

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting
September 11, 2013
Midstate Library Service Center - Berlin
10am - noon

Meeting called to order: 10:09am

Present: Heather Greb, Jessica Summer, Charlotte Gerstein, Helen Linda, Amy Grasmick, Daisy Benson, Christine Friese, Lydia Willoughby, Wynne Brown, Christine Webb, Laurel Stanley, Sarah Costa

Introductions: A new round of introductions were made

Approval of minutes

The 2013 annual meeting minutes will be approved at next year's annual meeting by the body of members present then. It was decided that minutes from both board meetings and retreats should be approved and posted online. Helen motioned to approve the retreat minutes, Lydia seconded; minutes unanimously approved.

In the May 8 minutes on page 2, paragraph 3, Daisy requested that unclear wording be changed. The change was approved and Sarah agreed to send updated minutes to Helen. Jessica inquired about whether a co-chair for the conference would exist; the consensus was that a co-chair could volunteer, but VLA has not historically appointed or paid a co-chair. Helen moved to approve the amended May 8 minutes, Wynne seconded; minutes unanimously approved.

Board Updates

Amber thanked everyone for a great retreat. The VP has resigned, and Amber is working with Grace to find a good replacement - ideally someone who has been a Vermont library leader for a while. We may also be looking for a Treasurer in training. There was a discussion on the challenges of doing professional development and advocacy work as librarians when we must do so during our own personal time. Helen suggested having the personnel committee look into what best practices other states have around staff support for advocacy and professional organization leadership. Amber is meeting with Denise Wentz and will see how this is handled on the VSLA board. Once we have a full set of officers together, Amber will start working on a strategic plan that could be brought to the November or January board meeting.

Officers' reports

Secretary: nothing to report.

Treasurer: VLA is in good financial shape. We're under budget in both income and expenses. Total assets are \$61,606, this includes funds held in the PayPal account, which shows on the financial report as 'Checking 2.' \$11,000 of the \$61,606 is the John Swan Fund.

Special fund explanation: the John Swan Fund is a \$10,000 CD that was donated long ago. Interest from that CD is deposited in a checking account to fund the John Swan

Intellectual Freedom lectures. NELLS is a scholarship fund for the New England Library Leadership Symposium.

The funding process for NELLS needs to be made transparent and explicit. Daisy mentioned that at one time VLA had a condition that scholarship recipients must serve in some leadership position within VLA after attending. Wynne suggested having the education committee take up this issue. Amber redirected us to the fact that we can and should formalize what VLA as an organization does with NELA and NELLS. Helen urged us to have the scholarship committee look at the structure of the awarding and support of NELLS scholarships. Amy suggested that as the most recent recipient of the NELLS scholarship, Lydia take this information to Scott Murphy (the scholarship committee chair) to bring him in to the discussion.

Budget planning - Wynne will be sending out spending logs to the board. The goal is to break even with expenses, but since we do have money in the bank, Wynne encourages everyone to make funding proposals for any ideas they might have.

Wynne concluded her report by urging sections to have their fees support their expenses. Proposals can be submitted any time to the board for approval. Send receipts to Wynne for reimbursement. There are no formal rules yet around what can be reimbursed, though if Wynne thinks a request is dubious she'll bring it to the board for approval.

College and Special Libraries: nothing to report.

Public Libraries: VLA hosted a happy hour in Burlington with about 20-25 people attending. They'll be doing it again in Windsor county and Montpelier, with advertising prior to the events on Facebook, Twitter, the newsletter, and the website. Lydia informed everyone that they need to be less camera shy. A new Unconference is also in development right now; Lydia is planning it with Lara Keegan, Jessamyn West, and a few others. The mentorship program will hopefully be launched by October.

Tech services: Section needs a vice president. It would be nice to have someone in acquisitions, since the section is cataloging heavy.

Trustees: Trustees section/VTLib Trustees conference will be all day November 2 at the state house with keynote speaker Stuart Comstock-Gay, President of the VT Community Foundation. The Friends Group Association will be joining the conference this year. The conference will focus on advocacy, fundraising, capital campaigns, and things that both trustees and friends will find useful. Call for registration will be going out hopefully by 9/14.

Membership in the Trustees section is very low, and Helen mentioned that the current registration form perhaps inappropriately lumps trustees and friends together.

Youth: The first event will be a children's librarian forum held 10/15. Mara offered to put future youth services events up on the VTLib website so people could register there. Sarah and Daisy suggested that all section events be listed there, as long as registration makes clear that it's a VLA event and provides a space to specify whether attendee is a VLA member.

Christine strongly agreed that having all VLA events on that calendar would be useful.

Helen is planning to have the new VLA membership form and Paypal setup working by October 1. Christine said that events carry a fee, that payment should happen through VLA, but that VTLib could still advertise and promote the event with their calendar. Christine will clarify the posting process with Mara. Lydia urged us to maintain clear branding to differentiate VLA and VTLib. Helen mentioned the need to have clear processes for posting information, particularly because she sometimes finds out about VLA events in haphazard ways when she as webmaster should be a clearinghouse for information.

VTLib update: The EDGE initiative of national aspirational benchmarks to help public libraries measure service is being test driven in a few Vermont libraries. It does have different benchmark levels for differently sized libraries. VTLib is supporting leadership development in VT libraries by developing a management institute over the next few years as a VT version of NELLS.

Charlotte asked about VOL changes. The RFP went out this week, and the new contract will be enacted in January.

Government Relations: Selena will be sending a report later.

Intellectual Freedom: Christine said Marty and Ray have been talking about a number of initiatives, including a dog and pony show on IF that could be taken around the state. Charlotte and Wynne confirmed that we are an institutional member of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Membership: Current membership is 341, only a few down from last year. This time last year we had 25 new members, this year we have 40. The new membership form will hopefully be live in October. Helen will be ironing out the kinks that came up with conference registration last year. Jessamyn and Helen are working on building the new website from scratch rather than trying to shoehorn the old site into a new framework. It'll still be a Wordpress site on LIS Host. They're hoping to roll out the new site sometime at the beginning of 2014.

Amber asked us to archive information from past conferences. Helen said it may already be archived, but she doesn't know where. They'll see if they can find it.

Newsletter: The last newsletter was great! The newsletter heads don't want to chase after people, but doing so *is* in the position description. A follow-up email to contributors would be called for. Also, everything submitted for publication *should* be included. Helen recommended that the heads determine how and when they want to receive submissions, and that they make that information explicit so writers know the procedure. Daisy asked about a publication schedule: the newsletter is quarterly, but we need to make deadlines clearer. Helen will tell the chairs to write up deadlines and submission procedures to be included in the handbook.

Personnel: not present.

Scholarship: not present.

Awards: Amy requested that we let her know as we hear about VLA members retiring. Daisy mentioned that we should think about recognizing former members who are retiring, and Amber asked that we table it for now but definitely consider it in the future.

Conference: Jessica sent out RFPs yesterday for St. Mike's and VTC for any day in the week before Memorial Day. She'll be sending a SurveyMonkey out to members soon for location preference. She's still looking at the possibility of a gas scholarship for southern attendees if the costs are significantly in favor of keeping it in Chittenden County. New committee members are welcome; currently all VPs are on the committee but may not yet realize that they are. There will really only be three committee meetings, so it's not a huge time commitment. Each section needs to somehow be represented, so if the VP can't do it, the President should either represent the section or delegate someone else.

ALA: The ALA council spent a lot of time talking about resolutions to endorse Snowden and Manning and to divest from oil companies, but none of these resolutions passed. ALA is working to support libraries around educating the public about the Affordable Care Act. Christine said Vermont is ahead of most of the country on this front. Declaration on the Right to Libraries is ALA President Barbara Stripling's new nationwide initiative. ALA is asking us to appoint a coordinator who can organize declaration signing events. Christine suggested that some folks who finished the Turning the Page training might be willing to work on this, and Daisy suggested using the Government Relations section. Charlotte is willing to be a contact person but not an event planner. There should be a toolkit available from ALA, and the coordinator could just send that information out to directors rather than organizing the events themselves.

NELA: report submitted; see addendum.

Health Science Librarians Interest Group: There's an interested group of health librarians that would like to be a roundtable rather than a section. Helen said catalogers also wish they still had a roundtable and suggested allowing roundtables to be nested under other sections. Daisy said we were probably too small for that to work. We may not need to officially endorse such groups, but we can still promote their events without having them be part of VLA. Helen suggested that we can even sponsor outside events from such groups, and Wynne said they could get VLA event funding by requesting it like any VLA section would. It was suggested that the group come address the board about what they would like to be, what they'd like to do, and how that fits within VLA, particularly with the new Health Care developments. Charlotte suggested they be an interest group. Helen said interest groups may have once been in the bylaws. Amber will examine the bylaws to see how we might incorporate this group.

Ad hoc committee to update the bylaws: Daisy, Christine, and Jessica.

Ad hoc committee to update the website: Helen, Heidi, Jessamyn, and Sarah. Others are welcome.

Bequests: The Lion's Club donated \$340 earmarked for literacy. We could have either a literacy program at the conference or a standalone event. Laurel moved to give the funds to the public libraries and children's sections to do a literacy event over the coming year. Wynne seconded; motion unanimously approved.

Vermont Public Library Foundation: discussion tabled to next meeting.

MAD magazine censorship: a school library in VT has a principal trying to censor MAD magazines at the request of an offended middle school student. VSLA is already organizing around this. Wynne suggested alerting the VT School Board Association, since they have a lot of policies and guidelines around censorship. It was suggested we alert the IF committee to monitor the situation as it develops. Jessica requested some sample school board policies be posted for reference in situations like this where parents, staff, or board members are challenging library materials or collection policies. It was agreed that VLA let VSLA know that we are behind them with whatever actions or statements they make on the issue.

Vermont Education Quality Standards: Denise would like some quotes from VLA to take to VSLA and the Secretary of Education on this issue. Wynne said the difference in the new standards is that they're outcome oriented, so our statement should touch on the outcomes libraries help achieve. Daisy and Amber will work on developing a statement after the meeting and will send it out later today. Christine said that VSLA has access to good national data, but we're sadly lacking in state data around school libraries and outcomes. We need better ways to collect measurable data from K-12 schools about library specific programs and outcomes. Daisy has one report on what incoming UVM freshmen know, but more data and reports are definitely needed.

Next meeting: November 13 at the Hartness Library of the Vermont Technical College in Randolph Center.

Report from NELA Representative Nancy Tusinski

September 11, 2013

The 2013 New England Library Association Conference “Libraries as Community Partners” will be held October 20-22 in beautiful Portland, Maine. Registration materials can be found at the NELA website: www.nelib.org. The early registration discount is applied through October 8, 2013. About a half a dozen bloggers will be reporting before, during and after the conference. You can check out previews of some of the conference programs on the blog at: www.conference.nelib.org.

Come early to the conference! Networking opportunities begin on Saturday, October 19th. Take a tour of the Portland Public Library at 2pm or 3pm, and then get ready for a sunset cocktail cruise on Casco Bay at 5pm.

The famous NELA games will be held at the Portland Public Library on Monday in the Rines auditorium. You may also visit the Maurice Sendak art exhibit at the library at this time.

A \$10.00 contribution to NELA’s educational assistance efforts (scholarships to NELA conference for example) will get you a sassy NELA/MLA “Librarians on the Rocks” mixing glass.

NELA new incoming officers who will come on board at the annual business meeting on October 22 in Portland, Maine:

Stephen Spohn – Vice President/President elect Stephen is a consultant trainer and coauthor of *The Library Strategic Planning Toolkit*.

Amy Howlett – Junior Director – Library Development Consultant with the Vermont Department of Libraries. She will serve NELA for 2 years both in helping to direct the business of the organization and in connecting services to our members.

Denise Van Zanten – Treasurer, Denise is the Director of the Manchester Public Library in New Hampshire.

Please visit the NELA website and NELA news for more information about the new incoming officers.

Please remember that if you have never attended a NELA conference before, you may be eligible for a scholarship! For more information please see the registration materials on the NELA website or feel free to email me at left-handedlibrarian@gmail.com or call me at the library 802-674-2863.

Nancy Tusinski