

READS Executive Board  
Local Government Center  
Profile Room  
Friday, April 22, 2011  
10:00 am

Present: Pat Fickett, Linda Taggart, Caitlin Stevens, Emily Weiss, Mary Cronin, Diane Mayr, Erin Apostolos, Myra Emmons

Absent: Lori Fisher, Deann Hunter

Call to Order: Pat Fickett called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Pat Fickett welcomed new READS Vice President/President Elect Myra Emmons and all thanked her for stepping in.

A MOTION was made by Erin Apostolos to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2011 meeting with no corrections. MOTION PASSED.

Treasurer's Report: Deann Hunter

Deann Hunter was absent from the meeting due to illness, but faxed copies of the Treasurer's Reports for review. Erin Apostolos asked which budget year funded fall conference 2010. Linda Taggart explained that READS fiscal year is July-June, so the fall conference was paid from the 2010-2011 budget. A discussion of items still to be paid from the 2010-11 budget followed, these include READS-to-Go Kit canvas bags, READS award postcard and PR expenses, remaining Spring Roundtables programs expenses. Erin Apostolos MOVED to accept Treasurer's report; MOTION passed.

President's Report: Pat Fickett

Pat reported that this week's NHLA Board meeting was interesting. State Librarian Michael York spoke about budget cuts to NHSL; outlook was less discouraging than her impression from recent communications, particularly regarding the proposed cut to NHSL van service. NHLA Legislative Rep Randy Brough and Michael York are working with NHLA lobbyist on best way and time for advocacy; advice was for librarians to wait to hear what best approach may be. The bad news about the state budget is that there will be deep cuts at NHSL; NHSL would like to make choices about where cuts will be made rather than have them imposed.

NHLA Board looked at the Reads-to-Go (RTG) proposal for receiving funding for new RTG kits, and recommended that they ask for funding for 10 kits rather than 3. RTG Committee chair Diane Mayr said that they would be happy with 10 as long as funding could be spread over time to allow for planning. NHLA suggested adding audiobooks to RTG kits; the RTG committee has discussed this at length and for various reasons, including cost, has rejected this format for RTG kits.

Conference Liaison Caitlin Stevens asked about NHLA funding for conference speakers; while planning the upcoming conference, budgeted amount for speakers' stipends was restricted and made finding speakers difficult. If NHLA has funds it needs to disperse, wouldn't this be a good place to put them? Pat Fickett suggested that conference committee submit a written proposal to NHLA for additional funds for conference speakers.

Pat reported that NHLA website coordinator Amy Graves has set up a Google Calendar for NHLA and sections events and meetings. Mary Cronin will contact Amy for login info.

Vice President's Report: Good news is that READS has a Vice President/President Elect!

Publicity Report: Lori Fisher

Lori Fisher was absent to care for a sick child; she sent reports via email prior to today's meeting. READS pads have been ordered.

Lori asked for discussion on staffing READS table at conference. Linda will not be able to attend conference. Other board members said they will be able to take turns during breaks to staff READS table.

Membership Report: Emily Weiss

As of April 6, 2011, READS has 186 members, 43 are new. Erica Johnson is our new contact person at Local Government Center. Emily has sent members who get READS correspondence by email a welcome message; she has not had time to send welcome message to the members requesting READS communication in paper form, she expects to do that soon. Emily will ask NHSL once again this year to set up a READS listserv; right now communicating by email is hampered by need to copy and paste addresses each time. Emily is in her third year as membership chair, she would like to complete her time in this position at the end of this year. Pat Fickett thanked Emily for giving the executive board ample notice.

Programming Report: Erin Apostolos

Erin reported that the Spring Roundtables on collection development were successful; the programming committee will go over evaluations at its next meeting. Erin noted that at the session she facilitated, evaluations showed that people would have liked a longer time, 3 hours instead of 2 to cover topic. Erin will post to the NHLA blog that resources from Roundtables are available on the READS website. Pat mentioned that she had some feedback that it seemed a lot of groups seemed to be covering collection development at the same time; a way to communicate/coordinate topics between groups/coops might be a good idea. Pat gave Erin the list of conference topics prepared by Gaye Kurmas for future reference.

Reads-To-Go Report: Diane Mayr

There are 74 RTG kits. Diane feels that NHLA offer to fund 10 RTG kits is doable. Pat suggested that RTG include the cost of the bags in their revised proposal. The RTG blog is getting good use, RTG's program at the upcoming NHLA conference will be held on Friday morning.

#### Past President's Report: Linda Taggart

The postcards publicizing the READS Award of Excellence are getting printed now, Linda will mail and van them next week. Linda reported that Secretary, Vice President/President Elect, Publicity, and Reads-to-Go positions are up for reelection/reappointment. Emily Weiss offered to work with Linda on the Nominating Committee.

#### Conference Committee Report: Caitlin Stevens

Caitlin listed programs sponsored by READS that will be held at the NHLA conference in two weeks: "When to Call the Police" moderated by Lori, a READS Roundtable by the Reads-to-Go committee, Nancy Milone Hill's "Reading Women" program and Reader's Advisory program, and a Volunteer Q&A with Lori Fisher and Michael York. Caitlin will be at NHLA conference to introduce all programs but the RTG program, which Diane Mayr will introduce.

Caitlin read a draft position description of the Conference Committee Liaison to be added to the READS Handbook; all agreed it was fine, it will be added to the Handbook.

#### Old Business

##### Handbook

Mary noted that a draft of the handbook is available in Google Docs for editing. Deann made changes to the Treasurer's position description. Mary noted that changes will be made to the Secretary's position description to reflect the Bylaws changes that affect how elections are managed. All agreed to review their respective position descriptions and make edits before the next meeting.

#### Elections

Mary Cronin reported on special election for Vice President/President-Elect results. Linda Taggart, as Nominating Committee Chair, verified the results. There were 41 votes, all for Myra Emmons: 28 votes by electronic ballot plus 13 by paper ballot. Return rates were .34 for electronic ballots (28/83), and .25 for paper ballots (13/52). Return rate for fall election was also .34. BallotBin online election was easy to coordinate, and Mary reported some positive feedback from READS members about move to electronic ballot. Mary would like to use BallotBin for the fall election.

Pat has started a draft Bylaw amendment to add contingency for filling an open position mid-term. She will hand this over to Myra for her first official Vice President task.

#### New Business

##### NHLA and READS logos

Reaction to the first draft of new READS logo and NHLA logos as a whole ranged from lukewarm to dislike. Some felt that they lacked a professional feel and questioned the lower case font. Absence of a graphic on READS logo only was a sticking point. Diane suggested a book, Erin suggested a book to ebook idea. READS executive board members were encouraged to send input to NHLA board.

#### READS basket for raffle at NHLA

READS will put together a basket for raffle at the NHL conference in May. Possible themes were discussed, all agreed that a chocolate theme would be very popular. Pat collected donations from board members, and will put together a basket and bring it to the conference.

#### 2011-12 READS Budget

In Deann's absence, it was decided to continue discussion of items to include in next year's budget via email. Items that need to be considered: funds for an additional room with tables for lunch break at READS fall conference, and if any expected grants from NHLA (for RTG kits, etc.) need to be budgeted?

#### Other New Business

It was decided to hold READS business meeting at beginning of conference, as people are settling in with coffee.

Mary asked whether NHLA planned to fund sections' costs for implementing new logos. Myra suggested submitting a proposal to NHLA for costs involved with rebranding: new bookmarks, notepads, brochures, two new banners, plus a tradeshow-type frame for hanging banner (Diane Mayr has information about type of frame to purchase.) Publicity chair Lori Fisher will be asked to research this.

Erin feels that a program on managing Interlibrary Loan is needed. READS held one several years ago. Erin feels that waiting until next spring until READS holds its next series of Roundtables is too long to wait. Discussion brought up many questions: Should READS sponsor an additional program, or could NHLA sponsor this statewide? Should this be a Roundtable or a moderated discussion? ILL Manual needs updating, maybe a program would help move it forward? Should it be presented as an ILL Summit? All agreed that "summit" presented an appealing approach. Erin will contact NHLA President Mary White to get NHLA input on planning an ILL Summit.

A MOTION was made by Erin Apostolos to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 am. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Cronin  
READS Secretary

Minutes approved June 17, 2011