

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting
Midstate Library Service Center | Berlin, VT
May 13, 2015 | 10am

Meeting called to order at 10:03am.

Present: Kelly McElligott, Shara McCaffrey, Howard Burrows, Sarah Costa, Helen Linda, Amber Billey, Toni Josey, Nicole Westbom, Selene Colburn, Amy Grasmick, Virgil Fuller, Amy Wisehart, Amy McMullen, Tom McMurdo

Attending Online: April Shaw, Charlotte Gerstein, Jimmy Allen, Prudence Doherty, Karson Kiesinger

Helen made a motion to accept the minutes; Amber seconded. **Motion to approve the minutes unanimously passed.**

President's report

Toni wrote a letter to our congressman in support of including school libraries and librarians in the ESEA reauthorization. Toni is also a new trustee at the Burnham Memorial Library in Colchester. Over the next year she plans to work closely with the new secretary to continue cleaning up our documentation and create a calendar of our activities throughout the year. She'd also like to make a handbook for board members and develop better documentation of institutional knowledge.

Vice President's report

98 libraries are signed up for Passport to Vermont Libraries! This Saturday the committee will be putting together the passports so that the passports and posters will be ready at the conference. Virgil talked to Pat Belding, who will be donating three copies of her book "Where the Books Are" for prizes. They'll be doing an interview with her to help advertise.

Past President's report

Amber thanked Toni for stepping up to the presidency this past year. She expressed confidence in our breaking the tradition of alternating public and academic libraries for presidency in favor of just having people passionate about serving in VLA leadership.

Treasurer's report

We have good income levels (close to budgeted amounts) from both the conference and memberships.

Jimmy would like to change how the treasurer handles Quicken. You can now sync it to things like bank accounts, credit cards, and paypal. He would like to archive our current

Quicken data and start over anew, synced with as many of our other services as possible to share budgets more easily. Jimmy will proceed with caution experimenting with the sync. We also need oversight to reconcile statements regularly; Shara and Toni volunteered to go over statements with Jimmy to reconcile them with Quicken for now. We agreed that the past president from now on will not have signing power on the account and will be responsible for monthly reviews of statements with the treasurer to reconcile the account.

Jimmy set up Paypal, bank account access, tax login information, and more. He also set up a trial version of Lastpass as a secure repository for that sensitive information. Selene moved to approve \$10/yr for Lastpass; Helen seconded; **motion unanimously to purchase Lastpass membership for VLA passed.**

Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

Public Libraries Section report

Spring workshop with 32 people was held April 13 and went well. The keynote was on reference services and readers advisory. Kevin will become section president at business meeting; they're still looking for a VP.

Youth Librarians Section report

Workshop on teen volunteers at Lyndonville (Cobleigh) with ten people; one was also scheduled in the south but only 2 people signed up, so Sharon Colvin cancelled. Nicole is asking Ian Gauthier from Aldrich Public Library to be the VP.

College and Special Libraries Section report

Laura Crain and Prudence revised the president's job description and wrote a VP description. They do have a good candidate for VP and are setting up committees to manage events for the section.

Technical Services Section report

NACO training will be June 9 all day at UVM with veteran NACO trainer from Kent State. At the end we'll have about 8 NACO approved contributors in the state.

The workshop will cost \$75-125 for each participant.

Helen arranged the book repair workshop for the conference; it is now full.

Rachel Gravel from Marlboro College will be asked to serve as VP.

Vermont Department of Libraries Report

Senator Dick Sears in Bennington last week said they (the legislature) need to be serious about cutting nonessential things "like libraries". He's now slightly backed off from that stance. VTLib will still exist on July 1, but what that looks like they still don't know. The state law library is definitely not going to exist. The state missed the deadline to tell people they would be laid off, but it may try to push some toward early retirement. The budget should be wrapped up this week. Tom would like to see VTLib start to tell its story better - what its programs do for people on the ground in the state. Bill Wilson is a consultant working with VTLib to help determine other strategic ways to manage their reduced budget. VTLib cannot legally advocate for itself, so help from VLA - possibly from members who say they want to volunteer - to tell VTLib's and library's stories would be very important and useful.

Trustees Section report

Howard sees huge potential for trustees and friends to be more active in VLA. He is starting to get lists of friends groups together and would love to find more, so please have friends groups email him. He's hoping to find both a new section president and VP from this group. He would recommend every board of trustees have a liaison with VLA and even with ALA.

Howard is back from National Library Legislative Day with Marty Reid. NLLD was great. Both of our senators and our rep have signed on to IAL and LSTA. Charlotte requested we find a more expedient process for advocating around specific legislation in collaboration across the govt. relations committee, trustees section, ala, etc. Selene supported anyone and everyone taking action and contacting legislators around these issues.

Government Relations Committee report

The committee is still a work in progress. Selene will continue chairing this year but will be looking for someone else to take over leadership. Committee met several times over the past year and ended up focusing on the VTLib cuts and advocating for them. The sense of urgency around this advocacy was challenging because it was hard to come up with a specific ask in order to be strong, consistent advocates for specific actions. Selene would like to talk at the retreat about what the focus of this committee should be. They have been traditionally focused on state legislature and Selene is wondering if they should refocus on local government instead. She would also like to better understand the role of this committee around national issues in light of what the executive officers of VLA also do. As a side note, the "Booze in libraries bill" just passed.

Conference Committee report

275 registered for the conference; 30 for the preconference. We have 8 paying vendors and a sponsor for snacks. Jessica is getting bids from other locations for next year. A lot more people are using paypal than expected. Amber is using Brown Paper Bag tickets for the keynote, and they pass the cost along to the registrant instead of the host. It would be great to have a conference photographer - Selene voluntold Daisy Benson.

Inclusion Committee report

Committee had a first meeting and are looking to connect with 211 information. They're eaching out to service agencies to highlight services that might be of interest.

Intellectual Freedom Committee report

No update.

Awards Committee report

Howard Burrows, Daisy Benson, and Karen Lane were on the committee. 4 MLS grads and 6 retirees will be recognized this year. The Green Mountain Award and Sarah C Hagar award will be announced at the conference.

Membership Committee report

288 members as of this morning. Membership is slightly declining overall, but we still get about 40 new members every year. Despite the issue with the Paypal fees, we're going to have Square at the conference so we can sell bags and do on the spot registrations at the conference. Online payments work, but not well.

Personnel Committee report

We had 170 responses to public libraries salary survey, which is similar turnout to last one. The number may be low because many paralibrarians are not getting the survey. Shara has someone working with the data to pull what the committee needs. The committee is getting new information from mentors and mentees. Toni will highlight mentoring on her conference poster.

Scholarship Committee report

Meeting next month.

ALA Councilor's report

Midwinter will be in Boston this year. Charlotte encouraged our section leadership to attend and go to chapter relations committee meetings, meet people, get ideas, etc. Amy Wisehart will be succeeding Charlotte as ALA rep.

NELA Representative's report

We still don't know about NELLs selectees. Law Librarians of New England are interested in supporting public librarians. The NELA Tech section is having a "Reboot your library website" meeting.

2015-2016 Committee Chairs: Amy McMullen moved to approve the slate of committee chairs for 2015-2016; Howard seconded; motion unanimously approved. In the interest of time, discussion of the VLA emergency fund was postponed to the retreat.

A Vermont archivist would like to start an interest group for archives. Prudence Doherty has been the key contact for VT in the Society for American Archivists, and she always refers new members to the Vermont Archives Network. There's effort under way to get a Green Mountain Digital Archive built to unify the work of Vermont cultural heritage institutions with the ultimate goal of getting material to DPLA. No institution in the state that can currently handle the project wants to. Metro New York has a digital archive portal - could VLA do something similar for Vermont?

Meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.