

Vermont Library Association

Aldrich Library, Barre

March 8, 2017

Voting Members Present: Margaret Woodruff, Joy Worland, Kelly McCagg, Bethany Dietrich, Nancy Mark (virtual), Christine Porter (virtual), Stacey Knight, Ian Gauthier, Charlotte Gerstein (interim ALA), Karson Kiesinger (virtual)

Non-voting Members Present: Mary Danko (NELA President), Tom McMurdo, Scott Murphy, Jennifer Murray, Jane Ramos (upcoming conference chair), April Shaw, Jessamyn West (virtual)

Guests: Jeff Theis (PACIF),

The meeting was called to order by Margaret at 10:07.

MOTION: Joy Worland made a motion seconded by Bethany Dietrich

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11TH AS PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG

YES: 10

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: Joy Worland made a motion seconded by Bethany Dietrich

TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG

YES: 10

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Margaret reported that she and Joy Worland, VLA Vice-President, met with Susanne Young, Secretary of Administration last month to discuss the State Librarian position. It was an opportunity for us to share what the Vermont library community appreciates about the Department of Libraries and what the community hopes will continue and expand in the future. This included a continued focus on federally funded services such as ILL as well as renewed offerings for continuing education, especially the Certificate of Public Librarianship. We shared some information on two successful library endeavors, the ILL courier service and the summer reading program.

Vice President: Joy has no report at this time.

Past-President: Virgil has no report at this time.

Treasurer: Angela reported that she is leaving library land as of February 24th, as she has accepted a full time copywriting position at dealer.com starting March 6th. That means she will no longer be able to attend VLA board meetings, neither in person nor virtually. She has given Margaret and Joy a heads up that they should start a search for a new treasurer. In the interim, she is finishing up any 2016 tax filings. So far Angela has filed two 1099-misc forms with the IRS for two of the four people we paid stipends to. The other two people never responded to her emails for information. She is in the process of finishing our 2016 tax filing before April 15th.

Secretary: Kelly has no report at this time.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Bethany reported that she and Alana have located a willing candidate to be our next Vice-President: Emily Crist (yay!). Emily is an outstanding librarian who has worked at UVM and now at Champlain. We are very excited for what she has to offer the section and the board in the future.

Bethany is also working with Lisa Milchman of the Awards Committee to locate a new academic librarian representative. I have just reached out to my “constituents” and will hopefully have a candidate to present to the committee before our next board meeting.

Public Libraries Section: Christine reported that a more detailed spreadsheet has been designed for the book set project. The committee will be following up with libraries that we believe offer book sets and try to get all their information loaded into one spreadsheet. For the purpose of this project, a book set is defined as a set with 3 or more copies. The goal is to create a URL that can be accessed by libraries and the public from either/both the VLA and Dept. of Libraries websites. The structure of the list may change with the new VALS system. Mara will put us in contact with those libraries that use book sets and the system when the time is right and Christine will send out a general request for participation from libraries throughout the State. We hope there will be a way that the list can update automatically when titles are added or deleted from a library’s catalog; if not, we will explore other options for ensuring regular updates.

Snapshot Day is returning during National Library Week, with the goal of building and expanding upon last year's program. Libraries will be able to choose any day between April 10th and 15th to participate. Marketing and descriptions will go out shortly.

Technical Services Section: Stacey reported that Wendy Sharkey from the Bennington Free Library volunteered to be the co-president of the Technical Services Section.

Friends & Trustees Section: Nancy has no report at this time.

Youth Librarians Section: Ian reported that Jane Ramos will be attending the VLA Board Meeting on 3/8/2017 to make a brief presentation on the VT Fairy Tale Festival that will take place this coming September. A number of public libraries from across the state will be running tents at this free event featuring selected fairy tales and related art crafts. We had discussed in previous VLA Board meetings the possibility of having a VLA presence at this festival.

Awards Committee: Lisa has no report at this time.

Department of Libraries: Marty has no report at this time.

Government Relations Committee: This committee is in need of new chairperson.

Inclusion Committee: Amanda has no report at this time.

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Ray reported that the ALA IFC sent out this link on "Guidelines to Minimize the Negative Effects of Internet Content Filters on Intellectual Freedom," http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/filtering/filtering_guidelines.

Furthermore, he shared that ALA has a new statement on access to accurate information and media manipulation. It seems largely based upon a 2005 statement on "RESOLUTION ON DIS INFORMATION, MEDIA MANIPULATION & THE DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION" (which can be found here <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/policym anual/updatedpolicymanual/ocrpdfofprm/52-8disinformation.pdf>).

The new statement, "Resolution on Access to Accurate Information", can be found here <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/ifresolutions/accurateinformation>. The resolution supports the following:

Resolved, the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. reaffirms the resolution on Disinformation, Media Manipulation and the Destruction of Public Information approved in 2005 (2005 ALA CD #64).
2. opposes the use of disinformation, media manipulation, and other tactics that undermine access to accurate information;
3. encourages its members to help raise public consciousness regarding the many ways in which disinformation and media manipulation are used to mislead the public;
4. urges librarians and library workers to actively seek and provide sources of accurate information that counter disinformation;
5. supports the critical role of librarians and library workers in all types of libraries in teaching information literacy skills that enable users to locate information and evaluate its accuracy;

6. will pursue partnerships with news organizations, journalism institutions, and other allies to promote access to accurate information and defend the role of journalists and the free press in American society.”

Membership & Outreach Committee: Kelly reported that we currently have 156 members signed up for 2017. She has submitted 49 names to NELA for a joint membership. Kelly is still looking for a replacement for heading the Membership and Outreach Committee. If you know anyone who is interested, please send them her way.

Nancy reported that there are 32 libraries participating in the substitute pool, 28 of which are public libraries. There are 59 volunteers total. Please contact Nancy Tusinski for a breakdown by county, or if you need access to the list.

Personnel Committee: Shara has no report at this time.

Scholarship Committee: April reported that the deadline for the first round of Continuing Education grants is on March 1st, so we do not have a winner yet. The committee will be meeting on March 9th to determine the award. We also have some interest in joining the committee from one of the Scholarship Award winners! So far this year, payments have been sent for the Scholarship winners, and we are on track to have a winner for the first round of Continuing Education Grants. The new schedule that we started instead of rolling applications is working out well. We are also going to be working to have a raffle at NELA to raise funds for the scholarship and continuing education funds.

Conference Committee: Toni reported that she will be traveling March 5-15 and can't attend the March board meeting. Registration is now open for VLC 2017, Let Your Voice Be Heard. The committee met twice in February to determine the lowest possible cost of registration and further discuss the format of the unconference program. There are currently 16 exhibitors. No sponsors yet. I will continue to solicit both. I contacted Jane (Napier) Ramos, last year's Vermont representative to the NELA Conference and 2013 recipient of the Green Mountain Award for "fearlessly leading the Vermont Library Conference in a new direction" about being the next VLC Chair, and she would be happy to return to this position. Margaret and Joy, please work with her on this appointment as my successor.

QUESTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: Toni would like to know who will be handling bank deposits and payments after Angela officially steps down (as well as when that will be) so that she can ensure registration and exhibitor payments are processed in a timely manner and Killington's expenses can be paid promptly. That includes communicating to her when the registration payments are received at our PO Box and collecting any payments from her that she picks up in Burlington.

American Library Association Councilor: There is no report at this time.

New England Library Association Representative: Karson reported that the NELA Board met January 20th at which time the budget was reviewed and accepted.

NELA Education Assistance Committee (Chair: Betsy Solon) is trying to recruit one NELA member from each state. NELA Intellectual Freedom Committee (Chair: Cynthia Bermudez), Public Relations Committee (Chair: Jason Homer), and the Membership Committee (Chairs: Alison Zaya and Mike Zellers) are recruiting and seeking mentors.

NELLS 2017 (August 14-18, 2017 at the Rolling Ridge Conference and Retreat Center in North Andover, MA): Deadline for participant applications is the end of March. The online application will be available here: <http://nelib.org/connect/committees/new-england-library-leadership-symposium-nells/>

Highlights from other state organizations:

- CT Annual Conference will be May 4-5 at the Mystic Marriot. Their theme is “Uncharted Waters – Navigating the Changing Tides in Librarianship.”
- Dianne Carty, Director of MA Board of Library Commissioners will retire in May. MLA is regrouping and reorganizing and working on a long-range plan.
- Maine is in the early stages of looking at a Maine Librarian Apprenticeship program that would count time of service toward credits. The Maine Representative reports ASRL is planning to hold 2019 Conference in New England; timing is usually Sept-Oct.
- NH Spring Conference will be May 4-5 in Portsmouth. NH State Library hosted a meeting with DPLA staff to evaluate state digital needs. They are beginning early planning and NHLA will be participating.
- RI Annual Conference will be May 31 and June 1 at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI with the theme “Building Connections Growing Communities.” James LaRue, Director of ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom is a confirmed speaker.
- RILA is trying to get a Digital Literacy Roundtable off the ground.

NELA/VLA Conference (Oct. 22-24 at Sheraton Burlington) Committee Updates: The NELA Board approved that VLA members registering for the conference will receive the NELA member conference rate. The theme will be “Recharge 2017,” with Richard Moniz, *The Mindful Librarian* coauthor as the keynote speaker. The Conference Committee will be seeking assistance with dine around options in Burlington, possible costume banquet, and maybe a photo booth. The next Conference Committee meetings are scheduled for March 10 at 10:00am at the NH Public Library in Manchester, April 7 Online at 10:00am, May 19 at Salem State University at 2:00pm after the NELA Executive Board meeting, with July and September TBD.

Planning for a Diversity Summit in July is underway.

Please also consider if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving as the VLA representative to NELA. Karson's term will end May 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Information from PACIF on Workplace Safety: Jeff Theis reported that all towns participate in the VT League of Cities and Towns, with all but 8 getting insurance from via the Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF). PACIF is member owned. Jeff briefly described his work duties. He explained that Workers comp originally was increased due to several factors including payroll, WC class codes, and losses reported by libraries. As a result, librarians were moved into the same category as parks & recreation employees. Due to libraries speaking up, PACIF saw their recommended change as an undue hardship for libraries and made up the monetary difference somewhere else. In 2012-2016 there were 20 claims from libraries totaling over \$500,000. However, upon further research, one discovers that two of those claims are for more than \$400,000. More than half have \$0 claimed. People looking for additional information can contact Jeff (802-229-9111 ext1954 or jtheis@vlct.org) or go to the PACIF website where categories are listed in the right hand column (<http://www.vlct.org/rms/pacif/>).

Report from Department of Libraries: Tom will continue to serve as liaison to VLA. Scott reports that they are focusing on hiring—consultants, IT person to serve under Tom, and a reference librarian. Their other main concern is maintaining current programs and grants.

Nominations & Elections: Joy reports that our current officer openings are President Elect (Cindy Weber), Secretary (Kelly McCagg), Treasurer, NELA rep (Steve—Kellogg Hubbard), ALA (Marti Fiske), Conference (Jane Ramos), Membership, Personnel, Inclusion, Intellectual freedom, and Government relations. If you are interested in serving or know someone who would be a good fit, please contact Joy.

Fairy Tale Festival: Jane Ramos gave a brief presentation about the new festival she hopes will inform the public about all the great work public libraries do. It is scheduled for September 23rd in Killington, with 14 libraries currently signed up to participate. Parking will be limited this year. Jane is recommending that the free to public festival occur every other year. Libraries wanting more information can check out their Facebook page, or contact Jane at vtfairytale@gmail.com.

Jennifer Murray left at 11:37am

Mary Danko, the new director at the Fletcher Free Library and current NELA President reminded everyone about the Diversity Summit planned for July 26th in Boston. She also asked everyone to let vendors know that we want to see them at NELA.

Mary Danko left at 11:39am

Website Update and Discussion: Jessamyn reported that the last time the website was redesigned was about 3 years ago. She suggested that we consider moving to a design that is more easily updated. She will need volunteers willing to attend work parties. We likely will stay with wordpress and the overall look, but make the site more responsive to current communication needs. Jessamyn also suggested that the Website committee become part of Membership/Outreach.

VLA Twitter account: This will be discussed at our next meeting.

Resolution on Sustainable Libraries: Margaret & Kelly will work on this in the coming weeks and discuss it with the Board at our next meeting.

Step-Up the Constitution Day: Charlotte Gerstein will be contacting the project coordinator to see how we can participate.

Future Meeting: May 10, 2017 at Burnham Memorial Library, Colchester, VT

The meeting was adjourned by Margaret at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Tomaseski
VLA Secretary