

**READS President Annual Report October 2019**

The READS Executive Committee has met six times since the 2018 Fall Business Meeting.

Executive Board members Betsy Solon (President), Mindy Atwood (Vice President), Beverly Pietlicki (Past President), Kersten Matera (Secretary), Mathew Bose (Treasurer), and Eileen Gilbert (Programming) welcomed aboard an energetic and enthusiastic group of newcomers:

- Membership: Sue Harmon
- Public Relations: Natalie Moser
- READS-to-GO: Brianna Hemmah

Elections for the 2020 Board positions of Vice President and Secretary were held this summer. I'm pleased to announce that Kersten Matera will be continuing on the Board as Vice President and that Matthew Gunby will be joining us as our new Secretary. Beverly Pietlicki's term has ended and we thank her for her service to READS and the NH Library Community.

Many kudos to everyone on the READS board for working together to present six sessions at the NHLA Spring Conference. We sponsored one session in conjunction with the ITS group called "Aging at the Library – Helping Older Patrons with Technology," featuring Jessamyn West, and offered five other sessions to NH Librarians:

- A Reference Refresher
- READS-to-GO and Book Clubs
- Cozying Up to Community Authors (Dan Szczesny, Sylvie Kurtz, and Elizabeth Ahl)
- Outside the Box Services
- Opioid Support Group Services

Great things were accomplished by our newest board members this year. The Public Relations Committee increased READS' presence on NHLA's Facebook page and created a unique hashtag (#READSnhla) that has been included on all READS posts. The Membership Committee produced bi-monthly newsletters and provided Public Relations with a list of "Reasons to Join READS" for a social Media membership drive. READS-to-GO streamlined communications by retiring the READS-to-Go Blog and Facebook page in order to focus on a READS-to-GO page on the NHLA website. The committee also created a Deaccession Policy for older kits and continues to provide instruction and training materials about KitKeeper.

A very successful Round Table about "Policy versus Reality" was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Hooksett Library.

Many thanks to Programming Chair, Eileen Gilbert and her amazing Programming Committee for organizing today's informative conference.

The READS Award of Excellence Committee solicited nominations and selected a winner for 2019, whose name will be announced at today's meeting – stay tuned!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth "Betsy" Solon

**READS Annual Treasurer's Report  
July 2018 – June 2019**

**INCOME**

Savings	\$4,175.24
Bank Interest	\$0.41
Membership	\$1,095.00
Fall Conference	\$2,307.00 (-\$13.00 reimbursement)
Spring Roundtables (fees)	\$547.50

**TOTAL INCOME                      \$8,125.15**

**EXPENSES**

Spring Roundtables	\$156.22
Program Support	\$350.00
Fall Conference	\$2,086.94
Public Relations	\$101.32
Award Section	\$100.00
Reads-To-Go	\$597.78
Miscellaneous	

**TOTAL EXPENSES                      \$3,392.26**

**BANK ACCOUNTS as of June 30, 2018**

Savings	\$4,732.89
Checking	-----

**Total in the READS accounts      \$4,732.89**

Submitted by Mathew Bose, READS Treasurer  
Annual Fall Conference meeting on October 18, 2019

## **READS Membership Committee Annual Report October 2019**

Our membership count this year is 197, which is 8 higher than last year (189), a 4.2% increase. We had 15 first-time members.

We have continued bi-monthly newsletters, the content of which has been mostly compiled by Natalie Moser, Public Relations Chair. Membership maintains a contact list of the READS members and schedules the newsletter emails, as well as occasionally contributing and editing. We've had steady statistics of 46-51 percent of recipients opening the emails and mixed statistics of 3-7 percent of recipients following links in the emails.

I served on the nominating committee this year, along with Mathew Bose and Beverly Pietlicki. We nominated Kersten Matera as the next READS Vice President for 2020 and Matthew Gunby as next READS Secretary for 2020.

I moderated a panel for the NHLA Spring Conference on May 9, 2019. The panel's focus was on Reader's Advisory, and was very well attended. Tanya Griffith from the Hollis Social Library, Elizabeth Ryan from the Derry Public Library, and Michelle Sprague from the Goffstown Public Library were all fantastic panelists and had lots of great ideas, resources, and practices to share.

In October, Membership provided Public Relations with a list of "Reasons to Join READS" for a social Media membership drive. They'll be posted weekly on the NHLA Facebook page through mid-February.

In September, I sent a welcome email to first-time members with information about READS and opportunities for the Programming Committee and Reads-To-Go Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harmon

READS Membership Chair

## **READS Annual Report from the Programming Committee October 2019**

Last October, 60 librarians gathered at the Beane Conference Center in Laconia to discuss Library Spaces. There was a panel discussion about community outreach programs featuring Carol Eyman, Outreach Coordinator of Nashua Public Library, Joyce White, of Goodwin Library (Farmington, NH), and Nicole Schulze of Concord Public Library, moderated by Betsy Solon. Lichen Rancourt of Jackson Public Library and Bobbi Slossar of the State Library talked about making best use of your library's digital resources, including social media spaces. At lunch, there was a slideshow of NH library maker spaces. Ron Lamarre of Lavallee Brensinger Architects discussed his experience working with older and historic buildings.

Only one Roundtable was held because of the then upcoming NHLA conference. It was on April Fools day, but 45 librarians gathered to seriously discuss "policy in practice", or how to translate privacy law and official library policy into on the ground practical "how do you handle that" for frontline staff.

The program committee is investigating options to make our events more accessible to READS members and others. Some suggestions include remote options and recordings, working with library co-op groups, and combining efforts with other NHLA sections.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Gilbert

## **READS-to-Go Committee and KitKeeper Annual Report October 2019**

### Committee Members

Longtime Chairperson and Founder Diane Mayr retired in early Spring. Brianna Hemmah was elected Chairperson shortly before Diane's retirement. In May, Tricia Ryden was elected Secretary. Other Committee Members include Judith Haskell, Elizabeth Herold, Claudia Mayer, Natalie Moser, Elizabeth Nerbonne, Michele Ricca, Martha Simmons, and Katherine Parker Wright. New members are always welcome.

### Policy Updates

The READS-to-Go Committee has implemented a Deaccession Policy. The committee will reassess kit titles at the request of a host library. Otherwise, the lowest circulating kits will be reviewed at the end of the year. Alternate titles may be offered to those libraries hosting one of the lowest circulating kits. We have also committed to providing a greater variety of titles. We plan to achieve this by expanding how we use our Titles to Watch page.

### Social Media

The Committee is retiring the READS-to-Go Blog in favor of a page on the READS section of NHLA's Website. As part of this transition we have updated flyers, Processing Instructions and FAQs. Discussion Questions and other Reproducibles are now solely available through this page. We have also retired the READS-to-Go Facebook page. All publicity will now be directed through READS channels.

### Future Kits

We have 8 kits in various stages of processing. These include: *The Den*, *Educated*, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *The Ghost of the Innocent Man*, *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*, *There There*, *Waking Up White*, and *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

Approved Titles waiting for a host include: *American Marriage*, *Before We Were Yours*, *Born a Crime*, *Inheritance*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *The Library Book*, and *Meet Me at the Museum*. Likely soon to be approved: *The Dreamers*, *Once Upon a River*, and *Plum Rains*.

### KitKeeper

The most consistent problem we face is failure to Track Reservations, which results in a failure of auto-emails being triggered during the course of a kits use. We also sometimes see host libraries not paying attention to their reservations. It seems that these problems might be a matter of turnover at libraries. We will continue to offer instruction materials and sessions in order to help train staff on KitKeeper use.

### KitKeeper Statistics

We are currently circulating 187 kits. 11 have been added this year, and 2 removed. 572 Reservations were added to the system in the last year.

The most popular kits this year include: *Americanah*, *And the Mountains Echoed*, *The Art Forger*, *Boston Girl*, *Circling the Sun*, *Desert Queen*, *Etta and Otto and Russell and James*, *A Girl Named Zippy*, *Girl Waits with Gun*, *Homegoing*, *In the Unlikely Event*, *The Invention of Wings*, *Kitchen Confidential*, *Lily and the Octopus*, *The Lobster Chronicles*, *The Muralist*, *The Muse*, *Never Caught*, *News of the World*, *The One-in-a-Million Boy*, *Orphan Train*, *The Soul of an Octopus*, *To the Bright Edge of the World*, and *The Women in the Castle*.

The kits with the most future reservations are *Eleanor Olyphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman and *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, which is booked into 2021.

Our least popular kits are: *The Art of Fielding*, *Eye Contact*, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Red Garden*, *Sister of My Heart*, *Shanghai Girls*, and *A Visit from the Goon Squad*.

Anyone wishing to host a READS-to-Go kit please contact Brianna Hemmah at [rtgchair@nhlibrarians.org](mailto:rtgchair@nhlibrarians.org)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brianna Hemmah

## **Public Relations Committee Annual Report October 2019**

This year the Public Relations Committee increased READS' presence on NHLA's Facebook page. We created 26 posts, with an average of 150 views, and nine engagements. By creating a unique hashtag (#READSnhla) that we now include on all READS posts, our contributions are more visible and easily searched. Post content has been a mixture of memes, linked articles relating to Adult Services, READS event reminders, highlighted READS-To-Go kits, links to the READS newsletters, and reminders to renew membership/join the section.

This Committee, along with the Membership Chair, has compiled and sent out five bimonthly READS newsletters. These newsletters have included program highlights from libraries all over the state, reference resources, editorials, event announcements, and calls for Award of Excellence and Officer Nominations. Content for these newsletters has been submitted by members of the NH Library community, and edited by the Public Relations Chair. This year, we began archiving the newsletters under the Members tab of the READS website.

The Public Relations chair coordinated a Local Author Roundtable for the NHLA Spring Conference. The Committee also ordered new magnets for READS-to-Go to give away at the Spring Conference.

We have engaged with the NHAIS Listserv through reminders for conference registration, Award of Excellence nominations, and requests for newsletter content.

A future project we look forward to working on is the creation of a database for reproducible materials that all sections of NHLA can use for programming, social media content, and marketing.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Moser