

Vermont Library Association
Board Meeting
March 9, 2006
Norwich University, Northfield

FINAL MINUTES

Present: Daisy Benson (presiding), David Clark, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Amy Grasmick, Deborah Kahn, Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Hannah Peacock, Lisa von Kann, Linda Wells.

Called to order at 9:33 am.

Minutes amended and approved as corrected.

Consent agenda approved, after Pat updated the Membership Report to 318 members as of March 8.

Budget report

Donna Edwards distributed the current budget report [Attachment A]. She remarked on the amount of revenue received for membership and said Pat Mardeusz was doing “an incredible job” as Membership Chair.

Our accountant has advised Donna that a number of tax laws have changed. He said we need a conflict of interest policy. Possible sources for example policies were mentioned. Donna will draft a policy for the next board meeting.

Government Relations Committee

Linda Wells distributed a report from the committee [Attachment B], along with a sheet of questions/answers and talking points on state funding for public libraries [Attachment C].

It appears that more legislators attended legislative breakfasts this year than last.

Details on the status of the legislative study on public libraries is contained in the committee’s report. The committee has received much more positive reaction than negative. Wording of the resolution may change. Deciding how funding can be equitable will be a struggle. DOL, BOL, citizens, representatives, librarians, were all mentioned as possible members of a study committee.

ALA Councilor

Trina Magi gave a heads-up on issues mentioned at ALA Midwinter. One of these is “65% solution” bills being introduced across the country. These say that 65% of a school district’s budget must be spent on direct classroom instruction. Unfortunately, the National Center for Education Statistics excludes libraries being considered direct classroom instruction, while including such things as soccer uniforms.

So-called academic bills of rights which state that students should have a say in their curriculum (my pet theory must be taught) are also appearing.

ALA has released a new intellectual freedom manual. New salary data is also out, and is now available broken down at the state level.

Trina distributed a flyer about a copyright advisory network that promises a 48-hour turnaround [Attachment D].

Changes in the PATRIOT Act do not include any substantive change in Section 215. Trina prepared a USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization Timeline [Attachment E].

Survey of library directors

Trina reported that 148 of 211 surveys have been filled out, a return rate of 70%. June 1 is the deadline for the report. On the question asking whether the Vermont statute on patron record confidentiality should be strengthened, 74 respondents said yes, 26 were not sure, and 7 said no.

Personnel Committee

Amy Grasmick reported that the Personnel Committee is updating the compensation report and including an expanded insurance section. The committee is using writeboard.com to collaborate.

A salary and benefits survey of Vermont librarians will not occur by May. Brought up in the discussion were the possibilities of including such things as rate of staff turnover, the quality of services offered, a comparison with other town employees or school librarians. An academic librarian survey is also likely.

The committee will send letters of congratulations to those achieving DOL certification and trustee training.

The committee has decided not to push for VLA to offer medical insurance, coming to the conclusion that this is outside the committee's scope.

Strategic Plan

Daisy Benson asked that Board members send her information on what they are currently involved in that fits into the strategic plan. Information on the strategic plan is being shared with the membership via the newsletter about to go out. The next issue of the newsletter may be late, due to illness. The strategic plan is to be adopted at the July board meeting.

Notice of the annual meeting must be sent out 20 days prior to the meeting. If not included in the newsletter, it may be sent out separately.

Announcements

The Nominating Committee is still soliciting nominations for vice-president/president-elect, treasurer, and ALA councilor.

Something about fundraising for New Orleans Public Library will appear in the next newsletter.

The agenda for the annual meeting will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Hannah Peacock described the upcoming CAYAL workshop, Programming Outside the Box, scheduled for April 27 at Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Presenters will include Lost Nation Theater, a preschool storyteller, yoga for adults and kids, a child psychologist, and possibly Native American drumming or another music feature.

Marianne Kotch distributed the DOL FY2007 Strategic Overview [Attachment F], Facts About Vermont Public Libraries 2006 [G], and VLTA Programs at 2006 Town Officers Educational Conferences [H].

Marianne also announced that the summer reading program booklet was now available; this is a consortial effort with 30 states participating.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.