

VLA Board Meeting

January 11, 2007

Norwich University

A P P R O V E D M I N U T E S

Present: Megan Allison, Selene Colburn, Barbara Doyle-Wilch, Donna Edwards, Lise Ewald, Teresa Faust (recording), Larraby Fellows, Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Lisa von Kann (presiding), Linda Wells, Nancy Wilson.

Minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved.

Budget report

Donna Edwards distributed the year end budget report (2006) [Attachment A], and the budget report to date for the current year (2007) [Attachment B]. The proposed 2007 budget will be emailed after the meeting. The John Swan Endowment now has its own line under income. The budget will be amended to show separate lines for a lobbyist and for the printing of a brochure.

State Farm Insurance can furnish a \$50,000 bond for the treasurer at a cost of \$90 annually. We will also have to pay for a background check; \$150 should cover both the bond and the background check. The need for a background check should be included in the treasurer's job description. Is the bond transferable, since we change treasurers in the middle of the year? Donna will check on this.

New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) sent a letter stating that its need for donations continues. As the original donations sent to New Orleans were not from VLA itself but from events or collections held at individual Vermont libraries, the board will not make a donation to NOPL. We will try to let Vermont libraries know donations are still being accepted, in case individual libraries want to collect funds.

Vermont Fairness Alliance

Lisa von Kann received a request from the Vermont Fairness Alliance (VFA), asking for VLA "to endorse and/or join" its coalition, which advocates "fair budget and tax priorities in the '07 legislature and beyond." Prior to the meeting, Lisa emailed VFA's request, along with a list of endorsing organizations and prominent individuals, to the members of the Board [Attachment C]. After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to have VLA officially endorse VFA, as the issues VFA is addressing are not directly connected to VLA's mission.

NELA money request

Lisa reported that NELA is again asking for financial support for Counterpoints. NELS has been postponed until 2008. As NELA seems to ask us every year for money for one program or another, it was suggested that we put NELA donations into the budget. It is unclear whether NELA is asking all state library associations for the same amount of money, which the Board feels is not reasonable. Lisa will get back to NELA for more details.

Conference

Larraby Fellows distributed an update on the conference [Attachment D]. She reported that the emphasis at this year's conference will be on hands-on learning. Thomson Gale is sponsoring the conference, to the tune of \$1,500. We have a new conference coordinator, Maureen McLoughlin.

Newsletter

Barbara Doyle-Wilch reported that the next print newsletter will be out in a week, and it will solicit email addresses to which the newsletter's "online extra" will be sent. She and Lise are looking for area reporters to work as stringers for the newsletters. After some discussion, the name "VLA News Online Extra" was chosen, to emphasize that the print version is still around.

Bylaws

Teresa Faust led the board in review of the VLA constitution and bylaws, examining areas identified by the executive board as possibly in need of revision. In the interest of time, only articles I through IV were covered at this meeting. This process will continue at a forthcoming meeting. Proposed changes must be approved by the membership.

Confidentiality statute

Trina Magi distributed a memorandum listing steps we need to take to propose a new confidentiality statute for Vermont [Attachment E]. She reported that she talked with two legislators to get a feel for the level of support we could expect. These two were very supportive and said they thought there would not be any trouble in getting the statute passed. State Librarian Sybil McShane is also very supportive. So is our lobbyist. However, because some education should be done among our own membership on this issue, and this same group of legislators will be in office next year, Trina is wondering if we could put the legislative push on this issue off until next year. Considering the great effort involved with state funding of libraries this year, the consensus of the board was agreement with a delay, in order to increase awareness of the issue among the membership. Trina will ask the lobbyist if there would be any harm in waiting until next year.

Government Relations

Linda Wells distributed a note she sent the county coordinators about Legislative Day, January 12 [Attachment F], and a flyer for the event [Attachment G]. There will be three speakers.

Announcements

Marianne Kotch distributed a program for the workshops VLTA and DOL will offer during the Town Officers Educational Conferences, to be held in four locations in April [Attachment H].

Daisy Benson pointed out that it is VLA's turn to send a representative to Legislative Day in Washington, DC. VLA alternates with VEMA for this.

Adjourned.