



nhLa

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# NEWS

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## From the President

*By Doris Mitton, President, NHLA*

This past year was a learning experience for me as president of the Association. I attended Legislative Day in Washington, DC to help support the funding that comes to the New Hampshire State Library. This money is used for van delivery and database subscriptions among other things.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Board this year. I would like to share some of the business that got done. First, the Local Government Center will now be a van stop for our Association. Additionally, the Constitution and By Laws and budget were reviewed during the August Board Retreat. Andrea Thorpe did an excellent job with the PLA busses for our members to attend the conference in Boston. Finally, a young adult line item was established in the budget for special projects.

The members of the Board that volunteer for the Association are a great bunch to work with. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

## URBANS 2006 Annual Report to NHLA

*By Sue McCann, Urbans Representative to NHLA*

Members of the Urban Libraries Section of New Hampshire Library Association are libraries in the state serving a population of at least 18,001 and are certified libraries as defined by the standards established by the New Hampshire State Library. The top two administrative positions in the member libraries are eligible to represent the libraries at Urbans meetings.

The organization's objectives are:

1. To provide increased communication and information exchange among urban public library administrators.
2. To promote mutual understanding of library issues and problems statewide and nationally, and to address those issues.
3. To promote the marketing of the library as a resource for community development and civic infrastructure.
4. To achieve operational economies through cooperation.
5. To encourage development of professional management and leadership skills, and to apply those skills to librarianship.

2006 officers are:

- Chair: Janet Angus Merrimack
- Vice Chair: Michelle Sampson Milford
- Treasurer: Mary Ann Senatro Bedford
- NHLA Rep: Sue McCann Portsmouth

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### 2005-2006 NHLA EXECUTIVE BOARD

\* President—Doris Mitton \* Past President—Catherine Redden \* Vice President—Annie Donahue  
\* Secretary—Dianne Hathaway \* Treasurer—Carl Heidenblad

# READS 2006 Award of Excellence

*By Brian D. Hackert, READS Publicity/Reference Librarian, Peterborough Town Library*

Rochester, NH Public Library's Celina Houlne received the 2006 Award Of Excellence from READS (Reference & Adult Services), a division of the New Hampshire Library Association. Houlne was recognized for outstanding service to the library customers of Rochester. As Circulation Supervisor, Houlne's recent projects included a remote reservation system with which library customers can use their home computers to add themselves to a book's waiting list. The award was presented at the Local Government Center in Concord during the READS 2006 Fall program and annual business meeting.

The topic of the program was NHewLink, and featured guest presenters such as Diana Degen and Bobbi Slossar from NHSL's Electronic Information Resources Department.



*Celina Houlne, Circulation Supervisor, Rochester Public Library, with READS Award Of Excellence, which now bears Houlne's name for 2006 and which will be displayed in Rochester for the next year.*



*Left to right: Sarah Leonardi (READS President; Librarian, Amherst Town Library); John Fuchs (Director, Rochester Public Library); Celina Houlne (2006 READS Award Recipient; Circulation Supervisor, Rochester Public Library); Claudia Mayer (READS Program Committee; Circulation Supervisor, Manchester City Library)*



*Left to right: Diana Degan and Bobbi Slossar, who provided comprehensive and detailed instruction on NHewLink services for about 100 librarians at the READS fall program.*

## **NHLA NEWS**

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### **NEWSLETTER BOARD**

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The meeting topics, dates and locations for 2006 are:

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
Jan	No meeting due to weather	
Feb 24	Goal setting for 2006 and tour of the renovated and enlarged Laconia Public Library	Laconia
Mar	No meeting due to PLA	
Apr 28	NELINET workshop on Blogs, RSS and Wikis	Merrimack
May 26	Policies relating to new technologies	Milford
Jun 23	PLA – the aftermath: what have you/will you use from the conference in your library and tour of the new Portsmouth Public Library building (under construction)	Portsmouth
Jul-Aug	No meetings	
Sep 22	Downloadable audio books	Bedford
Oct 27	Special populations	Keene
Nov	No meeting	
Dec 8	Successful programs	Nashua
Jan 26 '07	Goal setting for 2007	Concord

The consortium, along with member libraries, sponsored and paid for a full day NELINET *Blogs, RSS and Wikis* workshop for staff of Urban libraries. The workshop was held at the Bedford Public Library in May.

The Urbans bylaws were amended to reflect current practices of the organization at the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Urbans will sponsor a program at the Spring 2007 NHLA Conference, as they have done in the past.

Sue McCann, Portsmouth, developed an Urbans website, which is part of the NHLA website at <http://nh.gov/nhla/urbans.htm>.

Cathy Beaudoin, Dover, is collecting information for the Urban Libraries Annual Salary Survey. The Excel spreadsheet form is online at <http://nh.gov/nhla/urbrpts.htm>. When data is collected the spreadsheet will be updated online.

## NHLA Election Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and return their ballot. The 2007 NHLA officers are:

**President**  
**Vice President/President Elect**  
**Past President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

Annie Donahue – UNH Manchester  
 Amy Thurber – Canaan Town Library  
 Dorris Mitton – Dalton Public Library  
 Dianne Hathaway – Goffstown Public Library  
 Carl Heidenblad – Nesmith Library (Windham)

# NHLA FALL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

By Annie Donahue, NHLA President Elect

The NHLA Annual Fall Meeting and Conference was held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Capitol Center for the Arts (CCA) in Concord, NH. It was a rainy, gray day. It was awkward to unload the registration materials and keep an umbrella overhead, but as I approached the CCA the day brightened as I saw the marquis. It read: “**NH Library Assoc. - Fall Conference - Library Outreach.**” Right out on Main Street, in downtown Concord, NHLA was on display. I continued with a smile until I got inside the building to discover that there was no power – the space was dimly lit by emergency lighting but overall it was dark. The CCA staff was working with the utility company to solve the problem, and by the time I finished unloading the car, the lights were on and the facility was ready to go a full forty-five minutes before the conference was to begin.

I thought to myself if this is how we start the day then things can only get better from here and I was NOT wrong. More than 100 librarians from around the state attended, and the agenda was a full one. The morning began with a panel presentation from our own Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). Members provided tips for talking to the press, and two folks from the press were on hand to answer questions and provide another perspective. In the second session, the New Hampshire Humanities Council (NHHC) introduced some new initiatives and spoke about the myriad opportunities available to NH libraries. The morning ended with a treat - Chautauqua scholar, Barbara Miles, introduced us to Ruth Law, New Hampshire’s celebrated

female aviator. It was an entertaining journey back through time and an enthusiastic performance that brought to life this feisty, independent woman.

The afternoon sessions were sponsored by the New Hampshire College and University Council (NHCUC) Libraries Committee. The keynote speaker, Steven M. Cohen, is the creator of *Library Stuff* (<http://www.librarystuff.net>) a weblog dedicated to current and professional development for librarians. He has also been the contributing editor of the Internet Spotlight column for *Public Libraries* since 2001. His presentation focused on creating and implementing blogs and RSS feeds. It was a lively session and if you missed it, Steve provided a web link to his outline – check it out at <http://stevenmcohen.pbwiki.com/NHLA2006>. The final session of the day was a “Best Practices” panel made up of academic and public librarians sharing their innovative ways to reach patrons through technology.

This one-day annual meeting/conference format is a great opportunity for professional development and social networking with colleagues. I enjoyed putting the day together and I am grateful to the folks who stepped up to help out. I am marking my calendar for November 1, 2007 when Amy Thurber, our recently elected Vice-President and her committee, will offer the next annual NHLA Fall Meeting and Conference. You should pencil-in the date, you don’t want to miss out on a great time!

**NHLA has been the best place to be in touch with your colleagues since 1889.** In this spirit, we have created 21<sup>st</sup> century methods of communication: a blog and a wiki. Check them out at [nhlibrarians.blogspot.com](http://nhlibrarians.blogspot.com) and [nhlibrarians.wikispaces.com](http://nhlibrarians.wikispaces.com). Both are available via RSS feeds. Watch for your membership renewal letter which should be arriving at your library or home in early December.

NHLA Membership Committee



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# Plan on joining us May 17 & 18, 2007 at the Mount Washington Hotel.

Joining us at the spring conference this year...  
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