

READS

REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES SECTION

READS Executive Board
Local Government Center

Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 20, 2015

Present: Mathew Bose, Nancy Smith Miner, Caitlin Stevens, Rebecca Crockett, Diane Mayr

Absent: Corinne Chronopoulous, Rebekka Mateyk, Katherine Dormody, Kate Thomas

Call to Order: Rebecca called the meeting to order at 9:38.

Approval of Minutes: Mat MOVED to accept, Diane seconded with a minor change to the 9/18/2015 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Mat went over the Treasurer's report that was emailed to the Board prior to our meeting. The \$200 expended for the Award of Excellence included the \$100 gift certificate which went to the recipient as well as paying for the recipient's registration fee for the day at NELA.

Executive Board Reports

President's Report: Rebecca welcomed everyone. We talked about the virtual meetings she'd like to try out this year. She's hoping having virtual meetings will draw more volunteers to participate on the Board. Rooms are still being reserved at the Local Government Center in case virtual meetings don't work out. If we try virtual meeting, we'd want to meet in January in person, but maybe the summer meetings could be virtual. We would still want to have some meetings in person. March, July and November might be done virtually. We are still considering which service to use. Rebecca is going to check into how many people can participate using Skype.

Rebecca is working on updating the calendar (Excel file) for the coming year and will get that to the rest of the Board ASAP.

Rebecca talked about the website – some updates have been made. We are still working on updating the calendar on the NHLA READS site. The READS Handbook, which is also on READS website, needs to be updated. Kersten will talk to Mary Cronin to see if we can get the original of the Handbook because right now we just have access to the pdf.

We talked about creating a READS Facebook page. There already is an NHLA Facebook page which Diane posts to. We agreed that posting READS-related materials to the NHLA Facebook page would be sufficient. Diane is happy to post anything we forward to her. Diane is going to post the Award of Excellence to NHLA's Facebook page.

Vice President: Nothing to report

Membership: Vacant

Programming: Absent

READS-to-Go: KitKeeper – there is no new update on this. The last update was that we had a demo and it looks like it will work out, however, we are stuck with the integration part of things. Pam Birch had volunteered to help out with this but has resigned because the task is too big. Corinne said she'd be the interim person. Rebecca is going to check in with her. Is this too big of a project? The sentiment was expressed that, if we don't have someone step up to take the lead, we will not be able to implement KitKeeper. Does this belong at the state level? Mat expressed a willingness to help and he would like to be informed on where things are at and what needs to happen next. Nancy would also like to be in the loop and she too is willing to help make it happen. It was noted that it will be the libraries' responsibility to keep their holdings current, also noted is that we don't have control over what libraries do/don't do to use the system and maintain their holdings.

Past President: Although absent, Corinne emailed before the meeting to report that she talked with Rebecca and handed over the pertinent info and documents to our new President.

Conference Committee Liaison: Caitlin talked about the READS programs at the NELA conference. We combined our annual meeting with a program by Jessica Pigza (a librarian in New York City who presented on BiblioCraft). Jessica was also our lunch speaker. She drew quite a crowd. We had planned for 150 people, but we had 300. Unfortunately the two presentations she did were very close together and did not leave her much time for a break. She did a great job, but was very tired at the end. A few evaluations weren't entirely favorable, but for the most part attendees loved her. Next time we should coordinate the Annual Meeting better; it was nice to have the business meeting and the mini-program that Jessica presented, but the timing was off and ultimately infringed on presenting the Award of Excellence during the annual meeting.

Caitlin doesn't think there will be an NHLA conference this Spring. Rebecca mentioned that it doesn't look like there will be a NHLA conference in the Fall or Spring this year. Will they be doing one in 2017? Rebecca is going to look into that.

The idea was floated that maybe we could get all the sections from NHLA together for a conference this Fall, although, that's pretty much what an NHLA conference is, and it doesn't look like there will be one. Another idea is to have a Fall READS conference. The idea came up to get the para-professional section involved as well. Mat is going to reach out to that section to see if they want to get involved.

Old Business

Membership position: This position is still open. Caitlin mentioned that Emily Weiss from the Bedford Public Library has offered to come back to fill the position. Rebecca is going to reach out to her.

Public Relations position: We talked about the Public Relations position being folded into the responsibilities of the Vice President. We also talked about the branding of READS and that people don't always know what READS is.

Round Tables: We don't yet know the dates of the Round Tables. Mat said Hooksett would be willing to host a Round Table.

New Business

Year End Review: In regards to how the year went and what we might do differently, we talked about pushing KitKeeper. We may want to make it a primary goal to get people up and running and attempt to get libraries to use it and keep it maintained. This would include creating instructions and posting them to our website. We could also make YouTube training videos to show how to set up kits and reservations. Again the concern came up about maintaining information – will we get enough buy-in from other librarians to keep it going? If the contact information for a library changes, will librarians know they need to update it? Especially considering the turn-over in the library and educating staff on how to use the system. Almost all the kits have been entered (except 8). There are about 90 libraries that own kits, there are about 150 kits.

We also talked about the branding READS. There was general consensus that the acronym “READS” does not communicate what we are and what we do. There are librarians and library workers in New Hampshire who have not heard of READS and don't know what we are about.

Goals for 2016:

- Priority 1 – KitKeeper – make a decision on whether we are going to us it.
- Priority 2 – explore virtual meetings.
- Priority 3 – update the handbook.
- Priority 4 – the branding/PR of READS.

Finances: We didn't get any conference fees this year – do we want to raise some money by charging for round tables? Fall conference is usually our money maker – but we didn't do that this year. We did not reach a conclusion on this.

Adjourn: Mat MOVED to adjourn the meeting, Nancy seconded MOTION passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Next READS Executive Board meeting: January meeting is going to be in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Kersten Matera
READS Secretary