



## READS Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 10, 2021 10:00AM

- Members Present: Kersten Matera, Brianna Hemmah, Natalie Moser, Laura Pezone, Alexa Moore, Eileen Gilbert, Susan Harmon, Jane Martina, Matthew Gunby.
- Call to Order at 10:02.
  
- Acceptance of minutes from July 9, 2021. **Motion to accept minutes as written made by Natalie Moser, seconded by Susan Harmon. Motion carries.**
  
- Reports
  - [President](#), Kersten Matera
  - [Vice President](#), Natalie Moser: attended last NHLA Board Meeting.
  - [Past President](#), Mindy Atwood
  - [Treasurer](#), Laura Pezone
  - [Membership](#), Sue Harmon
  - [Programming](#), Eileen Gilbert
  - [READS-to-Go](#), Brianna Hemmah: New bags, currently \$425 allocated for this. Brianna will contact vendor.
  - [Public Relations Chair](#), Jane Martina
  - [Website Coordinator](#), Alexa Moore
  
- New Business
  - Materials we should put in the Repository which would allow us to share them with the rest of the board vs. the NHAL READS Drive
    - NHLA Drive only accessible to those with emails with an nhla domain.
    - Read-only functionality available in the READS Repository. What should be included in the repository?
      - Bylaws, transition guide, handbook will be moved to here.
      - The website coordinator will be given permission to upload materials to the repository.
      - Minutes for the current year will be placed in repository.
  - READS Award of Excellence process
    - Whether and when to notify all the nominators
    - Presenting this year's award in person
    - Kersten and Mindy will discuss this via email.
  - Annual Reports need to be submitted to Matthew in time for him to compile for the Annual Meeting. Please get all reports to him by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Schedule for the Annual Fall Conference/Business Meeting
    - Election results
    - READS Raffle
    - Award of Excellence
    - Result of vote for bylaw changes
    - Twenty-five minutes allocated for this meeting.
    - Vote to accept minutes will be done within the chat. Members will be asked to give their full name and a yay or nay. Matthew will compile these results with the membership list provided by Susan.
  - Liz Ryan as potential membership chair when Susan takes on the role of Vice President. Susan will invite Liz to our November meeting.
  - November meeting is the transition meeting. New and incoming members will discuss duties.
- Adjourn
    - Next meeting: Friday, November 12, 2021 at 10 AM

## **READS President Report – September 2021**

I was on vacation when NHLA had their August Board meeting. Natalie went in my stead.

The READS Executive Board was in close communication prior to sending out the proposed bylaw changes and election ballot to members in August. As the NHLA website continues to be down, I posted the draft of our minutes for our 2019 and 2020 Annual Meetings to the READS Repository in order to create a shareable link for members. We usually send out a link to the prior year's draft of the minutes (usually found on our website) in order for members to have a copy before voting to accept them at the Annual Meeting. (As we didn't have a quorum last year, we were unable to vote on 2019's draft of the meeting minutes; hopefully we can bring these minutes to a vote this year.)

In any event, although these minutes existed on the website and also in the READS Drive which NHLA created for us, we are not able to share any files in that Drive. I moved them to the READS Repository – but we should talk about what types of files we want to store where. Some of the files in the READS Drive from NHLA would be good for the whole Board to be able to access. Should they be moved?

I reached out to NHLA to see if we had any options available to post information about READS events while we wait for the website to be back up. I was wondering if the state library could post information about NHLA Sections' events (as YALS and CHNH are likely also holding events which they'd like to promote). This is unfortunately not an option.

I spoke with Lisa Jose, NHLA's Database Administrator. She suggested putting as much information as possible about the event in the Wild Apricot registration form. The registration/info page can be shared with anyone if you make the page viewable to the public (there's a setting for this). This would be helpful if we wanted to share the registration form on the NHAIS Listserve in addition to sending it out through Wild Apricot.

A librarian contacted me about using the extra copies of the Community Reads title for a READS-to-Go bag. I forwarded him to Brianna.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kersten Matera

## **READS Vice President Report – September 2021**

Attended the NHLA Board meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The READS President Report had already been submitted. Some items discussed at the meeting were:

- The creation of a Strategic Plan for NHLA was approved
- Money from the McDonald Fund will be appropriated to the Equity and Diversity Committee and Sustainability Committees.
- NHLA will be employing Dale Dormody, owner of Piper Mountain Webs, LLC., to rehabilitate the website. This will be a two-step process. The first part will be to re-establish domain access, the second will be to retrieve/upload content. No word yet on what content will be lost, if any.

Submitted Bylaw amendments to Matthew Gunby for dissemination to general membership. Maintained READS Repository. Have not received any new submissions.

Respectfully Submitted by Natalie Moser, READS Vice President

## **READS Past President Report**

The READS Award of Excellence Nominating Committee met on August 30 and reviewed the nominations of four candidates for the award. (We had five nominations but one had to be withdrawn due to a conflict of interest.)

I have made arrangements for the plaque to be engraved with the winner's name and for the \$100 gift card to the New Hampshire League of Craftsman to be sent to me.

Questions for the board:

1. What is the best time to notify the people who nominators of the non-winners?
2. What does the board think about an in-person presentation of the plaque, flowers and gift card? (I am willing to drive to the winner's library.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Mindy Atwood  
READS Past President

## Treasurer's Report

**Balance 06/30/2021** **5,011.11**  
**Income:**

Interest 0.08

Membership 15.00

Fall Program

Reimbursement

Spring Program

Overpayment

Reconciliation

### **Expenses :**

Membership

Publicity

Fall Program

Annual Meeting

Award of Excellence

Program Support

Refund

Spring Program

NHLA

READS TO GO 475.00

Banking fees (bounced check)  
Misc.

**Balance 09/10/2021** **4,551.19**  
Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Pezone, Treasurer

## **READS Membership Report**

We currently have 161 Active, Paid members! This time last year, we had 180, so that is a decrease of 10.56%.

Since last report, one new member has joined. I sent out their welcome email on September 8, 2021.

## **Newsletter**

The newsletter was sent out on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. It reached 154 recipients, and was opened by 53% of recipients (81). 1%, or 2 people, opened links in the email.

The next newsletter will go out on October 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harmon

## Programming Report

The program committee launched registration for the October 8 fall conference on September 7. The schedule follows:

RA for All: Becky Spratford

9:30-11am Eastern: Flip the Script and Think Like a Reader [Covid Edition]:

2020 may not have gone the way anyone planned, but the one thing that this year has definitely taught us is that no matter how much libraries had tried to promote themselves as "more than books," when things were turned upside down, in our world and with our service models, patrons still looked to us, first and foremost, to help them identify a good read. Library workers around the country took the challenges thrown at them and figured out a way to keep RA Service going through a pandemic, without their physical spaces, and in some cases, made huge improvements along the way. Join International Readers Advisory expert Becky Spratford as she walks you through her 10 Rules of Basic RA Service, completely updated with lessons learned from our Covid experience, explaining how every member of your staff can get involved providing this vital service to readers. Participants will learn why a staff that can harness the power of sharing a great read, whether in person or online, will become a stronger team, improving service to all patrons. And the best part, it all begins with you, the individual staff member, and more specifically, your personal love of your favorite books.

11:05-11:30am READS Annual Business Meeting and READS Award of Excellence

1-2:30 pm Demystifying Genre:

Nothing is scarier than trying to help a fan of a genre you yourself don't enjoy. You want to help that, for example, Romance reader find the perfect book, but you are having trouble knowing where to begin because...eek!... you don't read Romance. You are afraid they will find out you are a fraud. How can YOU possibly help THEM?!? Never fear, in this program, Readers' Advisory expert, Becky Spratford, will teach you the basic appeals of the major genres, give you the inside track on what a fan of that genre is most drawn to, and provide you with talking points to get your genres readers to tell you what they want. This program focuses on providing you with a diverse and inclusive list of up to date authors with at least 40% of the example titles representing "own voices". You will leave this session with the confidence and skill to help fans of every genre, regardless of whether or not you have ever read a book in that genre yourself. And that will leave a trail of happy patrons in your wake.

Bio: Becky Spratford [MLIS] is a Readers' Advisor in Illinois specializing in serving patrons ages 13 and up. She trains library staff all over the world on how to match books with readers through the local public library. She runs the critically acclaimed RA training blog RA for All. She is under contract to provide content for EBSCO's NoveList database and writes reviews for Booklist and a horror review column for Library Journal. Becky is a 20 year locally elected Library Trustee [still serving] and a Board member for the Reaching Across Illinois Library System. Known for her work with horror readers, Becky is the author of The Reader's Advisory Guide to Horror, Second Edition [ALA Editions, 2012] and recently completed the 3rd Edition which is available for pre-order now and will be released in Summer 2021. She is a proud member of the Horror Writers Association and currently serves as the Association's Secretary and organizer of their annual Librarians' Day. You can follow Becky on Twitter @RAforAll.



## **Reads-to-Go Report**

### Kit Development

Kits recently added include: *Intimations*, *Giver of Stars*, *Miss Benson's Beetle*, *The Exiles* and *Lillian Boxfish Goes for a Walk*.

Kits in the process of being added include: *A Year of Silence*, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, *The New Jim Crow* and *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*.

Kits currently being offered to Libraries for hosting include: *Anxious People*, *City We Became*, *Dear Edward*, *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, *Hamnet*, *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, *Interior Chinatown*, *Long Bright River*, *Mexican Gothic*, *Pull of the Stars*, *The Rose Code*, and *Such a Fun Age*. Books that can be added after the paperbacks become available are: *Leave the World Behind*, and *The Vanishing Half*.

There were 46 new kit reservations in July, and 45 in August.

The next READS-to-Go meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9/27/21.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brianna Hemmah

## **Reads Public Relations Report**

### **Newsletter:**

- The August/September Newsletter was sent out on August 3, 2021. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out on October 5, 2021. Some potential topics for the upcoming newsletter include: Fall Conference, Bylaw Changes and Election Information, READS Raffle, Programming Database Highlight, any additional adult services related content.

### **Publicity:**

- Posted submission information for READS Award of Excellence on NHLA & Librarians of the 603 Facebook Pages.
- Assisted with putting together READS 2021 Ballot.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jane Martina  
Public Relations Chair

**Website Coordinator Report:** September 10th, 2021

**General Updates:**

- Website down with no updates made.
- Sent meeting minutes for From Nov 2019 -Mar 2021 to Kersten to be uploaded to Google Drive

**Program Repository:**

- We now have 46 submissions, 1 more since our last meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexa Moore

- Motion to adjourn made by Susan Harmon, seconded by Laura Pezone. Motion carries.