

## Library Leadership Weekend Retreat

A retreat for **thoughtful** library leaders

September 2024

Mystic, CT or thereabouts



This unique retreat, unlike a traditional conference, will be an intensive weekend immersion for select library leaders focusing on library leadership concepts, skills and best practices.

Central to the retreat will be a series of facilitated discussions and exercises led by Steve Butzel, certified professional coach and former director of the Portsmouth Public Library (NH). Through discussion, journaling, role playing and more, we will reflect on the interdependent connection between our overall well-being, our professional growth and our leadership effectiveness.

Whether you are new to the role of library director or a 20+ year veteran, we will learn a lot from each other by taking time to analyze our current strengths and shortcomings, and broadening our understanding of what effective leadership looks like in a wide variety of situational settings.

We'll become increasingly aware of the fact that there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to organizational leadership, especially at a public library where the breadth and quantity of stakeholders are varied and numerous.

While we won't spend a lot of time on the nuts and bolts of budgeting, building maintenance and bookkeeping, we will place emphasis on developing our own unique vision of the inspirational, empathetic and courageous library leader we would like to become.

And, we'll outline action steps and accountability methodologies to help us follow through on achieving our vision as quickly and effectively as possible.

Ultimately, by attending this retreat, you are committing to your personal and professional growth in a way you may never have before. Due to the intimate nature of the retreat, you will be encouraged to be vulnerable, courageous and curious with the goal of returning to your library a more empowered, vibrant and effective leader.

### About Steve Butzel

Steve earned his B.A. from Yale University and an M.L.I.S. from the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, which aided him in curating a 20-year career in public and academic libraries, including 14 years as assistant director or director of the Portsmouth Public Library (NH).

While at Portsmouth, Steve served as president of the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA), and Chapter Councilor for New Hampshire on the American Library Association's Governing Council. He also founded NHLA's Information Technology Section and its Small Libraries Summit.

Steve is also a certified professional coach, having earned his credentials from IPEC in 2023. He currently works with clients from around the country, both individually and in groups.

He is an innovative thinker, bold leader, and passionate advocate for supporting library professionals in reaching their full potential and making their best contribution to the communities they serve.

