

Vermont Library Association
Midstate Regional Library, Berlin
May 10, 2018
Draft

Voting Members Present: Joy Worland, Cindy Weber, Kelly McCagg (remotely), Alana Nuth (remotely), Nancy Mark (remotely), Adele West-Fisher, Stacey Knight, Marti Fiske (remotely), Steve Picazio

Non-voting Members Present: Daisy Benson, Tom McMurdo

The meeting was called to order by Joy at 10:11.

Due to a lack of a quorum, the minutes from March 14th and the consent agenda will be need be approved at the next regular meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Joy reported the following:

1. The VLA Summit on April 23rd was a productive gathering of many VLA board members as well as other library stakeholders, including academic, public, and school librarians, trustees, volunteers, and representatives from VTLIB, the Board of Libraries and the VT Humanities Council. Consultant Lawrence Webster and I will do a more involved recap of that day and ideas about moving forward but for now, a few areas that rose to the top during the day:

- I think most or all of us felt it was good to have people from different facets of the library world in one room talking together. It certainly identified work that needs to be done and felt like the beginning of something that would be productive to do regularly, possibly annually.
- Potential focus areas: improved access to library resources for all Vermonters, statewide coordination and increased resource sharing amongst libraries, advocacy, excellent staff and building facilities, improved communication among different library branches of VT librarianship.
- VLA structure and mission. We will open up discussion at the conference for members to share ideas.
- Where to go next with the ideas and spirit generated at this event. Formation and implementation of work groups to make things happen before we lose momentum.

2. Jessamyn West has once again made coupons for Comic Con. They can be accessed here: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/vla-partners-with-green-mountain-comic-expo/>

3. Margaret, Angele, and I began exploring what it would entail to lower the age applied to library record confidentiality from 16 to 13. It would mean a change in statute and has a long history influencing how it got to where it is now, but we did discuss it with Cass Mabbott and our guest for the John Swan Lecture. We can discuss pursuing it more as a board at the May meeting.

4. Other thoughts going ahead about VLA structure/planning:

- restructuring the membership committee and process/timing for renewals
- looking (at their request) at the viability of the Technical Services section
- implementing the mentoring program
- Angele did a great job with the Swan Lecture. Looking ahead to next time, considering tying it in with another event, possibly scheduling it the night before the conference, to give it a higher profile and better attendance.
- The strategic plan.

These might be topics for the retreat, but I am sharing my thoughts now because I will not be serving my year as past president. I have just started (April 30) at VTLIB in the Consultant for Continuing Education and Rural and Small Libraries position. This means I will be stepping down from the VLA board after the conference. Margaret is willing to stay on another year in the position of Past President. I will put this on the agenda for discussion at the meeting May 10 but strongly feel this provides important continuity that would otherwise not exist, especially as VLA moves forward with the ideas from the Summit and strategic planning.

More at the May meeting and the conference, of course, but thanks for a good year!

Vice President: Cindy reported that she attended the VLA Summit, as well as prior and subsequent meetings with the executive board. She also attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 7th and 8th. There was no response to her call for nominations – Incoming Vice President and Treasurer.

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

Treasurer: Shara's report is included in the attachments.

Secretary: Kelly has no report at this time.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Alana reported that the College and Special Libraries section is excited to announce the nomination of Christie Silkotch, Science and Data Librarian at UVM, for the position of Vice-President of the section. Voting will take place during the section meeting at the VLA Conference. Emily Crist, Experience Design Librarian at Champlain College, will begin her term as section president.

Public Libraries Section: Jennifer has no report at this time.

Technical Services Section: Stacey reported that Wendy Sharkey held an unconference event for the Technical Services section on Tuesday, April 3 at the Bennington Free Library. Thirteen individuals attended all of whom use Koha for their ILS. The biennial Birdie Award was supposed to be awarded this year, but unfortunately no nominations were received. The future of the Technical Services Section needs to be addressed since Wendy and I have not been able to find anybody interested in taking on a leadership role, and it seems that the consortia VOKAL and Catamount as well as the Public Libraries section and the College and Special Libraries section might already be fulfilling the needs of tech services library staff. It has not been an active group since coming under the umbrella of the VLA in 2013.

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

Youth Librarians Section: Adele reported that in response to the upcoming summer reading program, a Summer Reading Librarian Resource List will be published by May 11 to the youth services mailing list. This is a list of librarians who are willing to answer questions and share information about Summer Reading for librarians who are new to summer programming or other librarians who might want to bounce around ideas.

Awards Committee: Lisa has no report at this time.

Government Relations Committee: There is no report at this time.

Inclusion Committee: Jessica has no report at this time.

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Angele reported that the John Swan Lecture happened April 12th. It was a small turnout but hopefully in the future moving the meeting to happen as part of the VLA conference will increase our numbers. She is still waiting for an invoice from the speaker but will submit that to the board as soon as it is received.

Finally, Angele reported that she is moving in June and we will need a new chair for the IF committee. Currently she has no one in mind, so please have people contact her if they have ideas.

Membership & Outreach Committee: Christine reported that there are currently 205 members for 2018, 35 of which she believes to be new. There was no postcard mailing for this year as she didn't have any guidance as to how that was to be done. It doesn't look like the lack of mailing has affected membership very much, as we are only slightly below where we were this time last year. An email will be going out this week to those

who have not yet renewed and, if time, an email to Libraries about VLA to be passed onto staff who may not be familiar with us.

Christine is currently in the process of comparing conference registrations with memberships to see if anyone has registered as a member without an actual membership.

She would still like to see a database program be utilized for membership, as doing this in a google spreadsheet is much more time consuming than a database would be. The endless copying and pasting of information makes me nervous that data will be lost. Scrolling through 70 columns and over 200 rows also makes it difficult to search for things that people request. So much more could be done with a database, including targeted email blasts for membership renewals, conference registration/membership comparison, section involvement, easy searching for lapsed memberships, etc.

Personnel Committee: Sarah has no report at this time.

Scholarship Committee: Jami reported that so far in 2018, the Scholarship committee has awarded:

- A 2018 VLA Graduate Student Scholarship for \$1500 to Susan O'Connell of East Hardwick, VT (we received 2 applications for this scholarship)
- A Spring 2018 Continuing Education Grant for \$250 to Billie Langlois of Castleton University (we received only 1 application for this grant)
- 18 applicants full registration cost to attend the 2018 Annual Conference – the funds to support these scholarships came from the Department of Libraries (we received 20 applications, but 2 were not members of VLA as required)

We will announce the Summer/Fall 2018 Continuing Education Grant in July, with applications due August 1st. Last year, we did not receive any applications for the Summer/Fall grant, and our application numbers are very low overall. We may want to consider renaming the Continuing Education Grant to the Professional Development Grant to make it clear that it can cover conferences, webinars, etc. We may also want to consider increasing the amount or only offering it once a year for \$500.

Conference Committee: Jeanette reported that as of May 3 (8 days before deadline) we have 264 people registered for the conference. We may max out our room capacity for workshops! The conference program is ready to go, meals have been ordered, and room assignments made. IF all of our sponsors honor their commitments (not all the checks are in the door) we will be ending the conference in the black.

The VLA business meeting is scheduled from 8:45 – 9:00 and section meetings during the mid-day break. We are counting on Joy to bring the bugle to call the business meeting to order. We have some nice door prizes including a free architectural review of a library. Come hungry, breakfast will be served 8:00-8:45, lunch at 12:00-1:30, and a

mid-afternoon snack at 2:30. Snacks and a cash bar will be available at the 5:15 reception.

American Library Association Councilor: Marti has no report at this time.

New England Library Association Representative: Steve has no report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Libraries Update: Tom reported that the move is quickly approaching. Once they are settled there is likely to be an open house. VTLib will be moving to a closed stacks model where an appointment is needed in order to gain access. The newspaper portal is now live with over 200 million articles. Renewal of the Vermont Online Library is now in negotiations. VTLib welcomed a new staff member—Joy Worland is now a consultant for continuing education as well as small, rural libraries. The state certification program is back up and running. The department took a small budgetary cut, but on the whole, funding is in good shape. VTLib is transitioning from a regional model to a more centralized approach, while getting in line with state/federal regulations. There is a session that features VTLib at the upcoming conference.

Use of VTlibraries List Serv: Daisy Benson is going to create a survey concerning use of the list serv. It will also be briefly discussed at the conference at the end of the day.

Library Legislative Day: Cindy reported that she attended Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. While there she attended training, learning what congressmen value, etc. Scott Murphy, Peter Langella, and Cindy met with Senator Sanders. They also met with Peter Welch and Patrick Leahy. Their main talking points were: asked for reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act (S.2271), funding for LSTA and literacy program, and invite elected officials to come visit a library. Peter Langella asked all three to attend a presentation at CVU. Cindy would like more VLA members to become involved in this event (ex. Government relations committee).

Discussion of Past President position: Joy will not be able to serve as past president due to her new position at VTLib. The plan is for Margaret to serve another year in the position.

VLA Conference Update: Jeanette and Margaret were not in attendance to provide a report. However, Kelly has a concern about the business meeting being so early in the morning as she will not be able to get there in time to take the minutes. In addition, new section leaders will not be elected yet and therefore cannot be announced to the full membership. Joy will discuss this with Jeanette and send out an email concerning any changes.

Viability of Technical Services section: Stacey reported that there is not much interest in the committee due to other venues/consortium meetings, etc. No entries for the Birdie award were submitted this year. Stacey and Wendy are not sure they are the right people to be reinvigorating the section. There was mention of declaring the committee inactive for the time being. Tom suggested a possible solution might be offering CE credit for serving on VLA committees.

Privacy Statute: Joy reported about research done in regards to the possible lowering of the age statute from 16 to 13 in regards to privacy—there is a long, sorted history. Adele is concerned about lost items/fines, etc. Joy found quite a range of ages in the other states she researched. Thirteen was chosen because it is the age at which you can get a social media account. Cindy recommends doing more research and collecting feedback from youth services staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Next Meeting: May 18—VLA Conference, Lake Morey

The meeting was adjourned by Joy at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. McCagg
VLA Secretary