

Vermont Library Association
Board Meeting (Online)
March 14, 2018
DRAFT

Voting Members Present (remotely): Joy Worland, Margaret Woodruff, Cindy Weber, Jeanette Bair, Marti Fiske, Shara McCaffrey, Adele West-Fisher, Alana Verminski, Stacey Knight, Jennifer Lee Murray, Angele Mott Nickerson, Nancy Mark, Steve Picazio

Non-voting Members Present (remotely): Tom McMurdo

10:02 Joy called the meeting to order.

MOTION: Joy Worland made a motion seconded by Cindy Weber.

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8th AS PREPARED BY
KELLY MCCAGG.**

YES: 11 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: Joy Worland made a motion seconded by Cindy Weber.

**TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH AN AMENDMENT
REGARDING BUDGET**

YES: 11 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

CONSENT AGENDA AMENDMENT: VPR is requiring VLA to have liability insurance for the VLA summit. The amount would be \$135 for the day.

MOTION: Jennifer made a motion seconded by Shara.

**TO APPROVE EXPENSING \$135 FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THE
SUMMIT IN APRIL**

YES: 11 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

John Swan Lecture Update: Angele Mott Nickerson reported that the Intellectual Freedom Committee has scheduled their annual lecture for April 13th 6:30 p.m. at the Shelburne Town Hall. The speaker will be Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the Deputy Director of the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom, and the focus of this program will be on Intellectual Freedom and Internet Privacy for libraries and individuals. The Flying Pig will have relevant materials for sale and will donate 10% of its proceeds to the association, specifically for John Swan Lectures.

There was discussion about funding this program. It was mentioned that the Public Libraries Section would not be providing a program this year, so those funds are available if the cost of the lecture exceeds the budgeted amount.

Report from the Department of Libraries: Tom McMurdo reported on the move of the Department of Libraries to the Vermont Historical Society's building in Barre. The department will be downsizing from 60,000 square feet to 8,000 square feet. 84% of their materials must go, so they are being offered to those public libraries that use the state's ILL services. Anything remaining will go to Better World Books with proceeds going back into the department's budget. The move is scheduled for July 1st. The department will host an open house once things are settled. The department's service model will be changing from walk-in appointments to scheduled appointments with a closed stacks model. A continuing education consultant will be hired bringing the department up to 18 staff members. The department will see a small reduction in the upcoming budget but Tom is not concerned as all departments are seeing small reductions. The department has been working on its communication to libraries and has provided online office hour sessions. Morale at the department is optimistic.

VLA Conference Update: Jeanette reported that conference registration opened up last week. Conference scholarships are available. Jeanette would like to see a conversation sometime regarding the future direction of the conference. She believes that this conference will be a break-even event. (Half of the conference fees will go towards the venue.) Some vendors have not committed since they just attended the NELA conference this past fall. There was discussion about having a direct link on the renewal form for conference registration. Jeanette and/or Joy will ask the webmaster. Shara asked about conference committee member expense reimbursements. She will provide a reimbursement form for them and will perhaps have a link to this form on the VLA website.

Rolling Membership/Renewals: So far there has only been \$420 in membership income. No renewal notice was sent. Post cards may be sent, but Joy will send out an email reminder in the meantime. The association will soon have software that can deal with rolling membership. Tom asked if the association considered 2-year discounted memberships. Discussion was had regarding library budgeting of staff memberships and annual budget constraints. Discussion was had about the difficulty of directors signing up their individual staff members online for membership renewal and conference registration, which have to be done individually for each member. Registration for the conference is through Eventbrite. The online brochure has a link to Eventbrite conference registration and for renewal of membership.

Feedback on Mentoring Program Draft: Joy asked for discussion of the mentoring program draft sent with the consent items. There was discussion about how to match up the mentor and the mentee. According to Marti, NELA contacts the mentor

and provides a mentee name. The mentor is responsible for the initial contact. There was discussion about which current VLA committee (membership or personnel) or a new committee should take on the roles of the mentoring program. It was the personnel committee that was widely agreed upon. Some suggestions were giving members an opportunity to request mentoring throughout the year instead of only at membership renewal time, reminding people of this program throughout the year, and creating a spreadsheet listing available mentors. It was proposed that mentoring match-ups should be based upon library size and purpose as opposed to geographic compatibility. Tom commented that the mentoring program would be a great VLA service since the Department of Libraries is receding from one-on-one consultation services.

AARP's Little Free Libraries Proposal: AARP would like to collaborate with VLA in providing Little Free Libraries in rural areas to increase access to reading materials for their constituents. Joy felt that this would be great exposure for VLA but had concerns about the quality of the little libraries and the materials they house. We are not sure of VLA's role in this project. Joy will find out more details before the next meeting.

Edelweiss: This vendor approached Joy about providing discounted rates for members. The consensus seemed to be to not pursue this opportunity.

Net Neutrality: Margaret, Joy, and Marti reported that there is nothing new for net neutrality. Angele has a statement on net neutrality on the website.

LSTA and IAL Funding: According to ALA, Peter Welch has not signed the LSTA funding yet. There seems to be some disagreement on that so they are looking into it. Signatures are due on Monday. The support for the LSTA and IAL funding is currently about half compared to the support this time last year. Lack of signatures does not mean that the funding will not be supported at the time of the vote. Letters to the senate will be drafted next week. March 22nd is the deadline for the federal budget.

VLA Budget: Marti asked for budget clarification regarding funding for the ALA Councilor. There was an entry error that Shara will fix and send out revised financial statements. There was also some discussion about the financial loss that VLA incurred last year and the sustainability of the association. The loss occurred, according to Shara, due to lack of income from the unconference, NELA costs, lawyer costs regarding the EIN change, and National Library Legislative Day costs that were not expected. 2018's expenses were \$21,397 and income was \$22,279. Joy said that the VLA Summit in April would focus on sustainability and making the association more robust and focused on a mission, which should result in an increase in membership.

Next VLA Meeting: May 9th 10:00 at Midstate.

Respectfully submitted,

**Cindy Weber
VLA President**