

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2017-18**

Legislative activity at the state level was quiet this year as there were no bills affecting public libraries. NHLTA's attention has been focused on the federal budget process, since the White House budget proposed eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and slashed millions of dollars in federal funding for library services. In NH, this funding supports the ILL van service and the Talking Books Services managed by the State Library. Library advocates from across the country reached out to their Congressional delegations seeking their support. NHLTA weighed in with our Washington delegation, who unanimously supported retaining these funds. In March 2018, Congress passed an FY2018 omnibus spending bill that included significant federal funding increases for the nation's libraries and maintained the IMLS. This challenge to library funding has stimulated a closer working relationship between NHLTA and the NH Library Association to strengthen our advocacy effectiveness. NHLTA has kept its members informed about the federal challenge to library funding and services.

Legislative Committee members are: Mary Castelli, Chair; Susan Gaudiello, Tom Ladd, and Ed Moran.

– Mary Castelli