

**Vermont Library Association Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 1, 2014 | 10am - 12pm**  
**Midstate Library Service Center, Berlin, VT**

**Attending:** Christine Friese, Amber Billey, Scott Murphy, James Allen, Amy Grasmick, Jessica Summer, Heather Grev, Wynne Brown, Sarah Costa

**Attending Virtually:** Charlotte Gerstein, Deb Hoadley, Nancy Tusinski, Lara Keenan

Meeting called to order : 10:10

Scott moved to approve the agenda and Wynne seconded. **Agenda approved.**

**Presentation from Deb Hoadley**, current president of NELA: NELA wants to collaborate more with state associations. They can bring in bigger names for programs than individual states may be able to. They're also working to enable more collaboration between sections and across states. They're supporting library legislative actions within New England. Most of all, NELA is interested in supporting leadership development within state association boards.

Amber suggested using NELA and its conference as an opportunity to connect people across roles - connecting state association presidents, treasurers, etc. Also, it would be helpful for NELA to facilitate connections across the more rural northern states of ME, VT, and NH.

NELA's other area of focus this year is encouraging noncompeting membership in professional organizations. Deb suggested adding a "Join NELA" box to state association memberships to help grow NELA membership without forcing people to choose between state and regional membership. This would also increase mentorship opportunities across the region. As VLA is currently looking to revitalize its mentorship program, this may be a good area for collaboration. Amber agreed that we should look into joint memberships.

NELA needs help in building networking opportunities across the rest of New England beyond Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Deb is looking for a way to formalize and manage meetup opportunities. NELA is welcome to list VLA events on its events calendar.

NELA will have a table at VLA and can put promo materials in VLA Conference swag bags.

NELA will be looking for an events coordinator to help change its own conference organization process. Burlington may be able to host the NELA conference in 2017 or 2018.

**Treasurer's Report:** Scott moved to approve the 2014 budget; Heather seconded. **Budget unanimously approved.**

We can file taxes by postcard this year because we have had three years of less than \$50,000 in income.

Conference and VLA accounts were merged two or three years ago - any money the conference or anything else makes is VLA money, a significant portion of which goes to the conference.

Jessica would like to revisit this model in the future, as she is concerned that the conference has no budget and that she can't sign checks for anything - deposits, speaker fees, mileage scholarships, etc.

Conference chair will be added as a signer to the account, along with the VP, President, and incoming treasurer.

Vote on Resolution 2014.1 to add Amber, Scott, Jessica, and James as signers to the account: Jessica moved; Wynne seconded. **Resolution 2014.1 unanimously approved.**

The bank wants our Articles of Association to add new signers. The Secretary of State should have these on file, but has not returned our requests thus far. Paul Carnahan could not find any such articles in our archives. We have a credit card that can be used as long as no one has to sign anything, since Wynne's name is on it. A better system to change signers on accounts and cards would be welcome, but the banks haven't suggested anything so far. Wynne will give Jessica the credit card number for the time being.

Paypal update: James has to be a signer before we can upgrade the account.

**Membership and Outreach Update:** We all need to renew our membership!

The new site is up. Amber would love to have a static homepage, but for now the Board is definitely agreed that we should filter the jobs out of the homepage news feed. Amber suggested adding a Twitter feed sidebar. We also need to remove the 2013 conference info from the old conference site so that it stops being the top Google result. Jessica and Amber would both love to have Wordpress user accounts.

VLA News call for content will be going out this week. Content should be conference focused.

**Conference:** Jessica is working on registration. We'll be using an all paper registration because Paypal was a disaster last year for comps and group ticket buys. Registrations should be going to Jim's work address at UVM. John will need a tally of who signs up for which sessions so that a week or so before the event we can match up rooms with attendance sizes. We'll use the online app Sched this year for the conference.

We have two big memorials this year for Elizabeth Howlett and Birdie MacLennan. The awards committee would like to recognize the memorials, the award recipients, and those earning certificates at the opening of the conference before the keynote. Amber will give a remembrance of Birdie, and Grace will be asked to speak about Beth. Names of retirees should still be emailed to Amy.

**Elections and nominations:** Scott and Sarah are the committee thus far. We need people for VP of every section except Public Libraries. Next year we are supposed to have an academic rep for executive VP. We should be presenting a slate of candidates rather than voting on each individual.

Candidates for VPs should be sent to Scott and Sarah ASAP.

**Updating strategic plan:** Scott moved to approve; Wynne seconded. **New Strategic Plan unanimously approved.**

**Bylaws:** for simplicity's sake, we should amend the bylaws to allow sections to host interest groups. Committees need to be updated to include scholarship, awards, inclusion, and conference committees, and to merge communications and membership committees to

become the membership and outreach committee. Amber proposed that we amend the bylaws to reflect the current structure of VLA and to allow for official electronic communications, and to clarify representatives. Any proposed amendments must be mailed to the membership thirty days before the general meeting. Wynne moved the motion; Sarah seconded. **Motion to submit amendments to the bylaws unanimously approved.**

### **General section updates**

We'll have breakout sessions for each section at the conference. Each section is asked to do some sort of event at the conference.

**Public Libraries:** Tech Unconference is Apr. 9 at Midstate. Lara is working on spending the Lions' Club donation on multicultural story packs and will get a thank you note to them soon with a progress update.

**VTLib:** Thank you for supporting the Spring Trustees training. They're doing an April 12 Buildings day for Trustees. VLA committed up to \$2000 to support that. Illinois asked Vermont to be a partner in ILEAD U, an IMLS supported librarian development and training program. Mara Siegel and Amy are attending right now as interns to learn how to lead the program. VTLib will also be having a management training series for library directors starting this fall.

**ALA Representative:** see attached report. The ALA strategic plan is open for comment, and ALA elections are running through April 25.

Amber proposed that we fund library commercials on WCAX for National Library Week once again. Jessica moved to do so; Heather seconded. **Motion to fund NLW spots on WCAX unanimously approved.**

**Meeting adjourned: 12:20pm.**