

Vermont Library Association  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 11, 2003  
Norwich University, Northfield

FINAL

In attendance: Ellen Hall, Charlotte Maison, Jenny Hermenze, Daisy Benson, Marianne Kotch, David Clark, Richard Shrake, Karen Lane, Krista Ainsworth, Marty Reid, Trina Magi, Gail Weymouth, Teri Austin, and Mary Kasamatsu.

Introductions

Welcome to Richard Shrake from Ilsley Library. Richard is one of two candidates chosen to attend the NELA Leadership Conference.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Daisy Benson presented minutes from the May 2003 meeting, along with a list of those who had offered to volunteer when they sent in their membership. Minutes were approved with minor changes.

There was discussion of whether to post draft minutes on the public part of the VLA website, in deference to those issues that normally would be handled in an executive session. Daisy will work with Carol to get all approved minutes posted for her term as secretary.

Minutes of the July 17, 2003 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Krista Ainsworth

Budget reports were distributed with projections and worksheets for planning the 2004 budget. There was discussion of in-kind expenses. Ellen suggested people keep general track of in-kind costs in case incoming board members' organizations could not absorb them. Krista has not yet billed everyone for advertising in newsletter. She will follow up.

### **Announcements**

#### *Conference Leadership*

Ellen Hall affirmed the Association's confidence and support for the leadership of the VLA and VEMA conference co-chairs.

#### *Goodnight Moon*

David Clark reported his conversation with the Education Coordinator of the Shelburne Museum about ways to encourage librarians to visit the *Goodnight Moon* Exhibit at the Museum. There was discussion of whether to arrange a single day of free admission to librarians or designate the month of October for half price. Richard suggested the month

of October for half-price with a designation of Sunday, October 19, as VLA day. The Association will send post card notices to the membership when arrangements are finalized.

#### *Drexel University*

Ellen distributed copies of an offer from Drexel University about establishing a relationship with the Association. The University has a full online program, with tuition of \$550/credit. Drexel would offer 20% discount on tuition for any course to Library Association members, reducing the cost to \$440/credit. If VLA elects to do this the arrangement could be finalized at the November meeting. Action taken: Voted to authorize Ellen to pursue further information and report back at the November meeting.

### **Section Reports**

#### *Public Library Section – Marty Reid*

The Public Library Section meeting will be a workshop for libraries to better use, promote, and gain funding support for the Vermont Online Library (VOL).

Marty has had an inquiry from the National Park Service regarding how libraries handle corporate sponsorship. Marty asked if anyone had or knew of policies regarding sponsorship or gifts, and the rights of donors in determining how gifts are used.

#### *CAYAL – Teri Austin*

Teri discussed possible speakers for the CAYAL conference, which probably will be in April. Marianne Kotch's suggestion of a bus trip to the Eric Carle Museum in Northampton, Massachusetts, was enthusiastically received.

#### *VLTA – Marianne Kotch*

The topic of the annual fall conference, scheduled for October 25, is *Finding Common Ground: Building Community for Better Libraries*. The governor will be the keynote speaker. Workshops will focus on board/librarian relationships, team building, and fundraising.

#### *College and Special Libraries —*

Ellen Hall presented Radka Ballada's report on the "No Librarian Is an Island" conference. Notices will be sent out.

### **Organizational Representatives Reports**

#### *ALA Councilor -- Trina Magi*

Library Journal notified Trina that Representative Sanders will receive their Politician of the Year award. The magazine will be available September 15 on the LJ website. Ellen suggested libraries display the article.

ALA response to CIPA – The meeting with representatives of filtering software developers was called off due to protests. Now ALA is gathering information on the

costs of filtering, developing criteria for evaluating filters, giving information about what libraries need to do to be in compliance with CIPA (for those that decide to accept filters). Trina clarified the requirement to filter: If you accept federal funds for Internet access, you must filter.

Delegates discussed whether ALA should take a position regarding individuals sharing music files.

#### *NELA* – Charlotte Maison

Dates of the upcoming conference are October 26-28 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Charlotte shared program information. Special guest authors are Robert Pinsky, former Poet Laureate of the United States, and Dan Brown, author of the *Da Vinci Code*.

#### *Leadership Symposium* – Richard Shrake

Richard reported on his experience in attendance at the New England Leadership Symposium last summer. He described this weeklong program as a “library vacation” and an opportunity to meet and talk with other librarians involved in fostering positive change.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### *Government Relations* -- Marianne Kotch reported for Linda Wells.

The committee plans to do a book cart for legislators during National Library Week, this year with more structure. They are also planning VOL demonstrations, and will explore holding a reception for legislators. Libraries are encouraged to hold legislative breakfasts. The committee will also sponsor an early December conference on the topic of *schmoozing* —how to talk to legislators, select board members and anyone else about your library. They also plan to have a column in every issue of the VLA Newsletter.

#### *Intellectual Freedom* – Gail Weymouth

2004 is the year for the John Swan lecture. Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation for Church and State will be the speaker. There will be another auction to raise money for the endowment.

Gail has been fielding a lot of questions on CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) and has been researching filters. She is concerned that filtering fosters a false sense of security.

#### *Membership* – Daisy Benson

386 members to date. Renewals will begin in December. The December/January newsletter will carry “this is your last issue” notices.

There was discussion of regional member get-togethers around the state.

#### *Personnel* – David Clark for Nancy Wilson

David reported on Nancy’s initiative to get free passes from museums that could be loaned out to patrons. The idea was presented that VLA approach the Vermont Museum

and Gallery Alliance. The board voted that Krista Ainsworth would present the idea to VMGA at their next meeting.

*Conference – Jenny Hermenze*

Jenny presented an overview of the conference evaluation, reviewed the conference budget and clarified arrangements for returning surplus income to the Association. Jenny and the VEMA co-chair have already met. The first meeting of the full conference committee will be in mid-September. They will be simplifying procedures and working more collegially this year. Two-thirds of the committee are returning members; one-third are new. Co-chairs will review job descriptions and propose revisions clarifying roles to the Association boards. The contract with a new coordinator will be negotiated by the presidents of VLA and VEMA.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 13, at Norwich University.