

Vermont Library Association
Board Meeting
May 10, 2007
Norwich University

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Daisy Benson, Selene Colburn, Barbara Doyle-Wilch, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Larraby Fellows, Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Lisa von Kann (presiding), Linda Wells.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved after correction.

The consent agenda was approved.

Treasurer's report

Donna Edwards distributed the current budget report [Attachment A].

- Trina questioned the Intellectual Freedom Committee's expense of \$375.05, saying the John Swan Lecture is to have its own budget line. Donna will fix this.
- A \$50,000 security bond was purchased for \$90.
- Quicken 2007 has been purchased.
- VLA's tax returns are due May 15 and our tax preparer is expected to have our return filed on time.

Newsletter and communications

Barbara Doyle-Wilch would like us to revisit how we want to communicate as an organization, to include blogs, wikis, and the newsletter, in both print and electronic forms. The Editorial Committee could be expanded, or a Communications Committee formed. By the end of the summer Barbara hopes to have recommendations from the committee.

- There is a need for transparency in board decisions.
- VLA's structure is modeled after ALA's, but ALA has paid staff. In a universe of 400 [members], we need to figure out which methods of communication are most beneficial and time-effective.
- We need to keep the technological capabilities of our membership in mind. Some of our members are in universities with seemingly unlimited high-speed capability, but some of our members have only dial-up access and card catalogs.
- Barbara would like to emphasize communication at the July board retreat.

Intellectual Freedom

Trina Magi asked the board to approve the content of the Intellectual Freedom “toolkit”, developed by Helen Linda for a library class, but designed to go on the VLA web pages [Attachment B]. The board approved.

Confidentiality statute

Trina distributed a draft of a Vermont library records confidentiality statute [Attachment C]. Trina’s work on the statute has raised a number of questions for her. Would such a statute cover academic libraries, both state-affiliated and private? Would it include school libraries? In the cases of schools and colleges, students have privacy rights, but parents pay the bills. We would need to contact VEMA to see what their stance on the issue is. ALA advises that we check with some local school boards to ascertain their views of *in loco parentis*; local board decisions could differ. Does FERPA apply to library records of underage college students? In general, public libraries hold the parents financially responsible for their children’s charges until the children reach the age of 18. Trina will contact VEMA.

The question was asked, who will be held responsible for breaching the statute—the library worker who gave out the information, the library, or the town? What penalty should there be for breaking the confidentiality statute?

Trina is asking Paul Donovan of DOL to help her in researching Vermont confidentiality law.

Government Relations

Linda Wells distributed a version of Bill H.99 dealing with state funding for libraries, and a Government Relations report [Attachment D]. There’s a slim chance that libraries will be awarded funding in this year’s state budget.

VLTA

Marianne Kotch reported that the town officers workshops were not as well attended as in previous years, due to bad weather and Easter Monday. Fewer than 100 were in attendance.

What is happening in the Public Libraries section? There don’t appear to be any programs scheduled. This led into a discussion of section meeting times being scheduled during the annual conference, and a reminder that section leaders must convene their section’s meeting at the annual conference.

College & Special Libraries

Selene Colburn reported that Richard Amberland of Goddard College is the next College & Special Libraries section president. The section will hold a workshop on June 15 on social software in libraries, with Meredith Farkas and Abby Blakely. The section will be starting a wiki.

Advocacy

Selene reported that the Advocacy Committee worked with the Government Relations Committee in drafting an op-ed piece for Lisa that went to newspapers across the state. It was printed in a number of papers.

Personnel

Lisa reported on behalf of Amy Grasmick that letters were being sent to the trustee chairs of newly DOL-certified librarians. Amy also wanted to verify that the board had approved an increase in the recommended minimum salary for a public library director in the state, making it \$37,000. Yes, the board had approved.

Conference Committee

Larraby Fellows reported that over 600 persons have registered so far for the annual conference.

Some exhibitors pulled out because the dates conflict with New Hampshire's conference. On June 21, the Conference Committee will hold a summer summit to discuss possible changes to the committee. Barbara was invited and plans to attend.

Odd bits

Lisa reports that NELA will be holding Counterparts in Worcester in July, and VLA has allotted \$300 to assist those VLA officers who would like to attend.

Outgoing officers in particular should take note of items that should go into the Archives at the July retreat.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting was briefly reviewed.

July 12 is the date of the board retreat. Sherburne Library in Killington worked well last year as a venue and we will see if it is available this year.

Lisa reported that the national Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC, was “great.”
Real ID was discussed.

Meeting adjourned.