

READS Executive Board
Local Government Center
Profile Room
Friday, June 11, 2010
10:00 am

Present: Linda Taggart, Diane Mayr, Amy Lapointe, Emily Weiss, Mary Cronin
Absent: Lori Fisher, Gaye Kulvete, Deann Hunter, Caitlin Stevens

Call to Order: Linda Taggart called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

A MOTION was made by Diane Mayr to approve minutes of the April 23, 2010 meeting. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Diane Mayr, Acting Treasurer

No written report was submitted. One check for \$340 to Ace Printing in Nashua was submitted for payment to NHLA Treasurer. To date, Diane has not received any other bills for payment.

President's Report: Linda Taggart

The brochure for the fall READS conference is ready to print. Linda will attend the NHLA Board meeting on June 15, and will have more to report after that meeting.

Vice President's Report: Gaye Kulvete

No report (absent)

Membership Report: Emily Weiss

As of today, there are 182 READS members. Emily will do an analysis of number of returning members and new members for next report. Emily has asked the Local Government Center, who handles the membership forms and payment, about having a separate membership form for READS. LGC as well as Mary Ahlgren, NHLA Membership Committee Chair, said that it would be best to keep it as is. NHLA Membership forms were available at the NHLA conference in May. No new members were signed up at that time, but Emily feels that having membership forms again at next year's conference would be a good idea. Emily has been contacted by Cathy, a new READS member from the Portsmouth Public Library, who is interested in promoting READS to paraprofessionals. Emily plans to connect with her to see what can be done.

Reads-to-Go Report: Diane Mayr

One new Reads-to-Go kit has been added since the last meeting. Reads-to-Go committee will meet again on June 21. The READS roundtable session, "Read Any Good Books Lately?" at the NHLA conference in May generated a good discussion. Plans are for next time to discuss books that we may have missed over the past 20 years. Diane expects the bill for renewing domain names for Reads-to-Go websites. There are 30 people subscribed to the Reads-to-Go blog.

A MOTION was made by Emily Weiss to approve expenditure to purchase two domain names for Reads-to-Go. Motion passed.

Past President Report: Amy Lapointe

READS Award of Excellence nomination forms were available at the READS table at the NHLA conference. Amy passed around a draft of the postcard announcement/reminder for the Award of Excellence that will be mailed out after the award committee reviews and approves it. A discussion about who should receive postcards followed: READS members, library directors, one to each library. Linda Taggart suggested that Amy contact Chris Hague to ask what lists were available. nomination forms are due August 1, 2010. Amy plans to post and email reminder to the NHAIS-L list about nomination due date halfway between postcard mailing and due date.

Programming: Caitlin Stevens
No report (absent)

Conference Committee Liaison: Caitlin Stevens
No report (absent)

Public Relations Report: Lori Fisher

Lori submitted a written report before the meeting. In it she listed supply inventory, reported a new order for notepads, reported on READS table at the NHLA conference, noted a postponed meeting of the NHAIS council was held at the same time as this meeting, and presented updated information about the READS website.

New Business

NHLA Spring Conference wrap up: Reads-to-Go program was well-attended and well-received. The Jon Sheff program on "Supervising Employees in Stressful Times" had great and timely content, but would have been more engaging earlier in the day, not as the last session of the conference. The cancelled Nanci Milone Hill program on Women's Fiction for book groups generated enough interest to keep it in mind for future conference. Lori Fisher's substitute presentation on NH labor laws went well; Emily Weiss attended it and felt it presented useful information and highlighted the need for continuing education. Diane Mayr feels that it will be good to have the "Best practices" documentation and that it would also be good to follow up on the topic with more programming. Kudos were given to Lori for stepping in at the last minute with such a high-quality program. Amy Lapointe said that Trustees from her library attended the NHLA conference as the NHLTA conference had filled up, and they had a great experience, and will continue to send a Trustee to the NHLA conference. Linda Taggart commented that Lori Fisher and Diane Mayr did a good job putting together the READS table.

Mileage for presentations: Reimbursing mileage for conference or workshop program presenters will be at the discretion of the executive board.

Award of Excellence: See Amy Lapointe's report above.

Encouraging new members: Linda Taggart asked to brainstorm ways to get new members involved in READS activities. Ideas included more actively promoting committees, having committee chairs make a list of things that they could use help with, providing members with a list of tasks. Emily Weiss could use help with new membership letters and recruitment of new members. Diane Mayr observed that tasks listed should be specific jobs so that there is real work to do, and Linda Taggart noted that the time commitment for tasks should be part of the description. Linda Taggart mentioned that Lori Fisher may welcome help with the READS part of the NHLA website. Once the site is moved to a CMS, updating should be easier. Mary Cronin offered to help with the website if Lori feels she would like some help.

Fall Conference: The topic for the fall READS conference is "How Can I Help You: You Too Can Be a Reference Librarian." Emily Weiss asked how conference could be used to build membership. A discussion of how to attract more paraprofessional attendance at READS conferences and spark interest in READS membership followed. Ideas discussed included approaching library directors about value of including paraprofessionals when making decisions about staff conference attendance, put blurbs about membership on NHLA website and make announcements at fall conference. Linda Taggart noted that an announcement about committee needs at a conference is what got her involved in READS. Emily Weiss will discuss this further with Cathy Okhuysen at the Portsmouth Public Library, who is interested in increasing paraprofessional interest in READS.

A MOTION was made by Diane Mayr to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 am. Motion

passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cronin
Secretary