

**Vermont Library Association  
Annual Business Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel, Burlington, VT  
May 12, 2009**

DRAFT MINUTES

The annual business meeting was called to order by VLA president Judah Hamer at 4:50 p.m. with approximately 43 persons present.

The minutes from the last annual meeting were approved.

**Presidents Report (Judah Hamer)**

Judah gave the following highlights:

**Youth Librarians section** did a program on preparing programs on a shoestring.

**College & Special Libraries (CSL) section** did a program on developing a customer service focus in your library. It was their first experiment with doing a webinar instead of having a program people had to drive to.

**Public Libraries section** did a program on marketing.

Both the Public Libraries and Youth Libraries are doing a fall program.

**Advocacy Committee** is a small committee but they're doing a great job. They work with other committees. For example they've worked with the Government Relations Committee in the past and with the Conference this year.

**Membership** is currently at 303 members, with 40 new. We're down about 65 members vs. last year. We will send another postcard reminder. Not having a regular print newsletter may be affecting membership because that served as a reminder.

Our **ALA and New England Library Association (NELA) representatives** both blogged from their conferences on the VLA website. Also, NELA is willing to partner with us for future conferences.

**Vermont Library Conference (Judah Hamer)**

Judah explained there's been trouble sustaining the conference for last several years. There are not enough people volunteering to keep it going. The level of commitment is too high. It is also a financial issue. The costs have outstripped our capacity to fund it via sponsorships, exhibits, and conference fees.

Consequently, we made the decision not to have a 2 day conference in 2010. This will give us an opportunity to look differently at how we deliver professional development and solve some problems – such as travel to this conference for people in southern Vermont.

Judah mentioned being VLA president has allowed him to meet people across the state and he appreciates that everyone has reached out to him and provided him a sense of community and a strong professional network.

Teri Austin expressed concern whether there would be future conferences once we stop doing this one. Judah said we may partner with other organizations like NELA. VSLA (Vermont School Library Assoc.) may partner with their tech conference. He anticipates things will look different in the next few years.

### **Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (Gail Weymouth)**

Judah thanked Trina Magi and Gail Weymouth for their work. Gail distributed a written report [Attachment A]. She said it was a busy year due to implementation of the Confidentiality Statute and the Brook Bennet murder, which resulted in a law enforcement visit to the Randolph library concerning it. Gail commended the Randolph Library staff for their bravery – she’s very proud of them. VLA got a lot of hate mail for the privacy legislation after the murder. When the case comes to trial, she believes there will be more. She urged us to be supportive – respond when opinion pieces appear rather than let things hang out there. She mentioned the committee members who’ve all worked on this.

Gail mentioned going to the “Intellectual Freedom boot camp” Judith Krug organized. She urged us to keep fighting for intellectual freedom. She said national security letters with gag orders have increased. We need to keep pressure on the legislature to roll back sections of the Patriot Act that infringe on our rights. Judith Krug fought for our freedoms. We need to keep an eye on other legislation that will chill speech. It’s not ok just because Obama is in power. We no longer have Judith to fight for us. Vermont has had good representation because of Trina. We need to form partnerships with 1<sup>st</sup> amendment groups and bookstores.

She thanked the VLA Board for its support and **asked for a volunteer to take over chairing the Intellectual Freedom Committee**. She’s served for many years and needs a break.

Judah introduced **Charlotte Gerstein** - the new president of the College & Special Libraries section.

### **Treasurer’s report (Wynne Browne)**

Our budget last year was budgeted with approximately a \$5,000 deficit but the deficit turned out to be \$1,200. Gail said Wynne has done fabulous job in her first year. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report [Attachment B] was approved.

## **Election of Officers**

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed with the following nominations:

For Vice-President/President Elect (1 year each):	Marti Fiske
For Secretary (2 years):	David Sturges
For ALA Councilor (3 years):	Nancy Wilson
Write-in Candidate:	_____

## **Election results**

All on the ballot were elected.

## **Secretary Report (Brenda Ellis)**

Brenda announced that the bylaw and constitution changes last year passed. For full details see her report [Attachment C].

## **Judith Krug Memorial Resolution (Nancy Wilson)**

Nancy read the Judith Krug Memorial Resolution [Attachment D]. It passed with all in favor.

## **New Business**

John described the VLA process whereby as the VP-President elect last year, he now becomes President this year. He thanked Judah (now Past President) for working with him.

## **Vermont Library Conference Future (Judah Hamer)**

The conference is not sustainable even though people like the conference. No one likes it enough to volunteer to coordinate it and this year we are in the red (running a deficit). There is no way we can continue to do a 2 day conference every year. In 2011 we have an option to partner with NELA. In the interim, next year we may have a significantly scaled back event - either a one day or half day event on a college campus which would be cheaper. He welcomes input for what we can do. We still need to have the VLA Annual Meeting. So we won't have this kind of conference next year, but we can do something.

David Clark proposed that once a year all types of librarians come together. We could take advantage of the 2 days to get together and talk about what we want the future of libraries in Vermont to be. DOL is required to present every 5 years a plan to the federal government re: how it will spend money. He feels all organizations should contribute to this planning. In 2 days we could come up with ideas. We would need to get some process/discussion leaders. Perhaps

have a dynamic speaker then have breakout sessions. Thus this would be a broad statewide planning opportunity.

Larraby Fellows mentioned she gets a lot of professional development opportunities through online webinars at her desktop. She'd like to see a series of online events where we could log on and meet several times throughout the year.

Someone else commented that medical libraries are looking to partner with public libraries. Medical libraries haven't been part of the DOL focus. There could be more partnerships so that the public could use medical library resources. Gail Weymouth suggested having a one day meeting where each section could meet on the same day or meet with cities groups.

Jerry Carbone encouraged people to go to the **FutureOfVermont.org** website. It was a two year process where over 4,000 Vermonters were surveyed re: their vision and values for Vermont. Libraries would fit in well, especially the digital age vision and privacy values. It could be a good starting point for an overview.

**Other State Library Associations:** Trina Magi asked if we are looking at other associations and what they are doing? Are they facing the same challenges? Judah reported that other northeast libraries are having similar issues, especially with volunteers. Massachusetts has volunteer problems but they have the numbers to make a conference happen. Maine has moved to an every other year format after taking a year off. New Hampshire is facing similar issues too. Jerry suggested that the NELA executive board meetings are a good place to discuss this issue. Marti Reid said she'd be attending NELA's "Connections" – where they get together with their counterparts.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

Recorded by Brenda Ellis, VLA Secretary, 2007-2009.