

Vermont Library Association
Annual General Membership Meeting
May 20, 2014 | Saint Michael's College, Colchester VT

Meeting called to order: 2:11 pm

Present: 80 members (approximately)

Scott Murphy moved to approve last year's general membership meeting minutes. Amy McMullen seconded. **Minutes unanimously approved.**

Committee Reports: Sarah Costa gave a report on behalf of the Membership Committee. There are currently 243 members, with 43 new members in 2014 - more new members than last year.

Section Reports:

The Technical Services Section elected to start a Birdie Maclellan award, which will be given biannually for excellence in tech services.

Treasurer's report: FY 2013 ended in the black. At the end of the year our assets were over \$63,000 including the John Swan lecture fund. All funding details are available from the treasurer, whom you are welcome to contact anytime with questions.

President's report: Amber reflected on a great year for VLA. The new website looks beautiful and works well. VLA hosted the John Swan lecture, social networking events, a tech unconference, and regular section meetings. We reinstated the legislative breakfasts as part of reviving the government relations committee, which also released press releases regarding the proposed house budget and worked with lawmakers on a library-related bill.

She also spoke on the importance of professional organizations and the importance of this one in particular as a presence in VT. She reiterated that such organizations are only as strong as their members and that the leadership is member-driven. With two vacancies (for President and Vice President) on the executive committee, she called for volunteers and nominations for anyone who would like to lead.

Virgil Fuller nominated himself for Vice President.

Toni Josey nominated herself for President.

Secretary's report: Sarah brought before the membership the board's movement to amend the bylaws as previously submitted in writing to the membership.

Trina Magi proposed a secondary amendment to amendment #6 that would strike out language allowing elections to proceed by voice vote on a slate. Amy McMullen seconded her motion.

Trina justified her position, saying that requiring a voice vote for each candidate rather than for the slate would allow members to vote against a candidate they thought unfit to serve, even when no other candidates are running. **Secondary amendment unanimously passed.**

The membership then voted on the bylaw amendments as amended. **Amendments to the bylaws unanimously passed.**

Election

All candidates were unanimously elected.

President: Toni Josey

Vice President: Virgil Fuller

Treasurer: James Patrick Allen

Public and Special Libraries Section President: Amy Wisehart

Public and Special Libraries Section Vice President: Kevin Unrath

College and Special Libraries Section President: Prudence Doherty

College and Special Libraries Section Vice President: Laura Crain

Technical Services Section President: Tom McMurdo

Technical Services Section Vice President: Kelly McElligott

Youth Librarians Section President: Amy McMullen

Youth Librarians Section Vice President: Nicole Westbom

Trustees Section President: Laurel Stanley

Trustees Section Vice President: *Vacant*

Amber then reflected on the coming work for VLA. She hopes to see online membership and conference registration forms this year, as well as joint membership possibilities with NELA and other professional organizations. VLA can do more to foster library leaders in Vermont, and a state-specific library leadership workshop would be great to see. She also wants the sections to sponsor more events throughout the year.

VLA approved a new strategic plan to guide our work over the next few years. It has four sections: advocacy, education, intellectual freedom, and membership. Our advocacy work is already underway with a newly active government relations committee, revived legislative breakfasts, and work on library related legislation. One next step would be to analyze and visualize the VTLib statistics to help libraries use that data to tell their stories more effectively.

She'd also like to see VLA create an annual calendar and finish cleaning up its infrastructure.

Under education, VLA can provide scholarships, revive its mentorship program, continue organizing a wonderful conference, and create more partnerships with ILS Schools.

For intellectual freedom, we will provide IF resources on the web page, as well as a directory of lawyers specializing in these issues for libraries. We've already reinstated the John Swan lectures on the IF front as well.

We've gotten a lot done on the membership front, and there's more work yet to do. First steps will be getting registration online, researching membership management software, and creating a members only listserv. We're now on Instagram; feel free to tag us.

Amber thanked everyone for a wonderful meeting and conference.

Meeting adjourned: 2:40pm

