



Reference and Adult Services

A section of the New Hampshire Library Association

Compiled READS Annual Reports - 2017

READS YEARLY TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2016 – June 2017

INCOME

Savings	\$4,736.73
Bank Interest	\$ 0.49
Membership	\$1,115.00
Fall Conference	\$2,774.00
Spring Roundtables (fees)	\$ 270.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$8,896.22**

EXPENSES

Spring Roundtables	\$198.52
Fall Conference	\$2065.75
Public Relations	\$266.76
Award Section	\$230.00
Reads-To-Go	\$792.13
Miscellaneous	\$50.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$3,603.16**

BANK ACCOUNTS as of June 30, 2017

Savings	\$5,293.06
Checking	-----

Total in the READS accounts **\$5,293.06**

Submitted by Mathew Bose, READS Treasurer
Annual Fall Conference meeting on October 10, 2017

**READS Membership Annual Report
October 2017**

Of our 189 READS members, 16 are new this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Weiss
READS Membership Chair

**READS Annual Report from the Programming Committee
October 2017**

The four READS Spring Roundtables had a registered attendance of 68. Thanks to Pease Library in Plymouth, the Lebanon Public Libraries, Hooksett Public Library, and Lane Memorial Library in Hampton for hosting. Participants discussed programming around books, including book groups, community reads, and outreach. Notes are available at <http://reads.nhlibrarians.org/reads-roundtables-spring-2017/>.

Thanks to the 2017 READS program committee: Eileen Gilbert, Nicole Prokup, Maria Shroeter, Amanda Alwyn, and Susan Sinott.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Gilbert

**READS-TO-GO Committee 2017 Annual Report
October 2017**

As of October 3, 2017, READS-TO-GO had 172 kits in circulation (four more titles have been assigned but are awaiting imminent publication in paperback or are being processed). The committee is continuously reading newly published works of fiction and nonfiction to consider for future kits and are trying to anticipate the next hot item (we predict these will soon be in high demand: *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, and, *Little Fires Everywhere*).

If your library or local organization would like to sponsor a kit, please contact dmayr@nesmithlibrary.org. (The cost of a kit is approximately \$180 plus your staff time for processing. RTG provides the bag and discussion materials.)

The READS-TO-GO site (www.reads-to-go.org) provides a link to the KitKeeper booking system and also is updated with new kit titles and discussion questions. Hosting libraries should periodically check the site and let us know if any of the information included is missing or inaccurate (for example, if your library has changed a phone #). For the period January 1 – September 30, 2017, the blog had 2,509 visits and 4,275 page views.

Time sensitive information of interest to librarians and book groups is provided on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ReadsToGo). Our Facebook page has 159 "likes." We urge libraries to use the Facebook page to recommend titles and to generally discuss book discussion group issues.

Thanks to our committee members for the time, energy, and creativity they put into the READS-TO-GO program, Judy Haskell, Brianna Hemmah, Liz Herold, Claudia Mayer, Beth Nerbonne, Tricia Ryden, Martha Simmons, Katherine Parker Wright, and chairperson, Diane Mayr. Special thanks to Brianna and Martha for getting the KitKeeper system up and running, maintaining it, and for putting together a how-to video.

A separate report has been issued (see attached) on the first year on the KitKeeper online kit booking system. We are happy to report that more than 625 bookings have been placed thus far!

We appreciate the continued support of the NH library community. We offer our thanks to the kit host libraries, to Mary Russell at NHSL, and to the van drivers who transport the kits between libraries. And of course, we'd like to recognize the readers who continue to borrow, read, and discuss the books in RTG kits!

Respectfully submitted by Diane Mayr, chairperson
10/10/17

**READS Annual Report from the Past President
October 2017**

The Past President chairs both the Nominating Committee, to nominate Board members for service, and the Award Committee, which presents the annual Award of Excellence to an exemplary staff member of a NH library. There are a great many wonderful and deserving librarians here in New Hampshire: we may be a small community, yet we are mighty!

The Award Committee accepted nominations for the Award through the end of August this year, and selected a winner for the 2017 READS Award of Excellence. This Award will be presented at the Fall Conference on October 10. No matter how difficult the decision, it is gratifying to recognize such exceptional achievements.

Because the name plates on the original plaque were completed, READS purchased a new plaque, with space for 10 more Award winners. The original will hold a place of honor in the State Library.

A warm welcome to the incoming Past President, Nancy Smith Miner, and sincere thanks to all the past and current READS Board and Committee members. It has been a privilege to work with all of you - kind, talented and generous, each and every one. Though you aren't always recognized for your hard work and involvement, the NH library community is more vibrant for your participation.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Emmons

**READS NHLA Conference Committee Liaison Report
October 2017**

At this year's NHLA Conference in Portsmouth, READS sponsored five programs:

- Take Time to Read Initiative: Librarians from the Hillstown Co-op presented their Take Time to Read Initiative, which is a group effort to encourage adults to spend more time reading for pleasure.
- Unusual Reader's Advisory: A panel discussion on passive, easy, and unusual ways to provide reader's advisory services to your patrons. Programs included read-alike bookmarks, Book Bingo, and Books and Brews.
- Kit Keeper Demo and Question and Answer session: Martha Simmons and Brianna Hemmah, who have worked with Kit Keeper to set everything up for the READS-to-Go kits, gave an excellent demonstration of how to request kits and manage requests for sponsored kits.
- Programming for Alzheimer's Patrons and their Families: An excellent presentation about how libraries can play an active part in assisting patrons and their families affected by Alzheimer's.
- Intellectual Freedom Committee Roundtable: Members of the revived Intellectual Freedom Committee led a lively roundtable discussion on how we as librarians can be more self-aware and attempt to prevent self-censorship as we select books and other materials for our library.

The next NHLA conference will be held in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Loving

READS NHLA Conference Committee Liaison

KitKeeper Annual Report October 2017

KitKeeper launched on November 1st of 2016. In preparation for the scheduled launch date the 'KitKeeper Team' of Brianna Hemmah, Martha Simmons and Mathew Bose entered all of the New Hampshire Libraries that do not already host a kit into the KitKeeper system. Brianna entered the Kits and then Martha and Brianna obtained and input all of the existing schedules for the entire Reads-to-Go Kit Library.

Many of the initial inquiries during the first months were about login information and changing email accounts. Most other questions revolved around the proper way to submit a request in the new system. The greatest area of confusion was the drop down menu for the pick-up library, where satellite libraries had to take care to select their van stop instead of their own library. 134 new reservations were made in the first month alone, with many Kits that had been ignored for years experiencing a revival.

In the new year it became apparent that there was some problems within the system, both on the database side and on the tracking side. Plymouth Rocket did a complete debugging of the KitKeeper System and Brianna edited the host library entries. Changes were made to the automated emails to make the tracking procedure clearer. A user friendly Quick Guide was put together by Martha and distributed to any library confused about the procedure. There was a marked decrease in problems once these changes were implemented.

During the Spring there were a number of demonstrations and Q & A session presented by Brianna and Martha, including at the Hooksett Reads Round Table and the NHLA Spring Conference. This seemed to be particularly helpful, so it was determined that a video demonstration should be recorded. Brianna and Martha did a live online training session that was recorded and later distributed.

As a whole, the introduction of the KitKeeper has substantially boosted Kit circulation. Moreover, we continue to get inquiries from libraries who want to start using the system. The ability to browse Kits easily, see whole schedules, and quickly reserve online have been popular features. Since the KitKeeper went live there have been 629 new reservations recorded in the system, with that number likely being higher, as most of the statistics for the month of July were lost by Plymouth Rocket.

Report Submitted by Brianna Hemmah