

2013 President's Report: November 8, 2013

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for this important NHLA meeting. I would especially like to welcome those who are new today. It's great to have you with us.

In December of 2012, NHLA voted to support a joint statement with other state library chapters and ALA regarding the pricing of e-content. It called for the end to discriminatory practices on the part of publishers and to allow libraries the same rights as other consumers of e-services in the marketplace. This is a fight that continues, and some publishers have slowly begun to come to the table. As most of you know, this is an issue that is quite fluid. The text of the letter is on nhlibrarians.org.

Also in December, the NHLA Web Site was down for approximately two weeks. We put out a message about the outage on NHAIS, and according to our Web Coordinators, this generated the highest amount of hits so far recorded. We did have a few inquiries that were sent to me or other board members during this down time, and we addressed them promptly. We took this time to work out a permanent solution to our Web Hosting billing, so that the organization, not an individual member, was billed for the cost of supporting this service. This was also an opportunity for our Web Coordinators and Treasurer Tim Sheehan to find out that we could save some money by signing on for a two year plan. Thank you all for bearing with us while we made this necessary adjustment.

NHLA concerned itself with two pieces of legislation this year. The first was (House Bill) HB 436. HB 436 was the bill that would permit towns to choose whether their libraries would be governed by a board of trustees or by the selectmen. The second piece of legislation was HB 561. HB 561 was the bill calling for the abolition of the Department of Cultural Resources. As most of you know, the State Library falls under this umbrella. Past President Lori Fisher spoke, as she had the previous year, in opposition to the bill. Both bills were voted inexpedient to legislate.

At the end of last calendar year, NHLA voted to end its relationship with LGC/NHMA. This past year we have been working with a new Association Management Company, Cornerstone. It has been a year of working out bumps and readjusting service needs. We have opted to re-sign with them this year, with some provisions added. We expect that this will be the most cost effective way for the organization to conduct its business as usual. We have continued to use LGC/NHMA for small meeting space at no cost.

We were fortunate to begin the year with an Advocacy Chair, but in February, Deb Baker of Concord Public Library completed her agreed upon one year term of service. We have been steering through the murky waters with lots of help from our Social Media team and Web Coordinators since then. Our very active Facebook presence is linked to NHLA's Twitter feed. Our Web coordinators inform NHLA members and others of NHLA's developments. nhlibrarians.org is the place for all NHLA information. Thank you to those who have kept our Advocacy movement headed forward. We are actively seeking a new Advocacy Chair.

The NHLA Executive Board voted to send a letter to the headmaster of the Tilton School, Peter Saliba in April. We did so along with ALA and NH School Librarians Association. Mr. Saliba supported a decision to

cut the professional librarian's position from his school's budget. In spite of these expressions of opposition, the Tilton School did release their professional librarian and de-fund the position.

I was honored to represent NHLA this year at National Library Legislative Days in Washington, D.C. I participated in training available to "newbies" on May 6th and 7th, and Michael York arranged meetings with representatives on Wednesday, May 8th. We met with Senator Shaheen. Later, we met with legislative correspondents in Congresswoman Shea Porter's office, Congresswoman Kuster's office, and Senator Ayotte's office. Since our meetings, Senator Shaheen's and Congresswoman Kuster's offices have "liked" NHLA on Facebook and begun to follow NHLA on Twitter. My full report is available on the nhlibrarians.org site.

On May 31st 2013, NHLA in conjunction with the READS Executive Board put on a one day conference at the Hooksett Public Library. The event, *Creating Space: Why Libraries Matter* was a terrific success. The conference planners arranged for an impressive group of presenters. The NHLA board approved funding for author and marketer David Vinjamuri to debut his national presentation with us. The audio recording of his remarks is still available on the nhlibrarians.org site, courtesy of Mary Cronin.

In August, I was invited to be part of the NELLs panel of speakers. NH had four attendees and one mentor, Diane Hathaway. I spoke along with State Chapter Leaders from Maine and Connecticut to invested young professionals who are up and coming in this field. Additionally, in October, I attended the NELA conference, this year co-sponsored with the Maine Library Association. It was a great way to meet colleagues from across New England, and hear what initiatives they are taking to meet their communities' needs.

The NHLA Board voted to adopt the ALA Code of Ethics, and it was added to our Web site in June. A brief history of NHLA is also now available on our Web site, courtesy of Lori Fisher. Hard copies are at the back of the room for those interested.

We have been re-vamping the NHLA Board Job Descriptions, to reflect our more modern responsibilities. It would appear that the last time it was thoroughly done was 1991. Brian Sylvester of Rochester has been key in standardizing these for us. NHLA Volunteers have been asked to participate in describing their particular roles as well. The goal is to make the transfer of roles more clear and seamless in the future. We also want to be sure that volunteers fully understand their responsibilities so they may act in accordance with the by-laws.

As I have been wrapping up my term, I have been involved with the planning of the Spring 2014 Conference, April 23rd and 24th at the Mountain View Grand Hotel in Whitefield, NH. I look forward to continuing my work with the conference committee into my Past Presidency.

Lastly, so many thanks to our volunteers who have served over the past year. This organization could not run without our volunteers' time and expertise.

Thank you all for supporting NHLA!

Respectfully submitted, Diane Lynch, NHLA President 2013

