Children’s Librarians of New Hampshire
Friday February 13th, 2020 Meeting
Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Azra Palo (President/ Nesmith Library), John Locke (Vice-President/President Elect/ Meredith Public Library), Sam Lucius (Past-President/ Wiggin Memorial Library), Molly Pevna (Treasurer/Website Editor/Nesmith Library), Moriah Churchill-Calkins (Secretary/ Richards Free Library), Kris Murphy (NERTCL Representative/Nashua Public Library)

Not Present: Nancy Sheridan (Great Stone Face Co-Chair/Colby Memorial Library), Lisa Kleinmann (Membership Chair/ Durham Public Library), Deborah Dutcher (NH State Library)

Quorum Achieved

Called to order: 1:07 pm

Reports:
Secretary: John moved to approve the minutes, and Sam seconded.
Treasurer: Molly reported that we received $120 for 1000 Books Before Kindergarten bags. NHLA has prepared an informal budget proposal that is partially filled out, for Molly to complete by the end of March and submit.
NERTCL: The Massachusetts folks shared that there is the Jordan Miller storytelling mini grant of $500 available for New England libraries. NERTCL is requesting presenters for the NELA conference. They are working on these proposed program topics: supercharged storytime, and a state book award panel.

       Action item: Kris will send the request form to us, which is more in depth.
President: We need to talk to Deb about the transition from KBA to Summer Learning

       Action Items: Sam will send an email and CC Azra.

Meeting Business:

   A. Conferences:
NELA Fall 2020: Sam is on the NELA conference committee. They have a site tour coming up. The theme is “creativity takes courage.” They would like all of the sections to submit 1-3 programs, but we can submit more we wish. The submission forms/proposals due March 31st; Amber and Denise want to see them by March 25th. We could consider doing some programs of our own and a joint one with YALS.

Guidelines: By next meeting we need to be ready to fill out forms. Any presenters will not get free registration, they will get 20% off if they are a librarian.

We discussed the option of pitching in funds to pay for a presenter, but the logistics of that could be a nightmare and also set a bad precedent, so we think it is probably not a good idea. They may pay under $250 and travel for performers from away.
We spent some time brainstorming program ideas:

- **Courage**: An Ask Anything talk hosted by a trans person.
- **Innovative programming**/“Fearless programming” breakout session which addresses the fear of failure in trying new things or specialized things ("I’m not a scientist so I can’t…" “I’m not an artist so I can’t…"). Something to get librarians out of their own comfort zones and know that you don’t have to be an artist to do art programming. We need to encourage librarians to model to children that you can succeed outside of your comfort zone. Citizen science projects would be an excellent angle.
- Sam suggested we think about what we can showcase about NH libraries, or think about what we want an outside perspective on?
- **Challenging behaviors** at the library and what children’s librarians can do; this might have to do with subjects like bullying among patrons; issues surrounding supervised visits with non-custodial parents; disciplining under-supervised kids or teens; variance between policy vs procedure in these cases. This could expand to making our programming more welcoming for neurodiverse kids and how to use intersectional thinking. It could include the issue of hungry kids, and solutions such as “snacks in the stacks” programs, grants for becoming a meal center and providing lunch in the summer. This leads to the issue of the use of food in libraries, and how to talk about food insecurities and use food in your programs without alienating anyone.
- **Children’s librarians as leaders**: A panel to examine what it takes to go from a children’s librarian to director. How did they make the step; how did they find mentors, what did their mentors tell them. Why are so many children’s librarians going on to leadership? Youth services librarian are engaged in every aspect of the library.
- **Sustainable programs**: We could talk about small ways to address climate change in your community, bringing together ecology and kids. “Creating Sustainable programs for sustainable libraries.”

**Action Items**: Sam will make a google doc of ideas and email the link on Monday.

**CLNH Spring 2020**

We have a venue and a contract that needs to be signed with the Common Man in Claremont. The Common Man works to support nonprofits; so there is a 20% discount on food and no room charge and no tax, all we need to send our nonprofit 501c3 letter. They will do a continental breakfast and plated lunch: $3,571 for 130 people. A service charge covers the AV equipment charge and everything else. Parking will require signs.

**Date**: May 7th.

The conference committee has been working on panels and break out sessions.

We are considering Lexi Bean as a speaker; a trans activist and author published in “The Ship We Built,” a new middle grade anthology published by Penguin Anthology.
The tentative schedule includes a speaker; breakout sessions about social media/publicity; a panel about librarian wellness featuring a therapist and police officer; a touch-a-program session in the afternoon, and of course the Great Stone Face tea.

**Action Items: Molly will send out the tentative schedule to us**

We discussed whether we should include a speaker in such a packed schedule. We considered approving a stipend for the proposed speaker, and decided on $300 plus travel subject to our approval of their proposal.

**B. CLNH/YALS Friday February 21st Virtual Meeting 1:00**

We discussed what we hope to get out of our upcoming meeting with YALS, including what, when, where, and how should we do something together. We are interested in doing a combined panel at NELA. We need to make sure our book award panels are on the same page.

**C. Legislation Update:** Both bills troubling librarians were killed. The representatives were impressed with the librarians!

**D. Bylaws:**

We have voted unanimously to approve changes to the bylaws proposed by the secretary:

Version A for the new objective statement, being as follows:

“It shall be the objective of this organization to support and promote library services for children throughout the state. We do this in order that New Hampshire children shall have free access to the best resources, information and programs. We strive to support our librarians in their effort to reflect the diversity of our patrons’ backgrounds, interests, and experiences in their collections and programs.”

Article 8 section 1, update to:

“Section 1. CLNH shall meet at least once a year, ideally in spring and fall. Workshops and other group activities may be held at any time. The Executive Board shall meet as needed, but no less than six times a year. Committees may meet as necessary to accomplish their goals.”

Article 8 Section 5, update to:

“Section 5. The Immediate Past President shall present a slate of officers at the fall membership meeting. At this time, the Immediate Past President will also accept nominations from the floor. A vote will be conducted by a show of hands. A contested race will be voted on by paper ballot. In the event fall conference attendance numbers do not allow for a quorum to be reached, an online vote following the conference will take the place of a show of hands. Write-ins will be part of the online ballot and will take the place of nominations from the floor. In the event a fall conference is not held in a particular year, an online vote will be conducted and completed.”
Action Items: Azra will bring these amendments to our section bylaws to NHLA in May, they can have a courtesy look. We need to send these to our members at least a month before the conference for approval.

Next Meeting: March 13th, 1:00pm will be a virtual meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:53pm