Karen Brown, Steve Butzel, Laura Clerkin, Amber Coughlin, Beatrice Couser, Yvette Couser, Mary Cronin, Joni Cushman, Adam DiFilippe, Donna Dunlop, Todd Fabian, Justine Fafara, Lori Fisher, Barbara Fitzgerald, Kevin French, Christine Friese, Kim Gabert, Alex Graves, Matthew Gunby, Leah Ann Hamel, Elizabeth Holcomb, Lia Horton, Lisa Houde, Katy Hurd, Cynthia Jewett, Lisa Jose, Arefe Koushki, Julia Lanter, Amy Lappin, Justin Levesque, Jane Malmberg, Rebekka Mateyk, Anne Meyers, Alexa Moore, Conrad Moses, Caleb Moshier, Maria Ortiz, Alex Osterhoudt, Linda Pilla, Meredith Piotrow, Amanda Plante, Heather Rainier, Lichen Rancourt, Amanda Reynolds Cooper, Lynn Richardson, Dee Santoso, Martha Sawyer, Mary Ann Senatroy, Eric Stern, Sarah St. Martin, Rebecca Stockbridge, Jennifer Stover, Denise van Zanten, Vicki Varick, Lucia Von Letkemann, Cathy Walter, Elaine Winters, Michael York,

**Awards and Recognitions**

- Anne Geisel Award of merit for exceptional service in NH libraries.
  - Julia Lanter from the Exeter Public library introduced the winner, Lisa Houde, with many letters of support. Lisa is an adored member of our community.
- Presentation of Paralibrarian level awards by Heather Rainier. Individual are listed in the Paralibrarian report.

Business Meeting called to order at 9:54 am

*Votes made visually and verbally.*

Motion to approve agenda made by Mindy Atwood, seconded by Lori Fisher. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2019 NHLA Business Meeting made by Marilyn Borgendale, seconded by Amber Coughlin. Motion passed.



### **Recognition of Executive Board members and past presidents**

- Thank you all for the work you've done and continue to do.

### **President's Report**

- The resilience and creativity and has been amazing from NH librarians in 2020.
- Highlights of NHLA's year:
  - Formation of the NHLA's Equity Diversity Inclusion Ad hoc Committee.
  - Formation of the Sustainability Committee, chaired by Yvette Couser.
  - Work to promote the Census.
  - Successfully advocated to defeat HB's pertaining to libraries.
  - Partnerships with ALA.
  - Azra Palo created the Librarians of the 603 Facebook group.
- There are several vacant positions on the board that need to be filled:
  - Social Media coordinator
  - NHLA Liaison to NH Center of the Book
  - Archivist
- Thank you to Yvette for organizing this Business Meeting and conference.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- NHLA met fiscal year goals for FY2020.
- In good standing for FY2021 with about \$10,000 up so far despite having to cancel the Spring Conference. This positive financial situation is mainly due to the work of the Membership committee by updating the membership fee.

### **Membership**

- Almost the exact same number of members this year as last year, so thank you to those who maintained membership.
- Membership renewals are coming in November. If payment is received by midnight on Jan 31 you get entered for a drawing for a gift card.
- Gift exchange will probably happen again. The more people who join in the more fun it is!

### **Past President**

Christine presented the slate of new officers with 112 members voting.

- Election results:
  - President Elect: Denise van Zanten, Director at Manchester City Library
  - Secretary: Mindy Atwood, Director at Abbot Library,
  - Treasurer Elect: Steve Butzel, Director at the Portsmouth Public Library

### **State Library Report**



- State Library shut down in March, and started back with ILL in August. Building is open by appointment.
- Recipient of CARES funds through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
  - Majority used to purchase 2 subscriptions for 2 years
    - Niche Academy
  - ReadsSquared
  - Also purchased hand sanitizer with the Steadfast Distillery in Concord to give to all public libraries. Distributed in early August. Libraries will also be receiving, or have received, some additional hand sanitizer from FEMA.

#### **Recognition of grant and scholarship recipients**

- Amy recognized the 4 recipients of Rosalie Norris scholarship listed in the Scholarship Report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah St. Martin

#### **Annual Reports**

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### President's Annual Report 2020

At the end of 2019, who would have guessed responding to a global pandemic would have taken a large chunk of the NH Library Association's year, but that has been the reality. The resilience, tenacity and creativity shown by the library community has been truly inspiring. So many unknowns and the pandemic continues, but our libraries continue to provide a remarkably high level of services to their communities.

The NH State Library staff's help and cooperation through communication, guidance, and resources has been vital as we navigate 2020. NHLA partnered with the State Library early on to provide [space on the NHLA homepage](#) with links to COVID-19 information for libraries and expect to keep that information there as long as needed. Many thanks to the staff of the state library for their tremendous efforts related to libraries and COVID-19.

In addition to pandemic response work, other association work continued on. Most importantly in my mind has been the formation of an ad hoc committee to focus on matters of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within the association and our profession. The committee was created as a task force after NHLA released a [statement calling for actions to end racism](#). Acknowledging that statements are important, but actions and policy work are required, the task force, now ad hoc committee developed a charge which reads,

"The New Hampshire Library Association Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion guides the work of the NHLA Executive Board and its Sections by designing policies and professional development opportunities within an intersectional antiracist framework founded on the ideal of social justice for all. The Committee works to identify, promote, and share resources to support the ongoing advocacy work of the NH library community, with a mission of fostering a coordinated, collaborative dynamic in order to make NHLA an organization where all members have a voice and a home."

The first presenter brought to the association by the EDI Committee will be Shay Stewart-Bouley at the NHLA Fall Business Meeting on October 16. More professional development opportunities will be provided in 2021. Additional resources and reading materials regarding areas of social justice work will be available on the NHLA website soon. Any NHLA member with an interest in participating is encouraged to join us.



Other notable actions and activities of NHLA this past year included:

- Work to promote the 2020 Census throughout the state
- Successful advocacy to defeat NH [HB1615](#) and NH [HB1452](#)
- Partnership with the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office including the organizing of the Libraries' Presidential Forum. While the Forum was cancelled for circumstances beyond our control, many strong relationships were formed between NHLA, ALA, and presidential campaigns. A model for the type of event now exists which will help us in the future.
- Creation of a Sustainability Committee under the leadership of incoming NHLA President, Yvette Couser
- Advocacy to support the Library Stabilization Fund Act (S.4181/H.R.7486)
- Continuing conversations with NHSLMA and NHLTA to complement each of our organizations advocacy work
- Creation of the Librarians of the 603 Facebook page.
- Copyright First Responders Workshops with Manchester Community College presented by Kyle Courtney, Harvard University

More details about the extensive legislative and advocacy work over the past year can be found in Lori Fisher's thorough Advocacy Committee reports. Lori's contributions to local and national advocacy on NHLA's behalf cannot be overstated.

Looking ahead to 2021, it will be essential that NHLA continues to participate in ALA's Forward Together reorganization plans. Both NHLA's NH Chapter Councilor, Lori Fisher and Amy Lappin as Chair of ALA's Chapter Relations Committee and an ALA Councilor-at-Large are attending meetings regarding chapter (state) voices in a reimagined ALA. It is vital that chapters are given a vote in ALA policy and we are speaking up as the plans take shape.

The Small Library Summit didn't happen as scheduled this year, but small library programming is being developed by the State Library with NHLA assistance.



Conversations continue with academic librarians in ways to support our associations in ways similar to our cooperative work with NHSLMA and NHLTA.

Thank you to the NHLA membership who have contributed ideas and supported me and encouraged each other despite having their own pressing issues in their home libraries. The energy and momentum of the NH Library Association is high at a time when we might have all retreated. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as the NHLA President in 2020 and I'm looking forward to the continued work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S. Lappin

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## **NHLA**

### **Vice President Annual Report**

#### **Yvette Couser**

I participated in the NHLA Conference Committee; unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our plans had to be postponed.

I participated in the NELA Conference Committee at the request of the NHLA Conference Committee Chair, and again, our joint conference plans had to be drastically modified due to COVID-19. The NELA Conference morphed into a series of online sessions, and I've had very little involvement since the event went virtual.

I attended the Regenerative Design for Climate Changemakers Training on May 28 & 29 via Zoom. This training was facilitated by Abrah Dresdale, founding Director of Regenerate Change: A Recipe for Social Alchemy. The organization reached out to New England librarians because libraries are central in our communities and librarianship works well within the whole-systems, interconnected, sustainable model. During the training, I drafted a mission statement and members list for the Sustainability Committee. During this time, I also read *Sustainability in Libraries* by Rebekah Smith Aldrich as both a refresher and foundational research for the Sustainability Committee.

Unfortunately, my work on the Sustainability Committee was interrupted by the formation of the NHLA EDI Task Force - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - after George Floyd's shooting caused outrage to erupt in the Library community. We have drafted a mission statement, secured a speaker for the Fall Conference, and have viable leads for additional training for the upcoming year. EDI Task Force meetings continued through the summer; this is good work, and will continue to be good work.

I attended the June 3, 2020 NHLTA Board meeting at the request of the NHLA President.

At the time of this writing, I am finalizing plans for the Fall Business Conference, which will be held virtually on October 16, from 9:30 - 12. Our speaker will be Shay Stewart-Bouley, the Executive Director of Community Change, Inc., one of the nation's longest running anti-racist organizations, and author of the blog *Black Girl in Maine*. In the interest of being inclusive, registration for attending will be a suggested amount.

Goals that have been discussed during 2020 that I intend to continue as President include:



- Strategic Planning, to include Marketing/Publicity plan with a goal to update the NHLA Logo
- Continuing education and support for our library staff regarding EDI
- Continuing education and support for our library staff regarding sustainability in libraries
- Continuing to improve collaboration with the NHLTA Board

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### **Treasurer's Report, 2020**

This summer I moved \$100,000 of NHLA Savings into an interest-bearing account. As we are allowed a limited number of transfers per month from an interest-bearing account, having two savings accounts will allow us more flexibility while we also accrue interest.

NHLA met our budget goals for Fiscal Year 2020. The Fiscal Year 2021 budget is likely to be exceeded as the Spring Conference was rescheduled to 2023 due to the pandemic. The Executive Board and the Officers continue to look for ways to keep expenses down and increase income.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Gabert  
NHLA Treasurer

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## NHLA Scholarship Committee Annual Report for 2020

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:

- Marilyn Borgendale (GMILCS)
- Tom Ladd (Independent Library Consultant)
- Sarah Leonardi (Amherst Town Library)
- Carlos Pearman (Manchester City Library)
- Jess Ross (Durham Public Library)

### **Spring Application Cycle**

The committee awarded the Rosalie Norris Scholarship and the Winchell Loan to Effat (Arefe) Koushki, Head of Circulation at the Merrimack Public Library. Effat will use the grant and loan to further her studies with the University of North Texas.

We also awarded the Rosalie Norris Scholarship to Heidi Deacon, director at the Smyth Public Library in Candia, NH. Heidi is pursuing her MLS at Texas Women's University.



### **Fall Application Cycle**

We awarded both the Norris Scholarship and Winchell Loan to Samantha Wiebkin, of the Lebanon Public Library and the Dartmouth College Libraries. Samantha is attending the University of North Texas.

We also awarded the Norris scholarship to Nicholas Gagnon, of the Rochester Public Library and the Durham Public Library. Nicholas is pursuing his master's degree at San Jose State University.

Finally, we awarded the Winchell Loan to Effat (Arefe) Koushki, of the Merrimack Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Pearman

NHLA Scholarship Committee Chair

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**NHLA Continuing Education Committee**

Annual Report

October 16, 2020

The Continuing Education Committee has had a transitional year, and has not met since 2019. There have been no applications for the MacDonald Fund Grant in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Hoadley, Chair

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## YALS 2020 President's Report

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, YALS worked this year to offer virtual resources to teen librarians across New Hampshire. We shared information on our website and social media sites, and hosted a variety of virtual teen librarian trainings and idea-sharing sessions.

*Meetings and Programming:* The YALS board met 5 times in 2020. In addition to these bimonthly board meetings YALS hosted:

- Get Lit: What's New in YA Literature on September 24, 2020 - This event featured book talks from a variety of publishers as well as a keynote address from Julie Dao. YALS also conducted our annual fall business meeting.
- What's Next: YALS and CLNH Workshop on August 27, 2020 – This event was a collaboration with CLNH. Youth librarians across the state shared programming ideas, services, and discussed relevant issues facing youth services librarians in our state.
- An Afternoon of Teen Librarian Trainings on June 15, 2020 – Teen librarians offered brief tutorials for technology resources. Trainings were offered for Discord, Kahoot, Jackbox Games, Padlet, Zoom Pro, and Flipgrid.
- Summer Brainstorming Teen Librarian Meet-up on May 18, 2020 – With the pandemic, librarians across the state were tasked with re-imagining summer reading programs. This event was a chance for teen librarians to swap ideas and share resources.

*Flume and Isinglass:* The Flume and Isinglass Committee met on March 19, 2020 to finalize the shortlist for the 2021 awards. These lists, along with promotional materials, can be found on the YALS website. The winners of the 2020 Flume Award is *Far From the Tree* by Robin Benway and the runner up is *We Are Okay* by Nina LaCour. The winner of the 2020 Isinglass Award is *Refugee* by Alan Gratz and the runner up is *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds.

I would like to personally thank all of our members who donated their time and talents to make our programming this year such a success. This year was an adjustment and learning experience for us all, but I am proud of the work YALS did, and inspired by the work NH librarians are doing to serve teens during this unprecedented time. Thank you for your continued support of New Hampshire's teens and teen librarians.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katharine Gatcomb, YALS President 2020



# READS

REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES SECTION

## READS President's Report For 2020

The READS Executive Board has met four times in 2020, once in person and three times via GoToMeeting (due to weather conditions and restrictions on in-person gatherings due to COVID-19). The READS Annual Meeting will take place on October 9, 2020 at 10 AM and following the usual Annual Meeting business, the executive board will meet. A final transition meeting will take place on November 13, 2020.

Our board members in 2020 were: Betsy Solon, Past President, Kersten Matera, Vice President; Matthew Bose, Treasurer; Matthew Gunby, Secretary; Sue Harmon, Membership Chair; Eileen Gilbert, Programming Chair; Brianna Hemmah, READ-to-Go Chair; Natalie Moser, Public Relations Chair and Alexa Moore is our new website coordinator.

In accordance with our by-laws, a ballot with officers for 2021 was sent to the membership 60 days before our Annual Meeting. Natalie Moser was on the ballot as a candidate for Vice President/President-Elect and Laura Pezzone and Jessica DeLangie were on the ballot as candidates for the Treasurer position. Thank you to Matthew Bose for his six years of service as READS Treasurer!

### Other news from READS

- As of July 10, 2020, there are 177 active, paid members of READS.
- A total of 4 newsletters have been sent to the READS membership so far this year. The next newsletter will be sent after the READS Annual Meeting and one more newsletter will be sent in November.
- READS cash on hand as of September 24, 2020 is \$4,190.37.
- There are 197 READS-to-Go kits available to loan.
- We received no nominations for the READS Award of Excellence this year.
- READS has created a Google drive with content for tech training, promotions, programs, and social media. The link to this digital content will be widely shared with the READS membership after the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Mindy Atwood  
READS President

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## **Paralibrarian 2019 Annual Report**

As for all sections, 2020 has been a year of challenges for our section. 2020 was to be a year of recruitment for the Paralibrarian section as we have several board positions vacant. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation increased that challenge as we put our in-person learning opportunities on hold and our Board members were all focused on the situations within our own libraries.

As of September 29th, we have a total of 67 active members, unfortunately this is down from the prior year.

The Review Board put a temporary pause on accepting applications as a physical copy needs to be sent for each of the Review Board members. In response to this situation, the Board offered a temporary extension for any certified professional working on their Level 2 through 4 to extend the time since their last level from three to four years.

New Certified Library Professionals for 2019-2020:

Patrick Arnold, Derry Public Library, Level 1  
Susanna Buonopane, Campton Public Library, Level 1  
Carla Ferreira, Bedford Public Library, Level 1  
Cherylyn Gable, Meredith Public Library, Level 1  
Bettielue Hill, Brookline Public Library, Level 1  
Jo-Ann Houde, Nesmith Library, Level 1  
Linda Hough, Meredith Public Library, Level 1  
Dawn Mazur, Derry Public Library, Level 1  
Ellen Neilley, A Tuttle, Antrim, Level 1  
Laura Wing, Fuller Library, Hillsboro, Level 1

Aimee Larue, Peterborough Town Library, Level 2  
Micaela Seekell, Goffstown Public Library, Level 1 & 2

Cyndi Burnham, Goffstown Public Library, Level 3

Cheryl Ingerson, Maxfield Public Library, Loudon, Level 4

One of our first steps for our Board recruitment was a focus on formalizing our board member position descriptions. This past year we added a Webmaster position and a General Board member position. It is the intent of the Board that the General Board member position will allow new recruits to join the Board without needing to step into an officer's position but instead have the time on the Board to learn about the section, including its procedures, practices and history.



This year, our webmaster, Amanda Alwyn has been our shining star as she has invested many hours in our webpage outlining the role descriptions, the history of our classes, current vacancies on the board, invitations to upcoming meetings and a list of recommended learning opportunities based on input from current Paralibrarians.

The Paralibrarian Board wishes to recognize the significant loss to our library community and our teaching line-up as we lost long-time Paralibrarian supporter and course instructor, Mike Sullivan. He has left big shoes to fill as a supporter of the Paralibrarian program and as one of the most outstanding teachers our library community has ever had. He is missed.

Our account balance as of September 15, 2020: \$6272.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Rainier, Paralibrarian Section President

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## Advocacy & Legislative Committee annual report for NHLA, 9/28/2020

At the December 10, 2019 meeting of the NHLA Executive Board, the decision was made to combine the Advocacy and Legislative Committees into one joint NHLA committee co-chaired by Lori Fisher (Advocacy) and Randy Brough (Legislative).

Here is a bullet list of the items that this committee dealt with over the past nine months:

- In collaboration with the American Library Association's Public Policy and Advocacy office in Washington, DC, NHLA tried to hold a Libraries Presidential Forum on Saturday 1/11/2020. Unfortunately due to the presidential impeachment schedule in DC, along with a brewing Iranian conflict, the candidates who initially stated they would participate dwindled significantly between January 6th and January 8th. We did document our lessons learned from this experience so that in four years we may be able to try this type of forum again prior to the NH Presidential Primary. Please see the Advocacy report for 2/11/2020 for details.
- NHLA and our lobbyist kept a close eye on two bills in January 2020: HB 1452 "relative to the employees of public libraries" and HB 1615 "requiring criminal background checks for persons brought into a library to interact with minors in library-sponsored events." Randy and I, along with Michael York (State Librarian) attended the hearings about these bills with the Municipal and County Government Committee. Both bills were voted inexpedient to legislate. Many thanks to the librarians who contacted representatives that sit on the committee, expressing your views on the bills. In addition, we kept an eye on three NH Senate bills related to broadband: SB 559, SB 459, and SB 559. Thank you to Mary Cronin for communicating with us about these bills and keeping us up-to-date. The NH Legislature went out of session early on 3/16/2020 due to COVID-19, and there were no other bills to track after that time..
- We also tried to schedule an advocacy pre-conference to be held at the NELA conference site in October 2020. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, this in-person conference was cancelled, and NELA decided to hold several virtual sessions in place of the in-person event. This pre-conference was not able to be condensed into a 1-2 hour format for a virtual presentation...
- Lori participated in the ALA Fly-in on February 10 & 11 in Washington DC, where she met with staff from our Congressional delegation (Pappas, Kuster, and Shaheen) and met in-person with Senator Hassan. Ironically, in March during a return flight from DC on a personal trip, Lori was able to speak face-to-face with Pappas and Kuster about our NH library concerns related to COVID-19.
- We made a big push at the end of March to advocate with our Congressional delegation for money in the CARES Act for libraries. Thank you to all who contacted their US



Representative and both US Senators - it is vitally important that we communicate with them on the importance of these funding initiatives. The NH State Library received \$122,861 in CARES act monies, which have been used to obtain statewide contracts for Readsquared and Niche Academy for public libraries, provided hand sanitizer to all 234 public libraries, and also provided additional funding to NH Downloadable Books.

- Due to the unprecedented situation with COVID-19 and most of our public libraries shutting down during the NH Stay At Home order, there was need for regular, structured communication within the NH library community. In cooperation with the NH State Library, NHLA agreed to host a web page specifically for library COVID-19 resources. This page continues to be updated and maintained by Lori. In addition, she led weekly and twice weekly calls for library directors given the fluidity of the situation and the decisions that needed to be made. These calls continue now on a twice per month basis, with over 100 librarians attending.
- On April 21st and April 22nd, NH librarians had an opportunity to speak with Representative Kuster (district 2) and Representative Pappas (district 1) about how libraries are serving their communities during the pandemic, and what challenges they are facing moving forward. Over 50 librarians attended each call, and it was a productive discussion that allowed us to get the message out that even with physical libraries closed due to the health pandemic, libraries are offering key and vital services to their communities. Of particular note is that Congresswoman Kuster offered to record a storytime video, which was then shared among a number of libraries in District 2; and Congressman Pappas was very interested to hear about the broadband and digital connectivity challenges that libraries see in their communities. Thank you to all of the NH librarians who took part in the calls – these are important ways for us to communicate our value to DC.
- On May 6th, a small group of librarians who are part of the Reopening NH Libraries Task Force took part in a virtual call with NH Department of Education Commissioner Edelbut. This call, which was arranged through Pat Fickett of Wilton (the Commissioner's home town), focused on the efforts of libraries to support remote education during the pandemic and to discuss how we can strengthen partnerships in the community for the future.
- National Library Legislative Days 2020, which was to be held in early May 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- Lori presented information about advocacy tools/ideas on the national level recently. She participated in the ALA Chapter Advocacy call on 5/8, speaking about collecting stories and how to use them on the local, state, and national level, and then she recorded part of a United for Libraries session for the ALA 2020 Virtual Conference on



the same topic. The virtual conference recording will be shown on 6/24, with Lori and the other panel presenters attending a Q & A from 2:30 to 3:15 pm.

- Amy Lappin, NHLA President 2020, has been instrumental in strengthening our relationship with the New Hampshire School Library Media Association. She and Lori have participated in a number of calls, and Lori presented an advocacy workshop on Telling Your Library Story at the NHSLMA Summer Camp virtual conference on Tuesday 8/11. Efforts are ongoing to include NHSLMA leadership in discussions with our Congressional delegation, in our state advocacy efforts, and to strengthen communication between public libraries and school libraries. A new Facebook group has been created to allow for communication on social media: Librarians of the 603.
- We tried to schedule virtual meetings with our Congressional delegation for August (typically when the delegation is home for a few weeks each summer) but this summer due to the pandemic and the crazy political situation in DC, we could not get a time scheduled with any of our delegation during that month.

The Advocacy & Legislative Committee will meet in November 2020 to discuss and prioritize FY21 activities and ways to promote library advocacy in a mostly virtual environment going forward for the near future. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact either Lori ([lori.a.fisher@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:lori.a.fisher@dncr.nh.gov)) or Randy ([rbrough@laconialibrary.org](mailto:rbrough@laconialibrary.org)).

Respectfully submitted: Lori Fisher and Randy Brough, Co-Chairs of the NHLA Advocacy Committee



**New Hampshire Library Association  
Information Technology Section  
ITS President's Report for 2020**

The officers for the Information Technology Section were Bobbi Lee Slossar, President, and Steve Viggiano, Secretary. The period for ITS officer nominations is currently open.

The Information Technology Section met once throughout the year on February 7 via GoToMeeting software due to the unpredictable winter weather. The meeting was attended by 22 members and featured guest speaker Deborah Dutcher, Library Services Consultant, to discuss the Summer Learning Grant opportunities offered by the NH State Library. While the section has not held meetings since February, the ITS list is active and provides a forum for the members to communicate about technology-related content. A meeting will be held in mid-October featuring a discussion on new technologies implemented during the pandemic.

- The section consists of 70 active members.
- As of August 31, the section has \$1310.12.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Lee Slossar  
ITS President



**NHLA Spring Conference Annual Report 2020**

The Conference Committee had begun to work on our Spring Conference planned for May of 2021 and to partner with NELA for a joint conference in October Of 2020. However due to the pandemic these plans had to be put aside.

The 2020 NELA conference is now being held as a virtual conference with our Joint Conference being moved to 2022 still to be held in Manchester. Our next Spring Conference will be held in May of 2023 at Mill Falls, the venue site graciously allowed us to reschedule and to apply our deposit to that later date, thus there was no negative financial impact to NHLA at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. van Zanten  
NHLA Spring Conference Chair

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**ALA Councilor annual report for NHLA, 9/28/2020**

As your ALA chapter councilor through 2021, here is a summary of the activities that pertain to my role as a liaison between our chapter and the American Library Association:

- ALA 2020 Midwinter meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA at the end of January 2020. The main items of interest at that time from Council were the approved updates to ALA's Library Bill of Rights; the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness, the cash flow issues ALA began to experience late in 2019, and the hiring of a new Executive Director for ALA, Tracie Hall.
- ALA 2020 Annual conference was cancelled in Chicago, and for the first time ALA Council met and voted on items of business virtually. Of note were discussions about Forward Together; ALA's financial status; and the creation of CORE with the dissolution of various other ALA working groups/committees to form this new group.
- ALA 2021 Midwinter Conference has already been cancelled as an in-person event, but ALA Council will be meeting virtually again. The major topic of discussion will be voting on the recommendations to change the ALA governance structure, which includes the dissolution of ALA Council. Representation of chapters in this new governing format has been a major concern of mine and of Amy Lappin, our current NHLA President and also chair of the ALA Chapter Relations Committee.

There are ongoing virtual ALA Council meetings occurring on both the budget/finance issues and the Forward Together recommendations. I will continue to bring new information to the officers and the executive board, particularly if I feel that the chapter needs to issue a position statement on Forward Together.

For more detailed information about 2020 ALA Midwinter and Annual meetings, please read by reports submitted to the NHLA Executive Board in February 2020 and August 2020.

I am still a member of the ALA Committee on Library Advocacy (the liaison from Policy Corps to this committee), and was asked to be a voting member of the ALA Committee on Legislation (COL) for a two year term starting 7/1/2020. COL sets the federal legislative priorities for ALA and assists to communicate those ideas to stakeholders and librarians across the US.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Fisher, NH Chapter Councilor



## Year End Report for NHLA from NELA — 2020

The executive board of the New England Library Association began this year by meeting in February to gear up for what we hoped would be a successful year partnering with NHLA to hold a conference in Manchester in October. A new code of conduct for all events was discussed, ideas for speakers and programs were advanced, new membership management software proposals were under consideration, and a new budget was approved. The next meeting was slated to take place in late March. A lovely theme for the conference, Creativity Takes Courage, was proposed by NHLA's own VP Yvette Couser in that first conference committee meeting. I'm sure she had no idea how appropriate that theme would turn out to be.

Everything started falling apart for all of us in mid-March due to the emerging COVID-19 crisis. The board met virtually to discuss the situation. Clarification of some of the options for activities going forward were considered, but the difficulty of foreseeing with any accuracy the likelihood of social distancing measures or bans on gatherings being in place in the months ahead made planning for any of NELA's usual activities seem daunting, if not impossible. One day section conferences, NELLs 2, and of course the large fall conference all seemed very tenuous and fragile. The executive board had to weigh very real potential financial liabilities against the uncertainty of what moving into an entirely virtual or hybrid virtual/physical mode could possibly look like. Would anybody even come? Would our speakers be willing or able to participate? What about vendors, and networking for our members?

Ultimately, NELA moved ahead with an entirely virtual format for all of its events. NELLs 2 was cancelled, new codes of conduct were adopted, and contracts for new membership software were signed. A series of short virtual conference sessions was decided upon as the best option for the fall, after the success of a one day virtual event held by NETCL via Zoom in the Spring. NELA moved forward with a new slate of officers and a reorganized website. NHLA and NELA decided to reschedule our joint conference in Manchester to 2022 when things are, hopefully, on a firmer footing.

NELA strove to serve its membership in an advocacy capacity as well this year. COVID-19 informational resources were compiled and made available on the website along with a strong statement of support for librarians struggling to balance personal and community safety with the demands of their employers in libraries across the region and nationwide. NELA also strove to respond with solidarity to the events unfolding across our nation in the aftermath of the horrific George Floyd murder, and the subsequent protests that emerged in communities all over the country. NELA tried to develop and offer programming that would speak to these emerging needs and concerns in our community.



NELA's 2020 conference schedule is underway. The response has been good so far. We hope that it is useful to our membership. Next year will no doubt present new challenges. NELS is being reconsidered in light of this ongoing uncertainty, and we hope to remain as flexible and creative as possible in light of the rapidly changing events facing our community.

Respectfully submitted, Amber Coughlin NELA Representative

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**Center for the Book Liaison Annual Report 2020**

The 2019 Ladybug Picture Book Award Winner was *Can I be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings. Children will vote for the 2020 winner in November.

The 2020 Route One Reads Title was *Peyton Place* by Grace Metalious.

On September 21, the Center sponsored a virtual reading of *COVID Spring: New Hampshire Pandemic Poems*, an anthology edited by New Hampshire Poet Laureate Alexandria Peary, published by Hobblebush Books.

The Center's blog highlighted Ladybug nominees, books of the week, NH poems during National Poetry Month, and information about literary events in New Hampshire.

For more information about the Center's activities, visit the Book Notes blog: [nhbookcenter.blogspot.com](http://nhbookcenter.blogspot.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Weiss  
Center for the Book Liaison

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## Technical Services Ad Hoc Committee Annual Report 2020

Approved at the end of last year, the Technical Services Ad Hoc Committee was started to bring together technical services staff from across the State. Early in 2020 an email was sent inviting NHLA members to join and approximately 13 people expressed interest. Since then there hasn't been a lot of engagement via email. Over the summer I asked the email list if anyone would be interested in an informal virtual meeting, to introduce ourselves and discuss anything technical services related, but there were only a couple of responses. I have sent out second call for a virtual meeting, so I hope to receive some responses. Perhaps, the ongoing pandemic has affected people's willingness or ability to engage with the committee, but now that libraries are starting to reopen maybe people will be able to become more active in the group. To that end, I would like to continue trying to engage members and perhaps send out another call for NHLA members to join. If any NHLA Board Members have ideas about to encourage engagement, I am open to suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Brown  
Technical Services Ad Hoc Committee Chair



## **NHLA Wild Apricot Database Administrator Annual Report (2019-2020)**

In the two and a half years that I previously spent as NHLA Membership Chair, I gained immensely useful hands-on training for holding the newly created position of Database Administrator.

During the transition period into my new position, I provided training to the incoming NHLA Membership Chair and Treasurer about the inner workings of the Wild Apricot software used to manage our organization's members, events, and mailings. I also presented a crash-course training of its basic functioning to the NHLA Executive Board at the December 2019 handover meeting. The presentation used at that meeting has been saved in our Google Suite Drive for future reference.

Despite 2020 being a wildly unpredictable year, the lockdown provided an opportunity to compile a vital database tutorial that can be used by current and future Board, Section, and Committee members to learn how to use Wild Apricot (WA). In late April, I attended the annual conference held by Personify, the creator of WA. "PersoniFest 2020", which was scheduled to be held in person, was quickly transitioned to an online event due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and was offered free of charge to participants. The conference provided access to a treasure trove of valuable material, from which I was able to evaluate and identify key training topics. The videos, slideshows, and PDFs have been broken down into segments to identify which parts each responsible committee member or section representative should watch or read. These compiled tutorials have also been uploaded to the Google Suite Drive for ease of access.

Over the last year, I have also provided direct assistance to various committee chairs in creating, editing, and sending out email communications to our members and contacts, as well as assisting in reviewing and editing event registration pages, uploading files, and running reports.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to another year in working with our community of library professionals in the state of New Hampshire.

Submitted respectfully,

Lisa Jose  
NHLA Database Administrator