

## **Report of the President 2014**

2014 has been a productive year for READS. We began by helping NHLA plan for their annual conference last April at the Mountain View Grand Resort. We provided three sessions: a READS-to-Go discussion, Tech. Competencies for Librarians, and Harnessing Book Recommendations from Library Reads.

Round Table opportunities continued into 2014 based on their prior success and popularity. Four on Creating a Tech-Savvy Staff were offered through Co-ops with moderators and subject experts at each of them. Those who attended liked the open discussion format to see examples and ideas from other libraries.

Our annual conference this year, "Reference and Relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" considers the role of reference services in libraries with a focus on customer service, going beyond Google, and how our websites serve as virtual branches. The annual conference for 2015 will be a part of the NHLA/NELA joint conference in New Hampshire. Be sure to look for the READS sessions!

Reads-to-Go continues to grow with 137 sponsored titles. The committee is working on a spreadsheet so host libraries can update their kit bookings and borrowing libraries can check on availability. The RTG blog has the most current list of titles but most should be listed in NHU-PAC. Discussion questions are also available via the blog.

READS is only successful because of the volunteerism from all the librarians and library employees from around the State. If you are not already involved, please consider joining a committee or the Executive Board. Ballot results for 2014 are completed and Rebecca Crockett from Pelham Public Library is the new VP/President-Elect and Mathew Bose from Hooksett Public Library is the new Treasurer.

Submitted by  
Katherine Dormody, READS President 2014  
Gilford Public Library

## **READS Annual Report of the Treasurer - 2014**

**Balance 7/1/13** **3,767.05**

### **Income:**

Interest	0.26
Fall Program	2,560.00
Membership	990.00
Spring Roundtable	220.00
	<b>3,770.26</b>

### **Expenses :**

Annual Meeting	27.14
Award of Excellence	420.06
Fall Program	3,034.15
Membership	8.99
Publicity	755.45
READS TO GO	903.34
Roundtables	33.00
	<b>5,182.13</b>

**Balance 6/30/14** **2,355.18**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deann Hunter, Treasurer

## **Membership Report 2014**

This year we ended the year with 206 members. (Last year we had 212 members.)

Towards the middle of the year NHLA switched Association Management companies. Cornerstone Association Management had been handling our membership sign-ups. We are now using the web-based membership software product, Wild Apricot. Next year, people wishing to renew or sign up for membership in NHLA and READS will be able to do this through the NHLA website.

Members who provided READS with an email address received two eNewsletters this year; one in March and one in May.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kersten Matera

## **Program Committee Report 2014**

In an effort to address the requests to have a conference in the south or the west of the state, the committee chose to present the READS 2013 conference at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, NH on October 25, 2013.

The theme was “Bookmarks of Professionalism”. Seventy-five people attended the conference. The presentations are made available online on the day of the conference and remain available on the READS website.

The committee does no copying for the presenters – saving trees and money. Presenters are given free registration and lunch.

Katherine Dormody, incoming READS president, conducted the READS annual meeting. Annual reports were reviewed and incoming officers for 2013-2014 were installed.

The morning session of the conference was a two hour presentation and panel session conducted by members of the Paraprofessional Section of the Massachusetts Library Association. Using the information gathered from this presentation, members of READS pursued the idea of a Paralibrarian section of NHLA. Subsequently, a committee was formed and is led by Eileen Gilbert, Boscawen Public Library director.

Following a break for lunch, the Annual Award of Excellence was presented by Myra Emmons, Past-President of READS. Janet Arden, Hampstead Public Library was the recipient of the award. The director, Debra Hiatt accompanied Janet.

The second session was delivered by Denise van Zanten, Director, Manchester City Library. Her presentation, “Balancing Act”, focused on prioritizing professional and personal duties. VanZandt’s topics were on point and resonated with the audience.

Mary H. White, Director of The Howe Library, Hanover, led the final program of the day. “30 books in 30 minutes” is always a popular session. Mary and three coworkers delivered reviews of 20 books to the delight of all.

The presentations are available on the READS website.

The 2015 NHLA/NELA conference will be held in late October 2015 in Manchester, NH. For this reason, a separate READS annual conference will not be held in 2015, and READS will offer conference programs as part of the NHLA/NELA joint conference.

## **Round tables 2014**

The concept of the READS round table program is to provide a forum for members to address a specific topic in a setting conducive to participation. Generally, the hosting co-op decides on number of attendees. Usually there are three sessions in a wide spread geographic area and all with the same topic. That said, due to popular demand, four sessions were held in 2014. As always, the topic is

selected by the Program committee following a review of surveys from the most recent fall conference. The topic was "Developing a tech-savvy staff".

#### Attendance @ Round Tables 2014

	# of Co-Op members	# other
Seacoast	26	5
Merri-Hill-Rock	18	17
Hillstown	30	3
Nubanusit	25	2

Three Round tables will be conducted in the spring of 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol R. Roberts

#### **Annual Report from the Past President 2014**

The Past President chairs the Nominating Committee, to nominate Board members for service, and the Award Committee, which presents the annual Award of Excellence to one exemplary staff member of a NH library.

This year, the Nominating Committee was responsible for finding candidates to fill upcoming vacancies for Vice President/President Elect and for Treasurer. Some excellent candidates have stepped up, and I thank everyone who helped with the search process.

Rebecca Crockett of the Pelham Public Library in Pelham NH is running for the position of Vice President/President Elect, and Mathew Bose from Hooksett Public Library in Hooksett, NH accepted the nomination for Treasurer.

The current Treasurer, Deanne Hunter from Laconia, has served for many years, and will be missed.

The 2014 Award Committee included myself as Past President, the previous Past President, Pat Fickett, and the three immediate past winners: Janet Arden, Sophie Smith and Thelma Tracy.

Several nominations were reviewed by the committee, and after careful consideration our winner was selected for 2014. With so much talent and generosity of spirit in the NH library community, it is difficult to choose one person. It is also a real honor to recognize each nominee's exceptional achievements.

Thank you for a fabulous four years. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Myra Emmons

### **READS Conference Committee Liaison Report 2014**

READS sponsored three programs at this year's NHLA conference at the Mountain View Grand. Harnessing the Power of Librarian Book Recommendations: An Introduction to the Library Reads Program was very well attended and an excellent look at how to incorporate readers' advisory into library services for all library staff members. Stephanie Anderson of the Darien Public Library in Connecticut was an engaging speaker and very enthusiastic about this program. If you missed her presentation, be sure to check out [libraryreads.org](http://libraryreads.org) for information.

We also hosted the ever popular READS-to-Go roundtable, "Read Any Good Books Lately?" It's always great to have time to discuss what we're reading and hear recommendations from fellow librarians. Some titles mentioned as noteworthy were *Mercy Snow* by Tiffany Baker, *The Girls from Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan, and *Summer House with Swimming Pool* by Herman Koch. Big thanks to the READS-to-Go committee members for facilitating this discussion.

Tech Competencies for Staff in Small Libraries, presented by Jay Rancourt of the Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth, was also very well attended. Jay put together an excellent handout and there was a lively discussion about how to get all staff members on the same page. This program was an extension of our spring roundtable discussions, "How to Cultivate Tech-Savvy Library Staff."

A huge thank you to our presenters, everyone who attended our sessions and filled out evaluations, and the organizers of the 2014 NHLA Spring Conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlin Stevens

### **READS-TO-GO Committee 2014 Annual Report**

As of September 15, 2014, READS-TO-GO has 135 kits in circulation. In the past year we have added 20 new kits! The committee is continuously reading newly published works of fiction and nonfiction to consider for new kits. If your library, or local organization would like to sponsor a kit, please contact [dmayr@nesmithlibrary.org](mailto: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](http://www.reads-to-go.org)) is updated primarily with announcements of new kit titles. Hosting libraries should periodically check the page 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 15, 2014, the blog had 1,992 visits and 3,755 page views.

Time sensitive information of interest to librarians and book groups is provided on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ReadsToGo](http://www.facebook.com/ReadsToGo)). Our Facebook page has 132 "likes." We urge libraries to use the Facebook page to share information about kit availability, to recommend titles, and to generally discuss RTG issues.

Thanks to our committee members for the time, energy, and creativity they put into the READS-TO-GO program, Tricia Ryden, Elizabeth Nerbonne, Elizabeth Flot, and Diane Mayr, and our new members Emily Burch, Heather Murray, Jennifer Rafferty. We bid farewell to Claudia Mayer, Sarah Basbas, and Emily Hersey, and thank them for their service.

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  
9/17/14

**READS Website Coordinator Report 2014**

The READS website can be found at <http://reads.nhlibrarians.org>. The site was updated throughout the year. Updates included meeting minutes, posts on upcoming programs, news about Reads-to-Go kits, Award of Excellence info with online nomination form, conference and roundtable program registration information and post-conference links and handouts. Special thanks to Carol Roberts and the READS Programming Committee for providing program info for website well ahead of schedule.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cronin