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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
NH STATE LIBRARY

20 Park Street CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301
Phone: (603) 271-2393 Fax: (603) 271-6826

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May 31, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR), New Hampshire State Library, requests **Retroactive** renewal of a membership with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) (VC #172265), Lexington, KY in the amount of $8,000 upon Governor and Council approval for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. 28% General Funds, 72% Federal Funds.

Funds are available in accounts, Central Library Services and Federal Library Programs, as follows:

	FY2023
03-035-035-353010-25510000-026-500251- Membership Fees	$2,250
03-035-035-353010-25540000-026-500251- Membership Fees	$5,750
	Total: $8,000

EXPLANATION

This request is **Retroactive** as the Department just received the invoice and therefore was not able to submit this request in time to make an earlier Governor and Council meeting. New Hampshire State Library (State Library) is requesting permission to renew its membership with COSLA, an independent organization of the chief officers of state and territorial agencies designated as the state library administrative agency and responsible for statewide library development. The State Library has been a member of COSLA since its inception and has included the expense in its budget approved by the legislature.

Following is a completed questionnaire developed for organizational dues and membership requests. A copy of the invoice is also attached.

1. **How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** COSLA has been in existence for over 40 years. New Hampshire State Library is a charter member.

2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** No, COSLA is the only nationwide association for state librarians.

3. **How many other states belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** All 50 states, along with a number of territories, and Washington, DC are all members. No other NH state agency is a member of COSLA.

4. **How is the dues' structure established?** All members pay $8,000 annually.

5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** COSLA is the only

national organization for state libraries. Its purpose is to provide leadership on issues of common concern and national interest; to further state library agency relationships with federal government and national organizations; and to initiate cooperative action for the improvement of library services to the people of the United States.

6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** In terms of education, membership in COSLA gives each state access to its peers around the country through an electronic listserv (at no additional cost). The listserv provides an easily accessible source of information about state-based programs, current issues and solutions.

7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams?** Membership is not required to receive any federal grant or to participate in licensing or certification exams. Membership does, however, assist in creating an efficient, professional and responsive state-level preservation program that continues to meet federal funding requirements.

8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** COSLA covers the lodging expenses for attendance at the annual meeting held in a different state each year. It also covers conference expenses for state library personnel to attend specialized seminars and workshops.

9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.** Each State Library is a voting member of the organization; State Librarians may also serve as officers or on the Board of Directors.

10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** If the NH State Library did not belong to the organization, it would not be eligible to participate in activities such as the grant awarded to COSLA for assistance with our talking books program for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner

INVOICE 500

Chief Officers of State Library Agencies
PO Box 67
Lexington, KY 40588-0067
https://www.cosla.org/

New Hampshire State Library
New Hampshire State Library
20 Park St
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Invoice #	500
Invoice Date	12/01/2022
Invoice Due	12/31/2022
Amount Due	**$ 8,000.00**

Transactions

Description	Amount
Membership Renewal - State Member - New Hampshire State Library - (through December 31, 2023)	$ 8,000.00

Total Amount	**$ 8,000.00**
Amount Paid	**-$ 0.00**
Amount Due	**$ 8,000.00**

Please send check payments to:

COSLA
PO Box 67
Lexington, KY 40588-0067
(859)514-9151

COSLA qualifies as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, payments to COSLA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes, but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense, depending upon your individual tax circumstances. Please consult your tax advisor.