

READS Executive Board
Local Government Center
Profile Room
Friday, August 19, 2011

Present: Pat Fickett, Linda Taggart, Deann Hunter, Myra Emmons, Lori Fisher, Erin Apostolos, Caitlin Stevens, Emily Weiss, Mary Cronin

Absent: Diane Mayr

Call to Order: Pat Fickett called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Approval of Minutes: Linda Taggart MOVED to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2011 meeting with no changes. MOTION passed.

Treasurer's Report: Deann Hunter

Deann reported that an additional \$30 was received from Spring Roundtable programs. An invoice for READS-to-Go bags was paid; this cost should be covered by recent NHLA sponsorship of READS-to-Go. Deann will contact Sean Fleming, NHLA Treasurer to ask how the sponsorship funds should be represented in NHLA's and/or READS budgets.

President's Report: Pat Fickett

Pat asked how the Board felt READS could best respond to recent series of posts to the NHAIS-L listserv that indicated a strong feeling of fragmentation among NH librarians. Discussion determined that READS should make an effort to more quickly and flexibly respond to emerging topics of concern among librarians working in reference and adult services, much as Lynn Piotrowicz stepped in to organize a meeting for librarians to have a discussion in person. A group brainstorm resulted in strategies for READS to respond to future issues without waiting for the next Executive Board meeting:

- Meet via email to pull together "Pop-up Roundtable" programs as needed.
- Identify libraries in central areas (Seacoast, North Country, Concord/Manchester, Upper Valley) with good parking and meeting room facilities that can be asked to host such meetings. Mary offered the Madison Library, Lori the Baker Free Library in Bow, Mary will contact Katherine Hillier in Plymouth to ask if they may be put on this list. Other locations discussed were Hooksett and Portsmouth.

Vice President's Report: Myra Emmons

Myra submitted the final version of the Bylaws revisions that will be presented to the READS membership for a vote at the Fall Business Meeting.

Publicity Report: Lori Fisher

Publicity about the READS Fall Conference was sent out via email. Mailing for members who have opted to get READS correspondence by mail will be done shortly, then mail to nonmembers. Two sample pens for the new READS pen were handed around. The sample chosen at the last meeting was no longer available. The Board will decide at the end of this meeting which one will be purchased.

Lori is a member of the NHAIS Advisory Council, which has been meeting less frequently due to staff shortages and lack of mileage reimbursement. The council is looking at remote meeting options in order to keep Council meetings going.

NHLA Executive Board meeting: Pat Fickett was unable to attend the last meeting as representative from READS. Lori is President-Elect of NHLA, attended the meeting, and reported that the NHLA Fall Conference agenda was all set, that State Librarian Michel York reports that budget cuts at State Library have resulted in staff shortages and cuts to van service. Randy Brough, NHLA Legislative Committee reported that there was no specific need for advocacy right now. Another series of Professional Development workshops would be sponsored by NHLA again this fall. Lori would like to see one statewide master calendar for librarian professional development put together. In order to address some members' concerns about the number of library conferences, section heads from READS, CHILIS, YALS, and NHLA conference committee will be asked to a meeting to discuss possible ways to combine efforts to make conferences more accessible to NHLA and section members.

Membership: Emily Weiss

READS now has 201 members. A test message using MailChimp will be sent to members at the end of September. Kersten Matera of the Nashua Public Library will start as Membership Chair.

Programming: Erin Apostolos

Working out details of the Fall Conference has been challenging. There will have to be a change to the meal due to unexpected cost of meals tax. Rather than a hot lunch buffet, there will be a plated sandwich offered. Lori will notify members of change with next conference publicity notice. Mary will put the same information on the website.

READS-to-Go: No report as Diane Mayr was absent.

Past President: Linda Taggart

Nominating Committee: Two candidates stepped forward to run for READS President-Elect and have been placed on the ballot.

Committee members need to be recruited. Erin could use some more Programming Committee members. Lori Fisher asked for a Deputy Publicity Committee member, Caitlin Stevens offered to do that. Emily asked for help for new Membership Chair Kersten Matera, Linda Taggart offered to help. Linda and Lori will work on publicizing need for additional committee members.

Award Committee: Four nominations were received for the READS Award of Excellence.

The Award Committee will get together to choose a winner, then work out details of notifying nominees and their directors, arranging for engraving of the award and a gift.

Conference Committee: Caitlin Stevens

More evaluations arrived for the Spring Roundtables, all were good. The NHLA Conference Committee is not currently meeting as there will be no Spring Conference in 2012, planning for 2013 will begin soon. NHLA Board has put together an ad hoc committee to work on finding a paid conference chair. They hope to have someone in place by the beginning of next year.

Old Business

Bylaws change: Mary will bring copies of Bylaws change to hand out at Annual Business meeting.

Fall Conference: A discussion followed about details for the READS Fall Conference and Business Meeting:

- Erin will purchase Amazon gift cards as thank you gifts for 2 speakers (\$50) and 4 panelists (\$25).
- Mary will collect the Executive Board's annual reports and put them together in one document to hand out to members at the Business Meeting. Board members were asked to send reports to Mary by September 23.
- Board members should arrive at the Grappone Center at 8:30 am on Oct. 7. Erin will bring nametags and raffle tickets. Lori will bring markers and READS ribbons, new pens, and pads of paper. Caitlin and Pat will help with registration.

Award of Excellence: Linda will introduce candidates and announce the Award at the Fall Conference. Linda will contact nominees and their directors about waived conference fees for nominees.

New Business

Election: Ballots were mailed and emailed on August 4, so far everything going okay. Mary will send reminders soon, coordinate timing of messages with Lori.

Handbook: Revised handbook is complete and posted on the READS website.

Communication among Board: Pat asked that she be CC'ed on READS-related emails so she can be aware of various conversations as they happen rather than wonder if something happened.

NHLA Conference Roundtable: Each section has been asked to survey members for input on library programs. Pat asked the board for ideas for questions for the NHLA programming survey for READS members.

Pen: The Board voted and chose the recycled pen as the new READS pen.

The next meeting of the READS Executive Board will be November 18, 2011 at 9:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am by Pat Fickett.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cronin
August 24, 2011