

Vermont Library Association
Stowe Free Library, Stowe
September 14, 2016

Voting Members Present: Margaret Woodruff, Joy Worland, Virgil Fuller (remotely), Kelly McCagg (remotely), Angela Bernard, Beth Dietrich, Nancy Mark (remotely), Jennifer Murray, Stacey Knight, Ian Gauthier, Kelly McElligott, Toni Josey, Amy Wisehart, Karson Kiesinger (remotely)

Non-voting Members Present: Tom McMurdo

The meeting was called to order by Margaret at 10:03am.

MOTION: Margaret Woodruff made a motion seconded by Joy Worland

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 8th MEETING AND THE CONSENT
AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 14th PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG**

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Margaret reported on the following projects:

- VLA Library Database Project: Joy and Margaret have started work on this. We sent an appeal to all public libraries and have received many offers of assistance. Next, we will ask volunteer participants to complete a survey and then continue to be listed in the database that is created from the survey results. If we missed you and you'd like to take part, please let us know.
- Libraries Transform: Amy Wisehart, Marty Reid and Margaret will meet later in September to discuss the most effective and inspiring ways for Vermont libraries to use this ALA-sponsored advocacy program. Amy attended a Libraries Transform workshop at the ALA Annual Meeting in June and both of us participated in the NELA Advocacy Summit held in July.
- Sustainable Libraries: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich who spoke as the keynote at the VLA Conference in May has asked if the VLA would like to be part of the advisory board for a project to create a national sustainable libraries movement. Margaret would strongly support this and has offered to be the VLA contact member. In connection with this, she would like the VLA to review the sustainable libraries materials that Rebekkah and her committee in New York State have put together. Ultimately, she hopes we can run a sustainability audit

for the VLA (a little unwieldy but a good first step) and then provide guidelines for all Vermont libraries.

Margaret also reported on the following news items:

- **School Libraries:** The VLA provided a letter of support for VSLA to read at a recent Burlington school board meeting. The meeting focused on the budget cuts to the Burlington school district and VSLA and individual teacher librarians spoke on behalf of reinstating the funding and staff for school libraries. See attached for a copy of the VLA letter which was also sent out to the VLA board prior to the meeting on August 9.
- **Government Affairs:** Following NELA Advocacy Summit, VLA is looking to move ahead with launch of “Engage.”

Vice President: Joy has no report at this time.

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

Treasurer: This summer Virgil, Margaret and Angela successfully added Vice President/President elect Joy Worland to all four VLA bank accounts as a signer. She also opened a new passbook savings account for the VLA, into which she transferred a little more than \$10,000 from a 24-month CD that had matured on July 3rd (this action was approved and agreed upon at the 2016 board retreat held in June).

There has been some confusion this summer with regards to who has paid for VLA memberships and who has not. Please note that this can sometimes be tricky because a lot of checks come from town offices with no information attached. Whenever possible, please be as specific as possible when mailing payments to the VLA. Please always include a slip with a description of what exactly is being paid and for whom. This was especially tough during conference time because checks came in with no information and Angela was making phone calls to various libraries and towns to find out who and what the payment was covering. If you’ve received multiple reminders for a payment you’ve already submitted, please be patient and we apologize for the inconvenience!

Secretary: Kelly McCagg has been working on creating a formal agreement for the VLA Conference Chair. After contacting several state library associations and ALA, she drafted a Memorandum of Understanding, as suggested by Jeremy Johannesen of NYLA, which is included as attachment.

Kelly would also be willing to serve as a Vermont representative for the Sustainable Libraries initiative.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Bethany reported that she and Alana have made a lot of progress planning their fall event, Reaching Across the Aisle, Reaching Across the Desk: Engagement, Inclusion, & Outreach in Academic Libraries. It will be at Castleton University on October 21.

We have managed to get some corporate sponsorship to offset some of the costs of food and are still seeking more. We've also put out our call for proposals and have begun to receive responses. If you know anyone doing interesting things to engage students or create a more inclusive environment in an academic library, please encourage them to present. You can see our full CFP here: <http://goo.gl/forms/DpzjKWPKO1X6NO972>

Public Libraries Section: Christine reported that the Public Libraries section is planning a fall workshop on Friday, September 23rd at 1:00pm at the Art Gallery Meeting Space at Main Street Landing in Burlington. Andrew Piper from McGill University will be our guest speaker. Mr. Piper has done all sorts of interesting work in the digital humanities, and will be speaking about his 2012 work *Book Was There: Reading in Electronic Times*. The work is a meditation on where reading has been and where it might be going in the digital future.

Technical Services Section: Due to Rachel's recent job change, Stacey has no report at this time.

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

Youth Librarians Section: Ian reported that VLA had a great presence at Vermont Comic Con this year. We raised \$69 dollars for the scholarship fund by raffling off donated items (solicited from local businesses and vendors by April), handed out tons of stickers (we still have some of the original ones from the first year), and showcased recently published graphic novels while chatting about interlibrary loan services. Additionally, we had supplies so people could make their own custom stickers. Tracy Hannah from Brownell Library did an excellent job coordinating the event for us.

Awards Committee: Amy has no report at this time.

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

Government Relations Committee: Selene has not report at this time.

Inclusion Committee: Amanda has no report at this time.

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Ray has no report at this time.

Membership & Outreach Committee: Kelly McElligott reported that we have 281 current members, with 71 also participating with NELA. Kelly would like to discuss how much money should be allocated to mailing postcard renewal reminders. Helen Linda reported that failure to send reminders results in far fewer members. Our current list of current and expired members is 990. Current and members who have expired in the last three years is 596. Last year we spent \$527 in postage, which was over our current budgeted amount of \$500. There is also the cost of getting the postcards printed.

There are 10 outstanding membership applications for which we have not received payment. Kelly is following up with these individuals.

Nancy Tusinki reported that 31 institutions have access to the Vermont Library Substitute Pool (VLSP). Fifty substitutes have signed up to be on the VLSP list. Nancy's fall plans include reaching out to those libraries who may not know about VLSP. She also contacts each library and substitute to verify information and make sure they want to continue to participate. A complete count of participating libraries/substitutes by county can be obtained from Nancy.

Personnel Committee: Shara reported that the last breakdown in salary information has been completed by Alan Howard. We can now include salaries by operating budget. We should be ready to post the complete results of the survey on the website by our September meeting. We are continuing to work on an additional tool kit for hiring. She has been able to provide the salary and survey charts to several library directors and board members.

It would be great to have a couple more people on the committee, so please let Shara know if there are members who are interested in volunteering.

Stacy Knight is working on a survey to send to academic librarians in hopes of determining whether or not doing a salary and benefit survey would be helpful. We would like to roll this out by October 1st.

We could also use more members to volunteer as mentors.

Scholarship Committee: April is on maternity leave and has no report at this time.

Conference Committee: Toni has been working on drafting a conference manual and timeline. The committee is scheduled to meet on September 8th. Toni submitted an article to the VLA News asking if someone would be interested in serving as co-chair for the committee for 2017-2018, and she has already received one response.

American Library Association Councilor: Amy reported that Council business during the ALA Annual conference in June included the passage of several resolutions. These include:

- A resolution to urge the ratification by the U.S. of the Marrakesh Treaty to give access to international published works for blind and visually impaired people – voted yes.
- A resolution calling upon libraries to build more inclusive communities, a response to the Orlando shootings that urges libraries and librarians to engage with communities to combat violence, discrimination and hate – voted yes.
- A resolution in support of the professional cataloging processes and determination of the Library of Congress – supporting the decision to replace the subject heading “illegal aliens”, a decision that has become politicized in Congress recently – voted yes.
- A resolution on equity for school libraries, particularly regarding adequate funding and staffing for school libraries, and access to library resources for all students – voted yes.

In addition, two proposed resolutions were debated in depth and deferred to working groups: a resolution on gun violence, and a resolution about the role of chapters in the American Library Association. Both are likely to come up again at ALA Midwinter in January. I would like VLA Board input into the gun violence resolution and hope that we will have a few minutes to discuss this during the meeting.

ALA leadership also devoted part of our first Council meeting at ALA Annual to a discussion of the Libraries Transform initiative (www.librariestransform.org). Sari Feldman, outgoing ALA President, launched this campaign last year and ALA plans to continue and deepen the campaign over the next 3-5 years. They encourage state associations to get involved by adopting and/or promoting the campaign as well.

New England Library Association Representative: Karson reported that the NELA Board met July 15, 2016. At the request of NELLIS co-chair Krista McLeod she resent information to the VTLIBRARIES listserv to encourage Vermonters to register for NELLISII (held Aug. 23-25) because no one from Vermont or Rhode Island was registered. There are no updates about NELLISII at this time.

In regards to advocacy, we may want to contact Connecticut Library Association representative Gail Hurley who reported ALA's Edge Tool would be available August 1 for CT libraries to use.

Karson attended the NELA Advocacy Summit July 17; it was well attended, and she was impressed with the information provided. She did a small write-up for the VLA News.

NELA's Academic Librarians Section's stand-alone conference will be Friday, November 18, 2016 at UMass-Lowell Inn & Conference Center; theme: Academic Library as Maker Space. More details will be made available.

The VLA/NELA joint conference will be October 22-24, 2017 in Burlington.

OLD BUSINESS

Engage: Margaret reported that she has not heard back from the Government Relations Committee in regards to Engage. Margaret would like to put it up to a vote in November to move forward with launching this program. Additional information can be found at <http://cqrollcall.com/engage>.

VLA Strategic Plan: There was a detailed discussion of the goals and action items. Highlights include keeping advocacy as a goal; the importance of library standards and the certification program; checking in with Ray from the Intellectual Freedom committee; and a discussion about creating an adult programming listserv. This will be revisited at the unconference. Toni recommended talking to Joe Farara who was president when this current plan was written. The complete strategic plan is available at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/about/strategicplan/>.

NEW BUSINESS

Expanded Learning Providers: Joy reported on programs she attended this summer in regards to Act 77, an act relating to encouraging flexible pathways to secondary school completion (<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/Acts/Act077.PDF>). Libraries could serve as natural partners to schools, but there would need to be advocacy work done to present ourselves as such. Mara Siegel is also working on this initiative.

ALA Resolution on Gun Violence: Amy reported on a controversial resolution that was presented at this year's annual conference in regards to gun violence. ALA passed a gun violence resolution on June 30, 2015 (http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/governance/council/council_documents/2015_annual_council_documents/cd_45_gun_violence_final_final.pdf). The amended resolution would ask to "oppose "gun friendly" state legislation, in particular any legislation that permits the carrying of guns in or near libraries and schools." There was a detailed discussion. Many people felt that this does not fall under the umbrella of the ALA and by including it, it would diminish the other important work the organization is doing. Each voting member present was asked if they would support the proposed update to the resolution.

YES: 0

NO: 12

ABSTAIN: 1

Conference Committee: Toni reported on the latest meeting (see attached minutes). Due to the upcoming NELA Conference, an unconference will be held in May 2017. As such speakers and discussion topics will be decided right there on site, depending on what attendees want. There was mention that another unconference may be needed in May 2018 in order to take into account fewer presenters and attendee budgets. The conference committee will be sending out a letter asking libraries to plan for larger

continuing education budgets in order to accommodate the NELA conference and unconference.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the Memorandum of Understanding. Toni asked for access to all necessary resources including the Treasurer and Membership Chair. The following changes were recommended: change reports to monthly; will submit minutes from all committee meetings; add send out call for proposals at least 7 months before; keynote, venue, theme, and date at least 8 months before. Because of the May 2017 unconference an addendum will be added to this year's agreement to clarify what points will not be required.

Virgil Fuller left at 11:41 am.

Institutional Support Form: Amy will check with other state groups and will report back.

Membership--Postcard budget: Kelly McElligott reported that we need to organize a push on membership as we are down 30 members from last year. She is hoping to send out the reminder postcards in mid-October and is happy to include a "save the date" for the unconference. There was a discussion about whittling down the number of postcards mailed by sending one to each institution, instead of each staff person. There was a consensus that individual cards should be sent to each friend and trustee.

Karson Kiesinger left at 12:05 pm.

Sustainable Libraries: Margaret spoke briefly about this. Nancy, Joy, and Kelly McCagg are interested in helping.

VLA Communication: Margaret reported on Slack, a cloud-based team collaboration tool. Leanne Galletly set up VLA with a free account. Committees may find it helpful as it will avoid long email chains.

Jennifer Murray reported that Christine needs a number of how many people plan to attend the PLA workshop on Friday, September 23rd at 1:00pm at the Art Gallery Meeting Space at Main Street Landing in Burlington. Angela needs the name, address, and email of the speaker in order to send out a check.

Future Meeting: November 16, 2016 at Midstate Regional Library, 578 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin VT

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. McCagg
VLA Secretary