

## **NHLTA History Chronology: The Early Years**

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This year, 2017, marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association, officially founded in 1957. In recognizing the anniversary, a listing of major NHLTA historical events follows. The chronology will continue in future editions of the NHLTA newsletter, "New Hampshire Library Trustee".

### **1954**

1<sup>st</sup> Governor's Conference for NH Public Library Trustees. The conference was organized by the NH State Library, when Mildred P. McKay was State Librarian. All public library trustees were invited to attend the all-day conference, which consisted of lectures and discussion groups on the library issues of the day. The Governor's Conferences preceded the formal organization of the NHLTA.

### **1956**

2<sup>nd</sup> Governor's Conference for NH Public Library Trustees.

### **1957**

3<sup>rd</sup> Governor's Conference for NH Public Library Trustees. A Constitution and By-laws were presented and adopted, and a slate of officers was elected. NHLTA officially founded at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Governor's Conference. The conference theme: "What services should a library provide for a community, and how should they be financed?" Annual NHLTA meetings were set thereafter.

Full voting membership shall be open to any past and present trustees of these libraries. Associate membership shall be open to all past and present librarians of these libraries; to all friends of libraries; and to representatives of institutions with special library interest. Annual dues were two dollars.

### **1958**

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions were featured at the NH Library Trustees Association Annual Conference at Laconia Public Library on May 8, 1958. Conference theme: "To Make Each Community Aware of its Library." All librarians and trustees were invited to attend.

### **1959**

Governor Wesley Powell opened the April 30, 1959 NH Library Trustees Association Annual Conference at the NH Historical Society, Concord, at which NHLTA President Dr. Alice Normandin of Laconia presided. One hundred and twenty-five trustees attended. A business meeting occurred before the luncheon at the St. Paul's Church Parrish House, where Atty. Mayland Morse, Jr. of Concord was elected new NHLTA President. Talks and discussions included "Care and Feeding of Library Trustees", "What is Trustee Responsibility for the Choice of Books and Periodicals?", "Best Library Services in a Really Small Library", "Is There a Need for Re-thinking Public Library Law: Power of Trustees, Use of Trust Funds, State Aid, etc.?".

### **1960**

"How can the independent public library provide better service through cooperation?" was the question again at the 1960 annual meeting, repeated from the 1959 annual meeting.

## **1961**

A survey of NH public libraries was completed by Professor John Holden and the UNH Department of Government. Dr. Holden presented a general review of the unpublished survey at the 1961 NHLTA annual meeting, and NHLTA members presented various aspects of the survey in panel discussions.

## **1962**

At the 1962 NHLTA annual meeting, members were still discussing the problems and challenges of the Survey, presented at the 1961 annual meeting. Several NHLTA members had been working on Governor Wesley Powell's sixty-member "Governor's Committee for Better Libraries" for the past 16 months. The committee recommended legislation to create a state-wide library system. Herbert Kimball, committee chairman, presented "Changes Are Due in New Hampshire Libraries" at the 1962 annual meeting.

The General Court passed laws making the state-wide library system a reality, with NHLTA support.

## **1963**

NHLTA sent its first delegate to the July 1963 annual meeting of the ALA division, American Library Trustees Association, in Chicago. At the September 1963 NHLTA annual meeting, "Public Library Responsibility to Students" was considered by NHLTA as it was similarly considered at the July ALA division meeting.

## **1964**

With the cooperation of the State Library, NHLTA was the most active in 1964 than in any prior year.

An NHLTA committee started advising the State Library on material to be included in the mimeographed newsletter, "Trustee Topics." The State Library distributed the newsletter to all NH public library trustees.

An NHLTA Awards Committee continued to review nominations for librarians, trustees, friends, citizens and public officials for awards.

At the NHLTA 1964 annual meeting, the members voted to establish the Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund, honoring the retirement of McKay, who served as NH State Librarian from 1942 to 1964. Income from this fund is to be used to award scholarships annually by NHLTA to deserving New Hampshire students attending library courses, institutes and workshops.

## **1965**

New Hampshire Library Trustees Handbook, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, published in 1965. Barbara Holden of Newport, NH chaired the committee on the handbook's development. The handbook sold for one dollar per copy.

In September 1965, NHLTA formally established the Mildred P. McKay Library Scholarship Fund with the NH Charitable Fund, now known as the NH Charitable Foundation. NHLTA secured a lot of funding for the new scholarship.

## **1966**

First McKay Scholarships awarded by NHLTA.

## **1967**

Larger McKay Scholarships awarded to four recipients by NHLTA.