

VLA Board Meeting
May 11, 2006
Norwich University

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

Present: Daisy Benson (presiding), Paul Carnahan, David Clark, Selene Colburn, Maggie Drown, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Amy Grasmick, Grace Greene, Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Hannah Peacock, Lisa von Kann.

Minutes from the March meeting approved after correction.

Budget report

Donna Edwards distributed the annual financial statement that will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting [Attachment A], and the year-to-date budget report [Attachment B]. A question about the sale of pins at the conference was asked; income would be attributed to the Intellectual Freedom Committee, not the John Swan endowment. The membership income is “amazing,” thanks to Pat Mardeusz’s work and the dues increase. The tax return is in process.

Donna also distributed a draft conflict of interest policy for review [Attachment C], along with sample policies from other organizations [Attachment D]. This should be placed on the agenda for a board meeting in July or in the fall.

Archives

Paul Carnahan gave an overview of the VLA archives contained in the Vermont Historical Society (VHS). He distributed a VHS VLA archives scope and contents note [Attachment E], the organization scheme of VLA records held by VHS [Attachment F], and an organization chart of VLA from 1979 that appeared in the *Encyclopedia of Library & Information Science* [Attachment G]. The last is relevant in that the organization chart is the basis of the scheme used to designate files in the VLA archives for a considerable time period. The VLA archives are currently grouped into three time periods, 1894-1965, 1965-1985, and 1985 onward. Paul will likely begin a fourth group with the year 2000. He recommends that officers send only those files to the archives to which they will not need immediate access. Officers may have copies of reports filed by other officers or committees, but these will already be in the files of the principals, so may be discarded. Membership forms and workshop registration forms do not need to be saved. A lot of business may be conducted via email, therefore a sampling of email traffic should be archived in print form. The VLA web site should be printed out periodically, as when substantive changes are made. The Vermont Library Conference will probably be given its own record set. VLTA used to be its own organization and is now considered a section of VLA; Paul is not sure yet how these records will be treated. The *VLA Newsletter* will be its own file. Several officers took advantage of Paul’s presence to hand over records passed on to them by their predecessors.

Government Relations Committee

Lisa von Kamm presented a Government Relations Committee (GRC) proposal that VLA hire a lobbyist to follow through on its work to increase state funding of libraries. What appears to be happening is that the GRC is essentially doing the work of a study committee, so instead of lobbying for the formation of a legislative study committee, VLA could be proposing specific figures and formulas for library support. It was noted that the Freeman formula was one the legislature was familiar with and a similar formula could perhaps be developed for state funding. Marianne Kotch reported that the GRC was scheduled to meet with State Librarian Sybil McShane at the end of the month, and plans to continue meeting through the summer. David Clark mentioned that it would be important to point out specifically how the funding will improve

library services. Trina Magi pointed out that the results of the library directors survey she conducted may be useful for concrete ideas; the survey results are due to Sybil by June 1. A lobbyist may be useful in working to strengthen the confidentiality of library records. Trina also recalled that some lobbyists were interviewed by VLA a few years ago. Perhaps a lobbyist who specializes in cultural affairs could be retained. There may be an IRS restriction on how much money can be spent on lobbying.

The board agreed in principle that hiring a lobbyist is something it could support, but we need a specific dollar amount and scope of work before we commit to it.

Board retreat

Daisy Benson confirmed that after the success of last year's retreat, a board retreat is planned for July, with the goal of "making good transitions" from outgoing to incoming board members and planning goals for the upcoming year. Friday, July 14, is the intended date. Lisa will ask if Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington can be the site of the retreat again this year, as it served us so well last year in terms of location and space.

Personnel Committee

Amy Grasmick reported that Lucinda Walker will present the *Increasing Library Compensation* report at the annual meeting. The report was distributed to the members of the Board [Attachment H]. The report will also be posted on the VLA web site. There are some differences from the previous report, including an update on the minimum salary, inclusion of medical insurance, a bibliography, and an appendix consisting of worksheets. The report was admired by all present.

Next project on the Personnel Committee's agenda is a survey of salary and benefits for academic librarians in the state.

NELA

Daisy reported that NELA has asked VLA for \$500 for their Counterparts program [Attachment I]. VLA was prepared to send Lisa to attend, but questions were raised about why we are asked for additional funding. It was agreed that this request came on short notice, that we would not send any funding, and Lisa was not going anyway. [NOTE: NELA has since canceled Counterparts for this year.]

As NELA is being held in Burlington in October, it was suggested that VLA offer to host a similar meeting of state counterparts during that conference.

Katrina relief

Daisy reported that Burlington College raised \$226 for the New Orleans Public Library. She plans to have an area at the Annual Conference for donations and information about the statewide campaign. It was suggested that the pin sales for Intellectual Freedom may be partially used for Katrina relief. Daisy will check with the Intellectual Freedom Committee about this.

Awards Committee

Grace Greene reported that the Awards Committee received more award nominations this year than in previous years. This year's awardees are:

Penny Pillsbury, Brownell Library, Sarah Hagar Award
Kim Cushman, North Bennington, Trustee of the Year

Pat Belding, author of *Where the Books Are*, Green Mountain Award

Grace also reported that the Awards Committee was concerned that the Sarah Hagar Award was being perceived as a retirement award. Because more than one worthy individual may be retiring in any given year, perhaps a letter or certificate of appreciation could be sent to all retirees. The Awards Committee would be willing to take this task on.

Announcements

David Clark reported that the Northshire Bookstore in Manchester was named Bookstore of the Year by *Publisher's Weekly*. As we are also in the book business and the store is located in our state, David drafted a letter of congratulations on behalf of the board. Daisy will sign and send on the board's behalf.

David also mentioned that the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier was closing for a week in May and another in October due to tight finances.

Agenda for Annual Membership Meeting

Daisy went over the agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting, which will include approval of last year's minutes, financial report, election of officers, presentation of strategic plan, Personnel Committee report, state funding legislation report, and passing the torch on to Lisa. Daisy will prepare handouts for the assembled throng.

Adjourned at 11:55 a.m. for annual end of year lunch at Sarducci's.