

**VLA Board Meeting  
March 13, 2008  
Dorothy Alling Memorial Library  
Williston, VT**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

9:40 Call to Order

Present: Judah Hamer (VP-presiding), Donna Edwards, David Brown, Brenda Ellis (recording), Nancy Wilson, Lisa von Kann, Gizelle Guyette, Jessica Allard

Minutes of the January meeting were approved. Minutes of the November meeting were approved with changes to the confidentiality section submitted by Trina Magi.

**Consent agenda**

**Intellectual Freedom Section Report** (Trina Magi). There were some comments on the Intellectual Freedom report about the change in the bill. It was noted that the provision re: 16 year old and younger patrons will require some changes in some libraries' policies. The report was accepted [Attachment A].

**Membership report** – (Sharon Thayer, absent). There was no membership report.

**Treasurer's Report and approval of Budget for 2008** (Donna Edwards)

Donna distributed the amended budget [Attachment B] and the March budget report [Attachment C]. Donna clarified several lines in the budget. The CAYAL budget was reduced by \$100 to reflect expected expenses submitted on the budget worksheets.

**Lobbyist budget:** we budgeted an extra \$1000 for our lobbyist in case it is needed, but we contracted to pay him \$15,000. He is flexible on when he receives his money, if necessary. But there is enough money in our account to pay him on schedule, even if it takes us longer to actually raise the money for that part of the budget.

Donna noted that the **Nynex checking account was closed**, so we no longer have to pay banking fees on that account.

Donna reported she successfully claimed our \$40 of unclaimed money from the State. **Lisa moved we move the unclaimed money to the general fund to be used for the food for the retreat in July.** The motion was approved.

Donna reported that the **John Swann 15 month CD** (Certificate of Deposit) rate was decreasing, so she redeemed it and purchased a 5 month CD at 2.66 percent. Later we'll buy another, but hopefully at a better rate by then.

She also reported that the **Department of Libraries summer reading account** (\$1479.01) is dormant. To protect it, she will call the bank to request it be made active again.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Vermont Library Conference Update (Jessica Allard)

Jessica explained that this year members were mailed a postcard instead of the conference program in order to save paper and money. People can print out the registration and program from the web.

She reported they **still do not have a VLA Conference Co-chair for next year**. They only have 2 academic librarians so far for next year. They are wondering if we moved the conference to a **different location**, would it help attract different people to the committee? (The current committee is made up of people who live within Chittenden county). Plus technology fees are so expensive at the Sheraton, both for programs and for exhibitors, and they are paying for buses to get people downtown.

**She distributed a message explaining the options for locating the conference. [Attachment D].** If they use the Davis Center at the University of Vermont, they would need to move the conference date from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May to the week after (because of graduation). Both Champlain College and the UVM Davis Center have food service on campus. Donna suggested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May is better for academics (because it would be post-graduation for many colleges). The Hyatt is another options, but there is no space for a sit down lunch.

**The main difficulty is finding a location that can host both the conference and the lunch.** If the conference is moved to another part of the state, they may need to eliminate the award lunch and have it at another time. A **central location** may help attendance and get new members to join the committee. Many people are not being reimbursed for gas. Lisa reported that conference calls every other meeting have helped the Government Relations committee. Suggestions included polling members, possibility at the conference. Nancy noted that the conference used to rotate to other parts of the state. Perhaps in 2009 it could be held at Davis, and the following year look for a college in the southern part of the state. Brenda **suggested recruiting support staff for the conference committee** so that we can have more programs of interest to them and possibly increase attendance. Jessica gave an overview of how the

conference planning occurs including an overview of the schedule of meetings. We need to work with VSLA to see what ideas they have and what they propose doing.

Jessica and Jessamyn are working on the **conference homepage** – they are providing information on how to submit a program idea, etc.

**This year's conference planning is going well.** There will not be box lunches – instead there will be a buffet (salads, soups, sandwiches) in the exhibit areas. The sit down lunch will still be available upstairs both days. The programs will be done next week and will be posted soon thereafter. They are trying to do more remotely and have less face-to-face meetings because of the time away from jobs and the price of gas. Lisa suggested putting a call for volunteers out on VALS (DOL's listserv for public libraries).

### **Government Relations Update** – (Lisa von Kann)

Lisa distributed **“Vermont Public Libraries: Connecting the Unconnected” handout [Attachment E] which was presented to the Vermont Telecommunications Authority.** The VTA is mandated to serve the unserved and underserved. They need a way to bring broadband to more people. VTA invited the VLA Government Relations committee to their full board meeting. **VTA needs an interface between broadband and those who can't afford it** and libraries are already providing that interface. The board responded positively to the information provided in the handout (lots of data on public libraries). The committee could use statistics from public and private colleges. The board does have access to some money, so the committee is trying to negotiate to get some of their money.

It was suggested we put the handout up on the VLA website. David asked about how public relations is done for VLA? We have an Advocacy committee. **It was suggested we ask Helen Linda (chair of the committee) to try to get the media to do a story.**

### **Advocacy Committee Update** (Helen Linda)

Helen was absent but emailed that she had nothing to report.

### **State Librarian Search Update** (David Brown)

David reported that the process has been rewarding. He went to 3 different meetings across the state to listen to members. Attendance was from across the board – public, academic, and school librarians attended. The search committee got 12 applicants (2 international, but one didn't complete the application). Six applicants are from within Vermont. He thinks we have a great bunch of candidates.

**Weeding process:** all have an ALA-accredited master's degree. They will look at relevant experience such as administrative experience; budget experience, experience working with multi-library cooperatives; technology skills; diplomacy skills; team leadership; staff development work, etc. Ultimately it is a political appointment by Secretary of Administration Mike Smith. It was noted that it is very important to change the culture of the Department of Libraries. It needs a more positive image.

The search committee is currently evaluating the candidates and next will be setting up interviews with a smaller pool. **Lisa thanked David and the committee for the work they've been doing and for listening to librarians across the state.** It was noted that Secretary Mike Smith may not be a part of the mix in the future because **the position could be moved to Secretary of State's department** instead of the Secretary of Administration.

Also it was noted that **there's an effort to move the State Library from the Capitol** (the space is desired for other uses) – but there are negative consequences such as the possible diminishment of libraries.

#### **VLTA programs** (David Brown)

David mentioned the **Town Officers Educational Training Conference.** He distributed a **handout of the topics [Attachment F]**

Judah received a phone call re: relations between library boards and libraries. **There's a need for a program that updates trustees and boards on what's happening in libraries.** They need to know the trends so they will have context beyond their own libraries (and not think libraries are all about personal agendas). For example, Judah explained to his board what a library consortia is. We need an educational piece for boards because they don't understand our environments.

#### **By-laws** (Brenda Ellis)

Brenda proposed we **do the ballots electronically** after notifying the membership via postcard or the president's letter, and urge people to update their email if it is not correct. The ballot will give the option to "vote for all" or if any no votes, specify which one(s), rather than a vote on each individual change.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Use of Web and Listserv** (Brenda Ellis)

There are problems with too many extraneous emails on the VLA listserv. Brenda presented a handout: **VTLibraries List Etiquette – When and Where**

to **“Reply” [Attachment G]** that could be sent to the listserv. The Board approved the handout.

**Nominations** (Judah Hamer)

The following positions will need to be filled: NELA representative; VP/President Elect; Intellectual Freedom chair; Vermont Library Conference co-chair; and Treasurer.

It was suggested that we put out a call on the VTlibraries list. The board was encouraged to suggest names to Judah.

**Other:**

Nancy asked to be put on next agenda to talk about the **ALA Councilor role** and communication.

**David proposed that we not meet in person for the May meeting** – either conduct any necessary business via email, a conference call, or meet at the Vermont Library Conference.

Lisa suggested we do a **“Tales for Tails” program**, which is being done in other states. It is a program in which children read to therapy dogs. Lisa will contact the Vermont Therapy Dog Association for more information to determine whether VLA might want to promote this next year.

12:05 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Ellis  
VLA Secretary

**FOR VLA BOARD MEETING CONSENT AGENDA  
March 13, 2008**

**Intellectual Freedom Committee Report of Activities**

Submitted by Trina Magi, Chair

**Library Patron Confidentiality Bill**

- Our bill (S. 220) was initially assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which referred it to the Senate Government Operations Committee.
- The House will consider the companion bill (H. 745), which has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee.
- The Senate committee held two hearings on the bill, January 17, and February 13. Testimony in support of the bill was given by Karen Lane (Aldrich Public Library), Susan Monmaney (representing VSLA), Trina Magi (Bailey/Howe Library), Allen Gilbert (Vermont American Civil Liberties Union), and Paul Earlbaum (offering a parent's perspective). Additional written testimony was submitted by two parents: Jenny Hermenze and Sandra Lindberg.
- The only issue that drew significant question and debate in the Senate Committee was the fact that the bill protected the confidentiality of all library patrons, including minors. Testimony against this aspect of the bill was given by a representative from Vermonters for Better Education; Eileen Haupt, a home-schooling parent; and John Halligan, a parent whose 13-year-old son committed suicide in 2003 after being bullied in person and online. They argued that protecting the confidentiality of minors' library records prevents parents from rearing their children in the ways they see fit and from directing their children's education. Please see the attached statement for our arguments to the contrary.
- After making the changes outlined below, the Senate committee voted unanimously to support the bill on February 15. It then went to the full Senate, where it was passed February 22 by unanimous voice vote, with no amendments.
- The bill, as passed by the Senate (see attached) includes several changes to our original bill:
  - At the request of Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz, "archives" was added to the section of the bill defining the scope of libraries covered.
  - The bill allows an exception for libraries to release records to custodial parents/guardians of children under the age of 16.
  - The damages cap of \$2,500 was removed and "actual damages" was substituted. This is evidence of legislators' belief in the importance of library patron confidentiality.
- We expect the House Judiciary Committee to hold a hearing soon on H. 745.
- I have secured endorsements of our bill from three higher education organizations: United Academics (faculty union at UVM), Vermont State Colleges Faculty Federation, and the Vermont State Colleges United Professionals. The lobbyist for these three organizations has offered to speak to legislators in support of the bill.
- John Shullenberger has been a tremendous help in shepherding us through this process so far.



## **S.220-The Informational Privacy Rights of Minors Deserve Protection**

**February 2008**

As public institutions, public libraries exist to serve everyone in the community equally, regardless of age. An inherent responsibility is protecting the individual privacy and intellectual freedom of all our patrons, including minors.

Our youth, who are our future, live in a complicated world. They need reliable information to learn, grow, and contribute to a better tomorrow. Our public libraries have long been established, trusted sources of information to help everyone make informed decisions about their futures, and in turn, the future of Vermont.

Every citizen has a right to privacy, including the interest in avoiding disclosure of personal matters and information. Just like adults, children have deep personal interests in their privacy, freedom of thought and expression and can experience a chilling effect if they believe people will judge, ostracize, bully, or punish them based on what they read. They should have the same right to control access to the information that they deem personal, without fear of disclosure to others. The state has a strong interest in protecting these interests.

Like dozens of other states, it is important that Vermont recognize that minors need to be allowed to practice making independent decisions about what information they acquire and use if they are to form their own identities and grow into responsible adults who understand and exercise the rights so important in a democratic society.

Public libraries do not presume to usurp or hinder any parent's right to instill one's children with the values they hold dear. On the contrary, we encourage parents to ask their children what they're reading, to talk with them about making good choices, to come to the library with them and select books together, and to check out books with them and for them. Nothing in S. 220 impedes these activities or intrudes into parent-child relationships. Nothing in S. 220 requires parents to obtain a permission slip to rear their children as they see fit or to direct their personal and educational development. Rather, the bill invites parents and children to communicate and mutually determine what private information they wish to share with each other.

Most inquisitive children at one time or another have questions about subjects they're uncomfortable discussing with others, including their parents. Consider a child who is raised in an atheistic home and would like to look at a Bible, or a teenager approaching voting age who is starting to have questions about his family's political outlook. Minors may also need to privately seek information concerning health issues that will inform their decisions about seeking care and, in many cases, lead to important discussions with their parents. But the threat of disclosure may deter them seeking the information in the first place.

The difficult truth is that parents' ideas and their children's interests do not always align. Indeed, there are circumstances in which library confidentiality is critically important for children. We see children who live in homes where there is domestic and emotional abuse. Unfettered disclosure to parents of information that kids may want to read about abuse and family violence could deter them from seeking answers to the questions they may have about what is happening in their lives and where they can turn.

The Children's Defense Fund reports sobering statistics of child abuse and neglect in Vermont, and we know that these are only the documented cases. These children need a place where they can seek information and get answers to their questions, without having to fear the consequences. When they turn to the public library, our practices must protect these vulnerable children. The only way we know to do that is to honor the confidentiality of all children.

**Library Patron Confidentiality Bill As Passed by Senate, 2008**

Sec. 1. 22 V.S.A. chapter 4 is added to read:

**CHAPTER 4. LIBRARY PATRON RECORDS**

**§ 171. DEFINITIONS**

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Library" means a public library as defined in subdivision 101(2) of this title, any college university or school library, or any other library or archives that are open on a regular basis and makes available on site, or circulates, materials to the public without a fee.

(2) "Patron registration records" means library records that contain information a library patron must provide in order to be eligible for borrowing privileges at a library.

(3) "Patron transaction records" means library records that contain names or other personal identifying information that discloses an individual's activities within a library, including the materials that have been viewed in print or electronic form, research questions posed, materials in any format that the patron has requested through interlibrary loan or has borrowed, or any other library service or consultation that the patron has requested.

**§ 172. LIBRARY RECORD CONFIDENTIALITY; EXEMPTIONS**

(a) A library's patron registration records and patron transaction records shall remain confidential.

(b) Unless authorized by other provisions of law, the library's officers, employees, and volunteers shall not disclose the records except:

(1) with the written permission of the library patron to whom the records pertain;

(2) to officers, employees, volunteers, and agents of the library to the extent necessary for library administration purposes;

(3) in response to an authorized judicial order or warrant directing disclosure;

(4) to custodial parents or guardians of patrons under age 16;

(5) to the custodial parents or guardians of a student, in accordance with the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, by the library at the school the student attends.

(c) Statistical records pertaining to the patronage, circulation activities, and use of any service or consultation the library provides, provided that they do not contain the names of patrons or any other personally identifying information, shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

**§ 173. RIGHT OF PATRON ACTION**

Any person whose confidential patron registration records or patron transaction records have been disclosed, except as provided in this chapter, is authorized to bring a civil action against the library that disclosed the records.



## VLA Budget 2008

VLA Budget 2008

Attachment B

Income	
Advertising Income	50
CAYAL Income	900
College Special Libraries Income	300
Conference Income	2,000
Government Relations Income	200
Intellectual Freedom Income	0
Lobbyist Income (State Aid for Pub.Lib.)	5,414
Membership Income	12,000
Public Libraries Income	500
Tax Preparation Income	475
Vt. Lib. Trustees Assoc. Income	500
Expense	
ALA Councilor Expense	-2,400
ALA Dues	-110
Awards Committee Expense	-150
Bulk Mailing Permit, PO Box rental	-185
CAYAL Expense	-900
College Special Libraries Exp.	-300
DCF Conference	-400
Donations Expense	-300
Government Relations Expense	-575
Intellectual Freedom Expense	-262
Lobbyist Expense	-16,000
Membership Expense	-600
NELA Representative Expense	-465
NELLS Conference	-500
NELLS Scholarships	-200
Personnel Committee Expense	0
President Expense	-500
Public Libraries Expense	-500
Secretary Expense	0
Tax Preparation Expense	-475
Treasurer Expense	-50
Treasurer's Bond Expense	-90
VLA News Expense	-1,600
Vt. Library Trustees Assoc. Exp.	-500
Web Site Design Maintenance	-225
Total income:	22,339
Total expenses:	-27,287
Difference:	-4,948

# Year End Budget 2007 - 2007

1/1/2007 through 12/31/2007 Using Amended VLA Budget 2007

Attachment B

3/12/2008

Page 1

Category Description	1/1/2007 Actual	- Budget	12/31/2007 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Advertising Income	175.00	200.00	-25.00
CAYAL Income	725.00	1,000.00	-275.00
College Special Libraries Income	180.00	300.00	-120.00
Conference Income	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Government Relations Income	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Intellectual Freedom Income	0.00	235.00	-235.00
Membership Income	11,540.00	12,000.00	-460.00
Public Libraries Income	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Tax Preparation Income	425.00	475.00	-50.00
Vt. Lib. Trustees Assoc. Income	712.00	250.00	462.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13,757.00</b>	<b>17,160.00</b>	<b>-3,403.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
ALA Councilor Expense	2,655.51	2,000.00	-655.51
ALA Dues	110.00	110.00	0.00
Awards Committee Expense	3,481.57	3,697.00	215.43
Bulk Mailing Permit, PO Box rental	244.00	185.00	-59.00
CAYAL Expense	1,134.33	1,000.00	-134.33
College Special Libraries Exp.	188.82	300.00	111.18
DCF Conference	0.00	400.00	400.00
Donations Expense	100.00	300.00	200.00
Government Relations Expense	342.50	575.00	232.50
Intellectual Freedom Expense	100.00	100.00	0.00
Lobbyist Expense	16,769.72	17,000.00	230.28
Membership Expense	31.01	600.00	568.99
NELA Representative Expense	150.00	465.00	315.00
Personnel Committee Expense	230.00	430.00	200.00
President Expense	526.85	200.00	-326.85
Public Libraries Expense	0.00	500.00	500.00
Secretary Expense	0.00	50.00	50.00
Tax Preparation Expense	425.00	475.00	50.00
Treasurer Expense	189.50	50.00	-139.50
Treasurer's Bond Expense	90.00	90.00	0.00
VLA News Expense	2,632.22	3,200.00	567.78
Vt. Library Trustees Assoc. Exp.	788.75	250.00	-538.75
Web Site Design Maintenance	325.00	225.00	-100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>30,514.78</b>	<b>32,202.00</b>	<b>1,687.22</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-16,757.78</b>	<b>-15,042.00</b>	<b>-1,715.78</b>

**Budget Report March 7, 2008 - Current Year**  
1/1/2008 through 12/31/2008 Using VLA Budget 2008

3/7/2008

Page 1

Category Description	1/1/2008 Actual	- Budget	12/31/2008 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>			
Advertising Income	0.00	50.00	-50.00
CAYAL Income	0.00	900.00	-900.00
College Special Libraries Income	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Conference Income	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Government Relations Income	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Intellectual Freedom Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lobbyist Income (State Aid for Pub.Lib.)	9,889.00	5,414.00	4,475.00
Membership Income	8,945.00	12,000.00	-3,055.00
Public Libraries Income	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Tax Preparation Income	0.00	475.00	-475.00
Vt. Lib. Trustees Assoc. Income	0.00	500.00	-500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>18,834.00</b>	<b>22,339.00</b>	<b>-3,505.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
ALA Councilor Expense	1,119.80	2,400.00	1,280.20
ALA Dues	110.00	110.00	0.00
Awards Committee Expense	0.00	150.00	150.00
CAYAL Expense	0.00	900.00	900.00
College Special Libraries Exp.	0.00	300.00	300.00
DCF Conference	0.00	400.00	400.00
Donations Expense	0.00	300.00	300.00
Government Relations Expense	433.60	575.00	141.40
Intellectual Freedom Expense	112.00	262.00	150.00
Lobbyist Expense	11,250.00	16,000.00	4,750.00
Membership Expense	78.00	600.00	522.00
NELA Representative Expense	0.00	465.00	465.00
NELLS Conference	0.00	500.00	500.00
NELLS Scholarships	0.00	200.00	200.00
Personnel Committee Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
President Expense	26.24	500.00	473.76
Public Libraries Expense	0.00	500.00	500.00
Secretary Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Preparation Expense	0.00	475.00	475.00
Treasurer Expense	0.00	50.00	50.00
Treasurer's Bond Expense	90.00	90.00	0.00
VLA News Expense	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Vt. Library Trustees Assoc. Exp.	0.00	500.00	500.00
Web Site Design Maintenance	0.00	225.00	225.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,219.64</b>	<b>27,102.00</b>	<b>13,882.36</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>5,614.36</b>	<b>-4,763.00</b>	<b>10,377.36</b>

(from fund raising  
so far)

Account Balances - As of 3/7/2008  
As of 3/7/2008

3/7/2008

Account	3/7/2008 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Certificate of Deposit	1,711.73
Checking	16,656.22
Checking 2-NYNEX-NYNEX Grant Money	0.00
DOL-Summer Reading-DOL - Summer Reading	1,479.01
J. Swan Endowment-Certificate of Deposit	9,998.43
J. Swan Lecture Series	968.86
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>30,814.25</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>30,814.25</b>

Attachment C



[Secure Messaging](#)   [Help](#)   [Privacy Policy](#)   [Log Off](#)  
[Accounts](#)   [Bill Payment](#)   [Preferences](#)  
[Main](#) | [Transactions](#) | [Download](#)

Chittenden Bank - Two Burlington Square - Burlington, VT 05401  
 Online Banking Support: 800-223-7518  
 eBanking for Business: 800-642-3390, option 4

**Please Note: Your checking account's "Available Balance" includes the value of any overdraft protection line of credit.**

**View Account Information for: CD 100K 1100**

### Account Information

#### Current Account Information

**CD 100K 1100 / VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

*J. Swan Endowment  
CD*

Other names on this account:

Current balance	10,596.53	Interest rate	1.590000%
Accrued interest	0.46	Maturity date	6/06/09
YTD interest	121.63	Last renewal	3/06/08
Per diem	0.46160		
Next payment date	4/06/08		
Last payment date	3/06/08		
Original balance	10,000.00	Issue date	12/06/06
		Last deposit	12/06/06
Term	15 M		
Interest term	1 M		

Windows Live™

**2009 Library Conference Site**

From: **anne blake** (anneblake1@yahoo.com)  
Sent: Wed 3/12/08 6:38 PM  
To: larraby@gmail.com  
Cc: Jessica (vlcvlachair@hotmail.com); Kelly (kwood@etsd.org)

Larraby,

I have some suggestions to pass on to the appropriate individuals regarding the location for the 2009 conference.

**I have heard the following discussed at conference committee meetings:**

1. moving the conference to a more central location (rather than always in the Burlington area) to attract more people from all parts of the state
2. trying to reduce the costs of the conference
3. if kept in the Burlington area, being closer and within walking distance of the downtown

**I contacted the following locations regarding the 2009 conference:**

1. **Champlain College** - Is available in May but does not have the space for both the exhibit hall and a sitdown luncheon for about 300.
2. **The Davis Center at UVM** - not available 2nd week of May due to the building being used for Commencement related events; is available other times of the year and costs less than Sheraton
3. **Hyatt (former Wyndam)** available in May but smaller than the Sheraton. I've been told that it was crowded last time it was held there. Can't accommodate both the exhibit hall and sit down luncheon but if there was not a sit down luncheon, it would free up more space
4. **Lake Morey Inn Conference Center** - not large enough for both exhibit hall and sit down luncheon for about 300

After having looked at other locations, I have found that the one main reason for having trouble finding another location is: **lack of space for both the exhibit hall and the sitdown luncheon.**

**My Suggestions:**

1. Have the awards ceremony in the evening at a restaurant (if the conference was held at a location such as Champlain College with many restaurants to choose from)
2. Have the awards ceremony as a cocktail reception (with chairs and some cafe tables) which would take up less room than round tables for 300
3. Have the conference at a college which would cost less
4. Consider a central location such as the Lake Morey Conference Center which costs less than the Sheraton

I hope that this information will be helpful when deciding where the 2009 conference will be located.

## **Vermont Public Libraries: Connecting the Unconnected**

**Vermont Library Association**

**Presentation to Vermont Telecommunications Authority, March 6, 2008**

Since the 1980s Vermont public libraries have worked to bridge the “digital divide” by offering free access to computers and the internet and by providing an increasingly diverse range of e-services. The impact that public libraries have on the lives of Vermonters is enormous – and, with additional funding, we could do much more!

Want to provide internet access to citizens across our state? Looking ahead to a Vermont that is a true “e-state”? We believe that you should look to Vermont’s public libraries as a vital partner in this process.

**The Vermont public library network is in place; we have the technology and we are already changing lives:**

- ✓ Library staff and volunteers help citizens fill out online job applications, write
- ✓ resumes, and do job searches. Many employers today *require* online applications; if not for the library, how would these people be able to find employment?
- ✓ Adults returning to the workforce are learning that they need computer skills for today’s jobs; libraries offer computer classes, training, and one-on-one assistance;
- ✓ Library patrons use our computers to download tax and financial aid forms, locate travel information, research grants, participate in organizations, get current medical information, start new businesses, and connect with others via email. One patron in Montpelier used the library computer to write a book!
- ✓ People need to connect with the world: how often do you hear on your radio and see on your TV screen: “Check out our website at [www ...?](http://www...)” *Got internet?*
- ✓ Immigrants and new Americans use computers to correspond with family, find access to needed information, and improve language and literacy skills;
- ✓ Summer visitors and tourists use our public library computers;
- ✓ Libraries provide special assistance to senior citizens who are using computers for the first time, as well as citizens who are physically and/or mentally challenged.

**Take a look at what’s happening in Vermont libraries:\***

- Vermonters used 854 public access computers at local public libraries 27,922 times each week, including 14,000 wireless sessions. That’s almost 4,000 times each day in 2006-07!
- The number of wireless sessions in Vermont public libraries rose to 14,000 in 2006-07, up from only 834 in 2005-06.
- Weekly public access computer use rose 41% between 2001-02 and 2006-07.
- 35,439 people were trained to use public library computers during 2006-07, nearly double the number trained in 2005-06.

- **Vermonters conducted a total of 194,692** database searches using the Vermont Online Library (VOL) via public libraries in 2006. VOL offers full-text access to thousands of scholarly and popular magazine and newspaper articles, as well as current health, business, and genealogical references. It can be accessed at the library or remotely from school, office or home.
- Vermonters made 3,695,328 visits to local public libraries in 2006-07. That's twice as many visitors as the Burlington International Airport had during the same period.
- 306,182 Vermonters have library cards, nearly half our population.

*From preliminary public library statistics for 2006-07 collected by the Vermont Department of Libraries, February 2008.*

### **And that's not all ...**

- In 2005-06 all but 20 Vermont public libraries had high-speed internet access, mostly via cable service.
- The Vermont Department of Libraries offers a variety of free workshops and training opportunities for library personnel on a variety of topics, including: computer troubleshooting, internet searching, and web design.
- Many libraries have been able to purchase computer hardware and software, technical assistance, and high-speed connections via grants from the Gates Foundation and the Vermont Public Library Foundation/Freeman Foundation (2001-2007).
- Several libraries have used AmeriCorp\*VISTA workers to help with computer training.

Vermont's public libraries are committed to providing excellent service and free access to the internet and current computer technology. But we are struggling; public demand exceeds our ability to deliver the services that citizens need.

### **We need a boost in our funding for:**

- Additional computers
- Upgrades to existing computer hardware and software
- Additional staff to assist and train citizens
- Facility planning to allow our computer centers to grow
- Technical support, which can cost \$100/hour or more

**It makes good sense for Vermont to focus on our network of public libraries as the gateway for providing universal public access to broadband and e-services.**

*For more information, contact:*

Lisa von Kann, Library Director, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum,  
802-748-8291; [lvkann@stjathenaeum.org](mailto:lvkann@stjathenaeum.org)



## VLTA PROGRAMS AT 2008 Town Officers Educational Conferences

The Vermont Library Trustees Association (VLTA), the trustees section of the Vermont Library Association, in conjunction with the Department of Libraries will again offer a series of workshops for trustees and librarians during the spring Town Officers Educational Conferences. TOECs are sponsored by the Vermont Institute for Government, with organizational help from the UVM Extension Service which will mail a registration packet to each library in spring, 2008.

To register for any of the TOECs, find the form online at <http://regonline.com/toec08>. \$50 online cost includes morning coffee and lunch. Many towns send carloads to the sessions. Contact your town clerk for details.

**Dates/ locations:** Monday, March 24-St. Michael's College, Colchester (Rob)  
Thursday, April 10-Lyndon State College, Lyndonville (Michael)  
Wednesday, April 16-Holiday Inn, Rutland (Rob)  
Thursday, April 24-Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee (Amy)  
Wednesday, April 30-Mt. Snow, West Dover (Amy)

This year's conference sessions will focus on particular issues requiring careful discussion and consideration in trustees' roles as policymakers and planners.

### **Programs/Speakers:**

8:00 am – coffee and registration

8:45 am – keynote: The Vermont Humanities Council will do an opening session on the Civil War Project

### **9:45 am – Workshop 1: Organizing the Library Board**

Trustees are essential to the successful running of a public library and this session will review the organization, structure and major duties of library board members, including bylaws, legal responsibilities, planning, policy development and fiscal responsibilities.

10:45 am - break

### **11:00 am - Workshop 2: Building Powerful Community Library Partnerships**

Is your library perceived as essential to community? Do organizations, agencies and town officials come to you for help, or include you in the town planning or decision-making process? Do the community "movers and shakers" see the library as a valuable asset and consult with you on issues of importance? This session will address why and how to build powerful community alliances.

noon - lunch

### **1:00 pm – Workshop 3: How Green is my Library (apologies to R. Llewellyn)**

How much energy does your library consume? How can trustees ensure energy efficiency and sustainability while staying within budget? A representative from "Efficiency Vermont" will discuss lighting passive solar devices, using ecologically friendly materials and environmentally friendly heating and cooling systems.

2:00 pm – break

### **2:15 pm – Workshop 4: Sticky Situations Library Trustees Face**

Trustees will have an opportunity to ask for help, give advice and discuss "sticky situations" they have faced as board members. Regional librarians will lead the discussion and provide trustees with suggestions and resources to help them make informed and appropriate decisions.

3:30 pm – adjourn

## VTLibraries List Etiquette – When and Where to “Reply”

When you want to send a message to ALL subscribers to the list, make sure the To: field is thus:

To: VTLIBRARIES@LIST.UVM.EDU

However, **when replying to an individual, be sure to delete the VTLIBRARIES address and substitute the address of the person you are emailing.** Their email can be found at the top of the message. See ex. of email address for Barbara Doyle-Wilch below:

From: Vermont Libraries [VTLIBRARIES@LIST.UVM.EDU] on behalf of Doyle-Wilch, Barbara [bdoylewi@MIDDLEBURY.EDU]  
To: VTLIBRARIES@LIST.UVM.EDU

**Rule of Thumb: If the whole list does not need to see the response, don't reply to the whole list.** The majority of people are overwhelmed with email and prefer not to get extra messages meant for one person or just a few individual people.

**TIP: Always check the To: field before hitting “Send”** to make sure you have the address you intended.

It can be difficult to remember this, so when you post something to the list and want people to reply to you, be sure to **add something to your message like, reply directly to me at [email address] and/or make sure your email address is included with your “signature”** (in case some email programs don't show your address, as in the example above).

**What about recognizing achievements of our members?** It is perfectly fine to send the list an announcement of someone's achievement. But if everyone replies to the list when they congratulate the recipient, the collective aggravation takes away from that glorious moment. Instead, the person will appreciate the personal note, sent just to them. And you can always go one step further and nominate the person for one of VLA's annual awards, listed on the website.

**What about hot topics we want to discuss broadly?** Add a post to the Vermont Libraries Website Blog (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>). Send a message to the list telling people what you have posted and tell people to post their comment on the blog. Give the link so people will be encouraged to participate.

Let's make both the listserv and the website something our members will cherish and look forward to participating in!