



2014 ANNUAL AWARDS

Honoring Those Special Contributors Who Connect the Library with the Community

LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library in Brentwood

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

We couldn't have asked for a better day than Saturday, October 25th to travel to Brentwood to award the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library the NHLTA Library of the Year. The weather was warm, the premises were inviting, and town citizens of all ages, including children running around in adorable and also scary costumes, were in attendance. The award presentation was held directly after an afternoon of festivities that had centered on the creative scarecrows displayed all around the library grounds. At 3 p.m. everyone gathered in the engaging amphitheater as NHLTA President Ed Moran presented the award to Bob Gilbert. Making this event even more special for the six current NHLTA directors who came to



Ed Moran, NHLTA President and Robert Gilbert, Chair, Board of Trustees

Brentwood to honor this library was the fact that both Trustee Chair Bob Gilbert and Library Director Betsy Solon are former NHLTA Directors.

Ed spoke about the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, noting that it is truly an integral part of the small community of Brentwood. Skillful staff, inviting functional premises, a superior collection, an ever-expanding media base and excellent administration all make this possible. In addition to an impressive increase in circulation and the number of cardholders, there has been an extraordinary expansion in the breadth of access to the library as well as a notable increase in the variety of services that patrons can access from computers at home.

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SUE PALMATIER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LIBRARY SUPPORT

Friends of the Rye Public Library

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

On October 14, NHLTA President Ed Moran presented the 2014 Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Library Support to the Friends of the Rye Public Library. Celebrating the award with representatives of the Friends was the Rye Board of Trustees, which had nominated the group for the award.

Since 1967, the Rye Public Library has enjoyed the support of an active Friends group. Like many such groups, the Friends was formed to promote the Library within the community, enhance its resources and services, provide programs designed to create interest in the Library, and act as a support group for the Library's financial plans. What has distinguished the Friends of the Rye Public Library is its track record as a forward-thinking organization.

“Our Friends group rises beyond a simple library support group to occupy a position in Rye as a true civic organization,” says Karen Oliver, chair of the Board of Trustees. For example, in a new initiative, a graduating student from the Rye Middle School is recognized with the annual Friends of the Rye Public Library Middle School Award, honoring a student who exemplifies civic involvement through the Public Library.

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Message from the President . . .

In the Christmas spirit of good will and giving, I ask the readers of our newsletter to consider the following:

It would pay dividends in a stronger sense of shared endeavor if all of us, as trustees, were to regularly acknowledge the effort and dedication shown in the labors of library staff, Friends, foundations, and those who quietly support library missions. A simple Thank You would do wonders.

I want to pursue the idea of establishing library endowments. I would ask those libraries who are already so blessed to contact me with the thought of knowing more how they work, how long the various endowments have been extant, and their impact on the libraries they benefit.

It would also be helpful if we developed a more formal framework to address the practical needs for successful libraries.

So, as America is one of the magnificent heirs of a 2000+ year cultural heritage that has brought its citizenry the the most felicitous blend of material comfort and spiritual freedom in recorded human history, I sign off with the blessing invoked by Charles Dickens in his 1843 Christmas Carol when Tiny Tim says” God Bless Us, Every One.”




Ed Moran
e.moran@nhlta.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND VOLUNTEER

NHLTA offers an opportunity to trustees to apply their skills in support of the mission and activities of the Association. The Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of current and former library trustees. We need volunteers to work on a project-by project basis and on a long-term basis as working members of the board.

For information on how to volunteer with the NHLTA, please contact Loring Webster at l.webster@nhlta.org or Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org with an estimate of the time you can offer, areas of interest, special skills, and degree of passion for libraries!

If you are passionate about libraries and want to make a difference—step up and volunteer. 

Ask the Curmudgeon

Dear Curmudgeon,

Why can't you eat in the library? You can do it at Barnes and Noble and that's kind of a library. I don't mean pizza because you would have all those delivery-type people, and what would you do with those big boxes? But, I would like to curl up in the library with coffee, a book and a bagel with a smear. Why don't we have a more forward-thinking library?

— Litteraryfoody

Dear Litteraryfoody,

*Many of the newer libraries have a café area with coffee, tea and bagels, but you still can't take food around in the stacks and smear the books with sticky fingers. B&N probably considers the smears a cost to get you to spend more money. Your library is in the business of providing a service—it's **not** a for-profit enterprise like B&N. There's budget to replace sticky books.*

— Thank you for asking *The Curmudgeon*

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS The Carpenter Memorial Library

By Karen Sheehan Lord, Trustee and NHLTA Director
and Marsha Beecy, Chair, Manchester City Library Board of Trustees

It was all hands on deck as the Manchester City Library prepared to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Carpenter Memorial Building where library services have been held for the past 100 years. Under the leadership of Director Denise van Zanten, a committee composed of staff members and trustees planned special activities and events to be held throughout the year to help the community celebrate. In January a banner was hung across the entranceway and old photos were displayed inside. Other activities included a Victorian Tea and Social, a lecture and tour of the building with the Manchester Historic Association and a Foundation Fundraiser held at the Palace Theater with guest author Dennis Lehane. A Gala Reception on November 19th marking the historic opening of the building was the culmination of the year's activities. The Manchester Garden Club decked the building with stunning flower ar-

rangements, refreshments were served and tours given of the building. Proclamations from Mayor Gatsas, Governor Hassan and Senators Shaheen and Ayotte and State Librarian York were read. Members of the Carpenter family unveiled a portrait of Mrs. Carpenter which will be hung in the rotunda. A remarkable Lego replica of the facade of the building was displayed which, when completed, will be exhibited at the SEE Science Center. Last but not least, the 2014 Manchester Historic Association Christmas ornament, on sale now, features the Carpenter Memorial Library.

Now for a little history. The library building was presented to the city of Manchester by Frank P. Carpenter, a lifelong philanthropist, in memory of his wife Elenora Blood Carpenter who had died in 1910. At the dedication held on November 18, 1914, Mr. Carpenter said "It is my expectation and belief that the library in its new home



which we are now dedicating, will take on new life and usefulness and that it will be used freely, and that every man, woman and child in Manchester will feel that it is intended for them."

Ground was broken in 1912, and the cornerstone laid in June 1913. When completed in 1914, the library was the largest and best equipped of any library in New Hampshire. Known as the Jewel in the Crown of the Queen City, the beautiful Italian Renaissance style building sits at the head of Victory Park. Mr. Carpenter spared no expense with this state of the art building which took two years to complete at a cost of \$350,000. Modern conveniences included central air and vacuum systems, an electric dumbwaiter and an elevator. The library was the first to have a designated Children's Room with small chairs and low shelving suitable for young patrons.

The building formally opened its doors to the public with much fanfare in 1914 and began its service to generations of Manchester residents. The Carpenter Memorial Library, one hundred years later continues to serve Manchester from this historic building. In the spirit of Frank P. Carpenter the library today offers a wide range of classic and modern library services to the entire Manchester Community. 📖



Board of Trustees Manchester City Library

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP WELL ATTENDED

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

The NHLTA Education Committee presented a Personnel Management workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday October 29th at the NHMA building in Concord. It was well received by the 52 trustees who attended.



There were four components to the workshop entitled Getting Started on Effective Performance Management.


Kate DeForest, Associate at Sulloway & Hollis and NHLTA legal advisor, clarified the RSAs on employment of library personnel, talking about such issues as terms of employment, hiring, firing, who's in charge and "at will" employment.

Deb Caplan, HR Specialist at SDE, Inc. and alternate trustee for the Peterborough Town Library, explained the purpose and importance of Library Director job descriptions and evaluations. She added brief summaries of a Trustee Job Description and a Library Director Search.

Karen Sheehan Lord, NHLTA Director and trustee for the Manchester City Library, gave an overview of the role of interns and volunteers in public libraries and gave examples of best practices to be used for both adult and youth volunteers.

Adele Knight, a NHLTA Director and trustee at the Dublin Public Library, outlined the topics that should be included in library personnel policies, noting that they should be in compliance with library RSAs.

The workshop received excellent reviews, with recommendations that it be repeated annually. Many commented there was not enough time for all questions or for the presentation on policies, but no one wanted a longer workshop. The Education Committee does plan to offer another Personnel Management Workshop in 2015. More information will be available at a later date.

PowerPoint slides of this workshop can be downloaded from the NHLTA website (www.nhlta.org) by clicking on Conferences & Workshops tab and then on Resources. 

The New Hampshire Curmudgeon

Counting Our Blessings


During this season of being grateful for our abundances, shall we also be grateful for all that our libraries have to offer? Our libraries are the center of our town culture in so many ways. Not only is a library a collection of treasured books (and other materials), but it's a place of peace; a haven from the pressures of life; a place to gather; a quiet place to work; a place for fun; a place for exploring. What would our communities be without the enrichment that each library has to offer?

Where else can you go and have someone recommend a book that they know you will like, because they know you? There are frequent new opportunities at most libraries, from stargazing with a new telescope to jam-and-jelly-preserve gatherings, community soup tastings, ice cream socials, special programs, and of course the local book group and other hobby groups. There is something for just about everyone. Have you noticed that library events attract moms, dads and whole families? If you don't find something to interest you at your local library, I'm sure the staff would be happy to help get a new group going.

Today's local libraries are truly family-centered locations. What could be better for the community in our high-stress society than a place for families to gather around a shared focus?

NHMA CONFERENCE

By Loring Webster, NHLTA Director

On November 12th and 13th, seven NHLTA directors participated in manning the NHLTA booth at the NHMA (formerly LGC) Annual Conference for municipalities. This conference was a worthwhile opportunity for members of the board to network and advocate for NH libraries and to exchange information with town officials and other exhibitors. 

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.

— Andrew Carnegie

Library of the Year continued



Mary E. Bartlett Library Staff and Trustees

The library now offers 24/7 online access to the library catalog; a new “app” letting patrons access the library via their mobile phones or tablets has also been added. A Thursday-afternoon “Device Advice” program for patrons having issues with their personal electronic devices is now offered. Evening hours were increased to accommodate parents, teachers and other patrons who work out of town.

Enhanced services to a previously under-served part of the community include the addition of Senior Cinema at 1:00 in the afternoon, accommodating patrons who do not drive in the evening. A Teen Volunteer Program provides students with community service hours towards school requirements. They are thrilled to “work” at the library.

Another important and rewarding development has been the formation of partnerships with other library and community organizations. Teaming up with the Brentwood Historical Society, the local-community-supported-farms, establishing a mini interlibrary loan network with surrounding communities, and supporting local schools with their events, are good examples.

The value of the Mary E. Bartlett Library’s outreach to the community is measured by the relationships and

support from the town officials and the community. The library offers free library cards to any nonresident school or town employee. It has helped the Town ecosystem by installing a storm water garden and working with the Conservation Commission to set up the garden. The library regularly receives support from the police and fire departments for testing equipment and providing safety training to the staff.

To emphasize the value of support that the library receives from the community, President Moran read an excerpt in the letter from the Town Selectmen: “The ongoing relationships between our town and the library are exemplary. We wholeheartedly support and are proud of the library, its talented staff and its outstanding programs which bring so much enjoyment and knowledge to all age groups.”

In addition to the many attributes displayed in the nomination of the Mary E. Bartlett Library, I would also mention that a noticeable sense of pride and enthusiasm for their library emanated from the staff, trustees and friends. One could feel the calm and welcoming ambience of the library within and without.

Congratulations to everyone at the Mary E. Bartlett Library. You are truly library ambassadors. 📖

SPECIAL LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Congratulations Elaine Brody!!

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director



Ed Moran, NHLTA President and Elaine Brody

On October 15th, NHLTA President Ed Moran proudly presented the 2014 Special Library Service Contribution Award to Elaine Brody from the George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson. Elaine has been a long-time supporter and advocate for the library and definitely is deserving of this award.

Beginning in the 1980s and 1990s when it was recognized that the Hudson Hills Memorial Library was in need of expansion or new construction, Elaine supported efforts to publicize and raise funds for that purpose. Always an outspoken advocate for the library, Elaine attended community gatherings and Town meetings to explain the many benefits that a new or expanded library would bring to the town.

When the Rodgers brothers decided to make a very generous donation of \$4 million to fund a new library, they first called Elaine to discuss the possibilities of the project. Her expertise was well known as she had been involved in several school building projects, the School District Facilities Committee, and the Facilities Assessment Committee. Throughout the planning and construction phases, Elaine was the

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LIBRARY DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Dorothy “Dottie” Billbrough

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

In recognition of many years of extraordinary service, the Trustees of the Colby Memorial Library in Danville placed Dottie Billbrough’s name in nomination for the 2014 Library Director of the Year award. Dottie was subsequently chosen by the NHLTA Executive Committee to receive the award, and on Saturday, December 6th, NHLTA



President Ed Moran was very pleased to present the award to Dottie. There were many supporters in attendance.

Among the criteria to be considered for the Library Director of the Year award, the NHLTA requires that the nominee exhibit professionalism, leadership and outstanding performance and notable contribution toward fulfilling the mission and goals of the library. Over the years, Dottie has certainly done that. She began her career as a substitute in the Library back in 1964. She was only 14

years old. Yes, that

is right—only 14. She verified that age when I commented that she looked too young to have been serving the library for 50 years. In 1977, Dottie became a regular part-time employee, and then Director of Library Services in 1992. She was instrumental in helping to create a new 21st century community library. In their nomination, the Colby Trustees wrote “She has an evolving vision about the dynamic role of libraries, and has brought Danville’s library from the book-deposit model of the 1960s to a contemporary space that cultivates community by assessing and implementing ideas of how libraries function in today’s society.”

Under Dottie’s management, both children’s and young adult’s programs have grown tremendously. She encourages adult reading programs also. She oversaw a significant and challenging expansion of the building in 2003-04 which increased both its holdings and usefulness to the community. The library is well laid out with excellent visibility from the circulation desk, comfortable seating areas, a bank of computers and a work space for staff. The children’s area in the lower level is huge, yet bright and inviting.

Dottie’s philosophy of service emphasizes the role of a dynamic library at the center of the community. Trustees attribute much of this success to Dottie’s amazing personality. She is level headed, yet persistent and seeks the best resolution for everyone in any situation. She wants her patrons, staff and community to feel that they are heard, valued and important. One trustee said “Dottie is one of my

top ten favorite people ever; she has a sweetness of spirit and always looks to the best in people ... Dottie makes me a better person.”

Behind the scenes, Dottie is a resolute supporter of her staff, fighting for fair pay and often covering hours for her staff to take time off. She and her staff continue to foster a welcoming and friendly space. New patrons are enthusiastically welcomed and library staff quickly learn the patrons’ names. Under Dottie’s leadership, the library has been established as a vital part of the community. With patience and persistence in working with various town boards, especially at budget time, Dottie has continued to give her library and her community everything she can and continues to smile through it all.

Colby Memorial Library Trustees are proud to honor Dottie in this, her fiftieth year at Colby, in recognition of her long and continuing career. We are too, Dottie. Congratulations. 📖

What is a “Little Free Library”?

<http://littlefreelibrary.org>

It’s a “take a book, return a book” gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too! 📖



Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, Brentwood

ANNUAL AWARDS

Elaine Brody continued

Administrative Coordinator for the building project. She was the liaison between the Trustees and the Rodgers brothers and did amazing amounts of publicity, informing everyone of the progress and benefits the new library would bring. She attended all meetings relating to the project and worked closely with the Clerk of the Works, always responding quickly to questions and issues that needed to be resolved. Elaine was instrumental in starting the Buy-A-Brick program, a way to raise money and give recognition to donors, which continues today. People buy bricks that are engraved and become part of the new library entrance-way.

And that is not all! When the library trustees decided that they needed a new strategic plan for the future of the library, Elaine took on the responsibility of facilitator for the Strategic Planning Committee. She arranged meetings of many people to get their input for the future direction of the library, and helped to design a questionnaire to solicit opinions on current services and programs and to find out what the desires for future services and programs might be. Elaine also conducted in-depth interviews with members of town government, town businesses and town leadership to gather their opinions on the future direction of the library. Elaine is very organized and professional in working with everyone, and has kept the process on track and on budget.

The Library Trustees say that Elaine is truly the embodiment of the definition of this award. She has given outstanding service over many years in the “areas of fund-raising, volunteering services, organizing programs AND spearheading a building expansion.” Elaine has always been the person they looked to and depended on when her skills and enthusiasm were needed. A former library director commented that “the Rodgers Memorial Library would never have been built without Elaine Brody.” 📖

Friends of the Rye Public Library continued

“What makes the Friends of the Rye Public Library a notable group is that at each meeting, we all come to the table with thoughtfulness, insight, creativity, initiative and drive,” observes Katie Jaffarian, President of the Friends. “Our discussions typically include every member attending and are always lively and productive. It is a marvelous thing to watch this process of exchange of thoughts and ideas transform into so many wonderful results.”

The Friends has dedicated the income from its annual membership drive to an impressive array of programs and services, allowing the Library to enhance the cultural and scholarly community dialog. Vital to this function is the Friends’ sponsored Speaker Series, featuring representatives from multiple cultural institutions, among them museums included in the museum pass program sponsored by the Friends. The group even has its own art committee which hosts local exhibits at the Library. Other programs supported by the Rye Friends include the Library’s popular film series, the Drawing Together sketchbook program, senior visits, computer classes and an ongoing book sale.

Perhaps their most unique accomplishment is the fun and dynamic event they created to promote the electronic resources offered at the Library: a Tech Fair. Structured like a trade show with demonstration stations located throughout the Library building, the Tech Fairs feature “how-to” demos of many of the electronic resources in a fun, friendly and festive atmosphere. With plentiful refreshments, door prizes and colorful banners and balloons, volunteer demonstrators welcome the public to try some of the engaging tools available to them through the Library website. Friends’ members train to become the demonstrators, coordinate refreshments and decorations, and collect feedback for future enhancement of the event. The success of the Tech Fair has been seen in the increased popularity of e-books and audio downloads, streaming film, music downloads and more.

Clearly the Friends of the Rye Public Library are not only a great resource for their own community; they are an inspiration for other public libraries and their supporting organizations throughout New Hampshire. 📖



Friends of the Rye Public Library

POLICIES EVERY LIBRARY SHOULD HAVE

*Thanks to the Amherst Town Library for sharing their Privacy Policies.
This is a sample and should be tailored to fit your library.*

Amherst Town Library

Privacy Statement

As librarians we have a professional obligation to respect the right to privacy for all of our library users. New Hampshire Law protects your right to privacy so that others cannot know how you use library services and materials. We ask for your cooperation in helping protect the rights of all library users, including children.

Materials on Hold: We can only give out titles of materials on hold to the person who placed the hold. If you plan to pick up an item on hold for another patron, you must present their library card at the time of checkout.

Renewals: You may renew materials for another person by phone or in person, but we can only let you know the number of items and the types of items being renewed.

Overdue Materials and Fines: We can only give out titles of overdue materials to the person who has borrowed them. Overdue notices will be mailed to the person who has borrowed the materials, including children. Once the notice arrives at the patron's home, the parent may intervene if they so choose. You may pay fines for another patron, but we can only tell you the amount of the fines and the number of items with fines. We encourage you to request a printed receipt of the materials that you borrow. This receipt can be kept in a visible location in your home for reference.

Patron Privacy

The Amherst Town Library collects personally identifiable information only when necessary for the fulfillment of the mission of the library.

In compliance with NH RSA 201-D:11 personal information and/or records of library activity shall be released only as provided for in this policy.

- Application must be made to the Library Director or her designee.
- The Director shall consult with Chairman of the Board of Trustees or his designee and the legal counsel of the Town of Amherst.
- The request for information must be accompanied by a court order in proper form that has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction after showing good cause by the law enforcement agency or person seeking the recorded information.

ANNUAL REPORT

It's that time of the year when the Annual Report to the Town is due by the Library Board of Trustees. In compliance with RSA 202-A:12, the following information (extracted from the RSA) is required.

1. All receipts (revenues) from whatever sources
2. All expenditures
3. All property in the trustees' care and custody
4. Statement and explanation of any unexpended money
5. Any bequests or donations received and holding in behalf of the town
6. Total number of books and other materials
7. The number of books and other materials added by gift, purchase and otherwise
8. The number of books and other materials lost or withdrawn
9. The number of borrowers
10. Statement of the use of the property of the library in furthering the educational requirements of the municipality
11. Other information and suggestions as may seem desirable
12. Submit a similar report to the state librarian

Complete Library RSAs are available at: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-XVI-202-A.htm>

WILMOT PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS MEETING

By Jackie Thompson, Chair
Wilmot Public Library Board of Trustees


On September 25, 2014, Wilmot Public Library’s Trustees and Director, Rosanna Dude, hosted an informal get-together of twenty area library trustees and directors to share ideas, concerns and successes. Seven area libraries were represented, including Danbury, Springfield, Bristol, Newbury, Sutton, New London and Wilmot. Representing their libraries were Directors from Bristol, Newbury, New London and Wilmot. The remaining attendees were Library Trustees.

The meeting opened with introductions and quickly moved into issues confronting the trustees and directors. This was followed by suggestions as well as success stories regarding general growth and improvements. Some of the issues discussed were building a strong, lasting Board of Trustees, increasing patronage, space restrictions, fundraising and Friends groups and their importance to their libraries for financial support, volunteers and a source for future trustees. Several suggestions were offered to build a strong Board of Trustees including having alternates on the Board, using email to make Trustees aware of the upcoming issues, and having term limits for Trustees.

Increasing patronage was a hot topic. Several suggestions were offered including publicizing open meetings to the public, newsletters, adult and children’s programs, offering museum passes, collaborating with local schools, becoming a bus stop so children will be encouraged to use the library, participating in Summer Reading Programs, to name a few. Everyone decided that the greater the participation from the community, the greater the sense of responsibility and involvement you can expect.

A discussion of fundraising projects offered suggestions such as bake sales, fines for late returns, fees for library cards for seasonal or non-residents, grants, donations from local banks for specific projects, and voluntary contributions from patrons and businesses.

“It was particularly interesting to have the newly appointed Library Directors and Trustees glean information from those with more experience,” noted chairman of the Wilmot Board, Jackie Thompson. “We were happy to show off our wonderful little library and very excited to have such a great turnout on our first try.”


This exchange of ideas and concerns will continue at different sites, the next session tentatively scheduled after the March elections of new Trustees. The Trustees from the Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol offered to host the next get-together. I’m sure we will all look forward to getting together again and maintain relationships between meetings. 

NETWORKING IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Claire Martineau, NHLTA Director and Trustee, Stratford Public Library

The first Trustee Roundtable gathering took place at the end of June in North Stratford with representation from three libraries. Following introductions and a brief overview of hours and staffing levels, the consensus is that more help is needed with creating policies, privacy issues, RSAs and situations with unattended children. Workshops, though valuable and important, are difficult to attend due to distance, time and funding. There was an interest in local area library gatherings or visits to each library to obtain information about individual needs or concerns.

After sending invitations to five of the Northern-most libraries, another Area Libraries Group meeting was held in late September at the Colebrook Public Library with only two libraries represented. Discussions revolved around the role of the Trustee, possibly establishing a local Coalition of Trustees and asking NHLTA about videotaping workshops for more availability.

For the balance of the libraries in the North Country Co-op area, look for an invitation for a Roundtable Discussion to take place in late winter to early spring 2015. If you know of a central location from Lancaster to Franconia that could accommodate approximately 20 people, please send an email to: c.martineau@nhlta.org for further planning. 



PLEASE NOTE
NHLTA’s NEW ADDRESS
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301


GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW ABBOTT LIBRARY IN SUNAPEE

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

Several hundred well-wishers and library supporters attended the grand opening of the new Abbot Memorial Library in Sunapee on Saturday, November 15th. The library is really impressive. It is very bright and modern and double the size of the old one, and boasts many new features including a bank of computers for children, glass-walled community rooms, a gas fireplace, more parking and better accessibility.



The ceremony included thanks and recognition to the Library Director and staff, the Trustees, the fundraisers and many others who were vital to the project. It had taken nearly twelve years for this building to become a reality but vision, perseverance and hard work paid off.

For detailed information about the library, please note that the Abbott Library was featured on page 4 under LIBRARY PROFILE in the Summer issue of the NHLTA newsletter. Refer to your mailed copy or read it on the NHLTA website at www.nhlta.org. Details about the library and the project can be found on the Abbott Library website www.abbottlibrary.org. 

NHLTA RETREAT 2014

By Karen Sheehan-Lord, NHLTA Director

The Annual Retreat for officers and Directors of the NHLTA was held on Wednesday, November 5th at the NH Municipal Association building in Concord. The retreat was facilitated by Mary Ann Leon, a well-known consultant and former director of the Concord NH branch of the American Red Cross. This was a day filled with spirited conversation on challenging topics as the group worked to forward the mission of the organization. The first item on the agenda was a review of our current Mission statement:


“The New Hampshire Library Trustees Association educates library trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote New Hampshire public libraries and promotes the right of free access to information for everyone.”

After much discussion the group decided to rework and update this

statement to ensure that it remains current and reflects the goals of the organization. A sub-committee consisting of NHLTA Directors Marty Davis, David Simpson, Connie Kirwin and Susan Gaudiello will work on the redraft.

After a short break it was back to work, as the group undertook a SWOT exercise. SWOT stands for “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats” and is a tool in current use by many non-profits to provide deeper insight into their organization. Among the many strengths mentioned by the group were experience and variety of expertise among the directors, commitment to producing quality work, enthusiasm for and dedication to our twin mission of education and advocacy, and a willingness to help others. Identified weaknesses centered on the need for better board recruitment tactics as we try to provide back-up candidates for key positions in the organization.

Concern was also expressed about making sure that we are reaching all of our constituents. Much time was spent on developing better recruitment tactics which could include targeting specific needs and matching these with potential candidates. The use of a skills grid to anticipate needs and development and use of an application form were also discussed.

The afternoon of the retreat was devoted to three topics: Conflict Resolution, Branding, and an Advocacy update. We also reviewed our previous Strategic Plan and have decided to divide this into segments with the goal of updating much of this document. The NHLTA Board of Directors will continue to work on improving advocacy as a major component of our mission to NH Library Trustees. We will keep you apprised of our work in this and other areas of interest as the year progresses. 

EXPLORING LANDMARKS ALONG THE NORTHERN RAIL TRAIL

By Jackie Thompson, Chair
Wilmot Public Library Board of Trustees

The Wilmot Public Library, in collaboration with the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, invited the public to celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7, 2014. About 40 people participated who wanted to view artifacts from railroad history along the Northern Rail Trail between Potter Place and Danbury, and of course ride or walk this wonderful rail trail.



This event grew out of a Wilmot Public Library evening program back in February which featured Wilmot historical photography specialist Charley Freiberg, whose presentation was entitled “Riding the New Hampshire Rail Trail: Photographic and Historic Documentation.” The program was so interesting that it created great interest in landmarks along the rail trail, and attendees clamored for a field trip to see the sights in person, but during warmer weather.

So the library and the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail planned a free activity — open to the public — which began at the Potter Place trailhead kiosk. Participants could choose one of three tours: to walk two or five miles, take a one-way bicycle tour of seven miles, or a 14 mile round-trip cycling tour. All tours included the opportunity to admire restored mile and section markers, original stone box culverts, railroad tell tales (high dangly mecha-

nisms meant to warn top-of-the-train riders to duck), a “hidden” stone arch

bridge, and more. The reward at the end of the seven-mile plus trek was lunch at the popular eatery, the Danbury Country Store.

The Northern Rail Trail recently celebrated the completion of a two-mile stretch of trail in Boscawen which completed the trail from Lebanon to the Boscawen/Concord line. This was accomplished after a decade of hard work trail clearing, grant writing, and community outreach by a dedicated group of volunteers who make up the rail trail support group, the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail. A bicyclist can now complete his/her ride without setting foot on a road, and enjoy beautiful scenery along the way.

The event was a wonderful collaboration between the Wilmot Public Library and the Northern Rail Trail, just another example of how two local groups can work together to host a great event. 📖

GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY

Peterborough Library at the polls Nov 11, 2014

Corrine Chronopoulos, Library Director

The Peterborough Town Library set up two informational tables at the polls. The goal of the project was to increase visibility of library programs and services, as well as to sign up residents for library cards. We brought our current program calendar, pamphlets with information about New Hampshire Downloadable Books, and program flyers. Because of our table placement, we also acted as guides to the public and as an information resource. We signed up 23 residents for library cards and had plenty of conversations about services and programs.

We posted some photos on our Facebook page and had an impromptu contest between librarians on who could sign up the most patrons. This had an additional reach to 167 people.

The other benefit of this program was positive connection with our town administration. One of our Selectman emailed me directly to say he was very happy to see this outreach.

A huge success overall and highly recommended outreach program. 📖

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NHLTA NEWSLETTER

Do you have a great idea for an article for the NHLTA newsletter?

We encourage you to submit articles and/or photos to us for consideration. Topics could include events, programs, announcements or a recent success.

Please e-mail all submissions to the Editor, Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org or Feature Editor, Karen Sheehan Lord at ks.lord@nhlta.org.



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Library Trustees Association**
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CALENDAR 2015

January 7	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • The Center (NHMA) 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
February 4	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • The Center (NHMA) 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
March 4	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • The Center (NHMA) 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
May 18	SAVE THE DATE!	NHLTA Annual Conference Grappone Conference Center, Concord

Best Wishes for a successful New Year

New Hampshire Library Trustee STAFF

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The New Hampshire Library Trustee is published four (4) times a year by:
New Hampshire Library Trustees Association
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301

This publication serves as a means of providing information and news to library trustees in New Hampshire. Subscriptions are included as part of the annual membership dues for the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association. The content published is for informational purposes only, and is not and should not be considered a substitute for legal advice.

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