



VLA News

February 2016

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Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the VLA

President's Letter

by Virgil Fuller

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! It's hard to believe that we are less than two months away from spring and with it another Vermont Library Conference! I don't know about you, but I feel that winter hasn't really started yet given the amount of snow we have received thus far.

First and foremost I would like to thank our former treasurer Jimmy Allen, who received a new job at the State of Vermont Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired in November. He did a wonderful job as VLA's treasurer and I wish him the best of luck with his new position. Angela Barnard of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library has stepped in to be our treasurer in the meantime and I know she will do a great job!

I would also like to thank Helen Linda, our incredible jack-of-all-trades Membership and Outreach chair, who is stepping down from her post. She has been an incredible asset to this organization for many years and has provided us with her wit and institutional memory (amongst infinite other things) and will be greatly missed by all of us. She received a job working for the state as a Records Analyst for VTTrans.

I am happy to report that the Vermont Library Association has recently purchased three ebook copies of the most recent *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, now available and ready for checkout on Listen Up! Vermont. As you may know, this manual is edited by UVM's very own Trina Magi. To check out a copy, head on over to <http://www.listenupvermont.org> and search for it by title.

In conclusion (because I can't help myself), I am thrilled to announce some very happy personal news. Last week my wife and I adopted a ten-week-old female beagle puppy. We named her Averill after the small town located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. We are hopelessly in love with her already - just ask if you want to see pictures.

Respectfully submitted,

Virgil Fuller
VLA President
Library Director, [Chelsea Public Library](#)
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Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
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Twitter: twitter.com/@VLAlib

News? Don't despair!
You can read them on
the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

Check out what's
happening with the
[Vermont Library
Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 29
Substitutes: 38

Types of Employers:

Public: 27
Community: 1
Academic: 1

Availability in pool by
county:

Addison: 9
Bennington: 5
Caledonia: 6
Chittenden: 21
Essex: 3
Franklin: 9
Grand Isle: 6
Lamoille: 11
Orange: 6
Orleans: 4
Rutland: 6
Washington: 12
Windham: 6
Windsor: 7

Check out the [VLA Job
Postings](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you.
The people who make
up the Executive Board,
Section & Committee
leaders and
Representatives
volunteer their time for
VLA because they feel
that it is important to be
involved in an
organization that
benefits their fellow
Vermont librarians and
their profession as a

Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association-5172256

Vice President's Letter

by Margaret Woodruff

I attended the ALA Midwinter conference in Boston this January. As a representative of the Vermont Library Association, I took part in the Chapter Leaders Forum held on January 8. During this daylong event, chapter presidents, vice presidents, and executive directors from around the country shared their experiences, challenges and successes. In addition to time for informal conversation, the forum included three presentations highlighting different aspects of library association work: legislative advocacy on a national as well as state level; building credibility as an advocacy leader; and the mission to transform libraries. While some of the information and programs are beyond the scope of Vermont and VLA, some workable ideas included

- Keeping members engaged
- Bundling memberships
- Being the voice of the entire library community
- Making it easier for engagement of all interested parties.

In addition to the Chapter Leaders Forum, I sat in on meetings of the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the ALA Sustainability Roundtable. I also had a chance to learn a bit about the "Libraries Transform" campaign. Drawing upon these resources can provide some structure and inspiration to what we attempt and accomplish here in Vermont.

Margaret Woodruff
VLA Vice President
Director, [Charlotte Library](#)
vermontlibrariesvicepresident@gmail.com

Passport to Vermont Libraries

by Torynce Hathaway

I really liked doing the Passport to Vermont Libraries. It was cool to see all the different libraries. I especially liked the really small libraries. I liked the larger ones too, they seemed endless and like it would take forever to read all the books. One of the best prizes is some of the libraries were doing book sales and let us pick out any books we wanted from them. Others gave out some small prizes and some did not give out anything but that was okay because it was cool to see the libraries anyway. I really like reading so it was awesome to have a program that exposed me to different libraries. I hope they do this program again.

Torynce Hathaway
Winner of the child category of the [Passport to Vermont Libraries](#) contest

To see pictures of Torynce's library adventures, check out the Summer 2015 Passport Pictures on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.511913758982326.1073741830.420789181428118&type=3>

whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders (for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President:
[Virgil Fuller](#)

Vice President/President Elect:
[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Past President:
[Toni Josey](#)

Secretary:
[Kelly Tomaseski](#)

Treasurer:
[Angela Barnard](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section President:

[Laura Crain](#)
Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries Section President:
[Kevin Unrath](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services Section President:
[Kelly McElligott](#)
Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees President:
You?
Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

College & Special Libraries Section

by Laura Crain

In October 2015, the president and vice president of CSL wrote a letter to the board of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) regarding the significant reduction of the library's role in the standards revisions draft (see <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/csl>). In November 2015, NEASC issued a revised draft: <https://cihe.neasc.org/standards-policies/november-2015-draft-standard>. Although the new revised standards do not go as far as we would like in highlighting the importance of librarians and the library's role in an academic institution, the new revisions have added the word "librarians" (section 6.2) and added "services, facilities and qualified staff" to section 7.24: "the institution provides access to library and information resources, services, facilities, and qualified staff sufficient to support its teaching and learning environments and its research and public service mission as appropriate."

In other news, we are pleased to announce that Alana Verminski has stepped forward as nominee for vice president of CSL. Alana is the collection development librarian at Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont.

Laura Crain
VLA College & Special Libraries Section President
Associate Director for Collection Services
[Saint Michael's College Library](#)
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[802-654-2388](tel:802-654-2388)

Public Libraries Section

by Christine Porter

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending my first American Library Association Midwinter conference. While I was only there for the last two days of the four-day event, I had an incredible experience: meeting vendors, attending programs, and having the chance to listen to dynamic speakers including Cory Booker and Chelsea Clinton (Chelsea and I even got to have a little one-on-one chat about the ways we inspire kids to do great things! YAHOO!)

Being a first-time attendee was a bit overwhelming, as there is so much to do in so little time. And for a first-timer, the program booklet was difficult at best, so I was very glad I had spent the previous several days researching all the program offerings and making a schedule for myself. But I still found that I was missing sessions that were of interest to me, simply because I didn't know they existed. Regardless, I found myself engaged by ignite sessions (5-minute sessions each demonstrating a unique idea) covering topics such as supporting new directors, changing technologies, cycling librarians, and offering outstanding customer service (with a smile!) I was riveted by a discussion about the future of libraries in the digital age. And I was surprised to learn about some statistics collected by the Pew Research Center regarding library users and their trends. But what made my conference even more interesting than the presentations were the networking opportunities I had. I got to meet some amazing people just by sitting next to them and striking up conversations. We shared ideas we had learned in earlier sessions, helped each other find our way around, and motivated each other to try some new things when we returned home. I even met someone who has experience with a technology project I'm trying to implement at my library, who is willing to actually come to my library and help make my vision a reality!

President:[Nicole Westbom](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees**Archivist:**[Paul Carnahan](#)**Awards Chair:**[Amy Grasmick](#)**VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:**[Tom McMurdo](#)**Government****Relations Chair:**[Selene Colburn](#)

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:[Amanda Perry](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual Freedom Chair:[Ray Brior](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Membership & Outreach Chair:[Helen Linda](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:[Shara McCaffery](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:[April Shaw](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:[Jessica Summer](#)

As a librarian, I feel it is so important to attend events like this to explore new topics, to meet people who understand what you do, and can relate and share opinions and expertise, to re-inspire yourself (especially if you've been doing this a long time - it's easy to get comfortable and set in your ways and lose the passion you felt when you started your career). I can think of no better way to start the new year than being surrounded by innovative speakers, motivated colleagues, and fresh ideas!

Christine Porter

VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President

Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)
802-674-2556

Friends & Trustees Section

by Nancy Mark

Vermont libraries' friends and trustees: It's time to renew your membership to the Vermont Library Association, or, perhaps, for you to join for the first time. My enthusiasm for membership is a reflection of all I have learned from my fellow VLA board members (special thanks to Howard Burrows, Past President of the VLA Trustees and Friends section), my association with the professional staff of the Vermont Department of Libraries and a strong appreciation of the critical roles that our public libraries play in our Vermont communities.

The 2014 report of the Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries validated that our nation's libraries are "the most democratic of public institutions." As friends and trustees, we are perfectly positioned to help our libraries fulfill their historical purpose by providing lifelong access to ever-growing sources of information, as well as serving our communities as places to gather, collaborate and learn.

Membership has never been easier!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join/>

As trustees and friends, we are in a unique position to promote and support the vital services performed by our libraries through policies, programs and advocacy. As Paul Costello confirmed at the November Trustees and Friends Conference in Burlington, our libraries are "infinitely valuable community centers." VLA looks to each of us, as individual or institutional members, as well as citizens of our towns, for our support for these essential centers of learning.

Nancy Mark

VLA Friends and Trustees Section Vice President

Friend, Castleton Free Library

nmark@brsu.org

Technical Services Section

by Kelly McElligott

For this newsletter I would like to urge everyone to take advantage of the scholarship opportunity for the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL). I had the opportunity to attend the ARSL conference last fall in Little Rock, Arkansas. Most days as a librarian in a small town, interaction with other librarians is quite limited. This conference was exhilarating for numerous reasons, talking with fellow librarians from Vermont and around the country, learning new things, and getting inspired! I chose to have a roommate to save costs – which I am so glad I did – allowing me the opportunity to spend a full four days at

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

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[Heidi Steiner](#)

[Burkhardt](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:

[Amy Wisehart](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA

Representative:

[Karson Kiesinger](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

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the conference and attend the preconference which included an additional class and a walking tour of the area. My roommate and I had chosen different classes but had the opportunity to talk about our learning experiences at the end of the day or at the next meal. The keynote speakers ranged from a sports radio announcer to a famous YA author and an architect as well as author and librarian Josh Hanagarne. Each speaker gave a different viewpoint about libraries, librarians, and an overall community feel.

My classes included Maker-spaces, Data Visualization, Making Flyers, Writing Grants, Readers Advisory and a few more. I enjoyed each and every one of the classes I took! I furiously took notes in each class with the excitement and anticipation that I would be able to share this knowledge with my fellow librarians back home. Each night there was an opportunity to attend a "Dine-around"- this allowed you to choose the restaurant but meet a different group of librarians for dinner. I was only able to attend one "Dine-Around" but it was one of my favorite nights, meeting librarians from all over the country and discussing each other's library world. After my conference, I was asked to share my experience with the board, my fellow staff members and also my hometown librarian (who was very jealous of our state scholarships!) Overall, this experience changed me, energized me and helped me grow as a librarian. I have come back to Stowe Free Library with a renewed passion for my job and an eagerness to continue learning. I have included links for both the scholarship process and the slides that are available from the conference.

Link to ARSL conference presentations at Little Rock; Arkansas :

<http://arsl.info/conference-presentations-2015/>

Link to the scholarship page on the Vermont Department of Libraries (2015):

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/services/grants/scholarships>

If you haven't gone I would STRONGLY encourage applying for the scholarship and attending - the experience is one that I will treasure.

Kelly McElligott
VLA Technical Services Section President
Program & Systems Librarian
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Youth Services Section

by Nicole Westbom

Well, it's that time of year again.... We are all feeling pretty cold and we're covered in snow, but our minds are on SUMMER. Many youth services librarians are already up to their elbows planning for summer programming.

The youth services section is happy to announce that we are working to create presenter showcases for you to see samples of possible programs to host at your library. This year we will have two programs, but if they are well recieved, we will spread out even further next year.

Here is the information:

Showcase 1- Swanton Public Library, Monday March 7th @10AM
1 First Street, Swanton,VT

Showcase 2- Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Wednesday March 9th @ 10AM
135 Main Street, Montpelier, VT

Please email Nicole Westbom with any questions.

Nicole Westbom
VLA Youth Services Section President
Children's Programming & Circulation Librarian
[Kellogg-Hubbard Library](#)
[802-223-4665](tel:802-223-4665)

Membership Committee

by Helen Linda

Are You Our Next Webmaster?

We are seeking a new primary webmaster to join the VLA Membership and Outreach Team. This work is currently being performed by the committee chair, who will be cycling off the board in the next few months. There is also a secondary person who mainly works on back-end projects, serves as your back-up, and has worked on the board for a number of years and can help you navigate. You and your second will want to work out division of labor and all that once you get the lay of the land.

The most regular responsibility is timely maintenance of the Job Board and Events, which includes correspondence with folks seeking to list jobs or events, posting them on the website and Facebook (which auto-posts to Twitter), and removing expired postings so we are current. There may also be appropriate jobs and events that you come across on listservs, Facebook, etc. so we'd love someone who is or is willing to be plugged into those outlets. Additionally, the webmaster works with other members of the VLA board to keep their sections of the website up-to-date, keep the main page looking fresh with current initiatives, build the Vermont Library Conference page as information becomes available, and keep our social media presence current.

Webmaster is not a huge time commitment most of the year, but can occasionally require more attention as the conference approaches, or if a big project is being undertaken by other members of the board. The most important qualities we're looking for in a webmaster is someone who regularly checks email and responds quickly, someone who is good at maintaining consistency and isn't afraid to ask questions, and someone who has a solid knowledge of basic HTML. VLA uses the Google family of products for collaborative work and organizational emails and the website is in Wordpress with a customized theme, so any knowledge of those platforms is a huge plus. There is a lot of room for you to build a team, because many hands make light work, and be creative in how you manage the website and social media.

Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering! Thank you!

Helen Linda
VLA Membership & Outreach Chair
vermontlibrariesmembers@gmail.com

Scholarship Committee

by April Shaw

Graduate Scholarship

There is still time to apply for the VLA Graduate Student Scholarship! VLA will award up to \$1500 to the selected, qualified applicant pursuing an MLS or MLIS degree. The check will go directly to the recipient's educational program.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Must be enrolled in an MLS/MLIS program
Must be an active individual VLA member (institutional memberships are not eligible)
Must live in Vermont and/or work in a Vermont library and
Must not have received a scholarship from VLA in the past two years.

To apply, please fill out the application form, and provide all requested documentation listed on the application. Applications must be received by the VLA Scholarship Committee on or before the application deadline.

Application Deadline: February 12, 2016.

The recipient of the scholarship will be notified on March 1, 2016.

Continuing Education Grant

The VLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the first Continuing Education Grant has been awarded to Christine Porter of the Windsor Public Library. The grant will help her complete a cataloguing course and finish her Vermont Public Library Certification. Congratulations, Christine!

April Shaw
VLA Scholarship Committee Chair
Reference Librarian
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[\(802\) 879-8249](tel:(802)879-8249)

Awards Committee

by Amy Grasmick

Call for nominations

Every year, VLA has the privilege of presenting awards to recognize the special achievements of Vermont librarians, library trustees, and library supporters - but VLA can only do this with your help! I am quite sure that you can name at least one colleague you "want to be when you grow up," a library trustee who has gone above and beyond the call, or a library advocate who has made a huge difference to his or her community. Now is your chance to make sure that person gets the recognition he or she deserves. Please make nominations for the following awards:

The **Sarah C. Hagar Award** is awarded each year for outstanding service in or significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Nominees for the Sarah C. Hagar award must be working in a Vermont library (public, academic, school, or special) and be a member of VLA.

The **Trustee of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding achievement by a trustee on behalf of his or her library, either during the previous year or during his or her years of service. Nominations may be submitted by any library trustee, library board, librarian, member of a friends group, or VLA member.

The Library Advocate of the Year Award is given occasionally by the VLA Government Relations Committee to an outstanding public advocate for libraries in local, state, or national government.

The **Green Mountain Award** is given as the opportunity arises to individuals or organizations for distinguished service, support, or unusual contributions to a Vermont library or libraries.

Nominations must be received by March 1st. Please visit <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards> for nomination procedures, and to find the truly inspirational list of awards recipients.

Call for committee members

The Awards Committee is composed of a public librarian, an academic librarian, and a library trustee. If you fit one of these categories, and want to spread the joy of well-earned recognition, please let me know. Prospective committee members must be willing to read the praises of your colleagues and meet with the committee once to select award recipients. Small commitment, large reward!

Amy C. Grasmick
VLA Awards Committee Chair
Director, [Kimball Public Library](#), Randolph

American Library Association

by Amy Wisehart

I began my three-year term as VLA's councilor to the American Library Association at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston last month. It was great to see several Vermonters at the conference!

ALA Council highlights

ALA Council is the governing body of the association, and much of the action and debate during council meetings consist of resolutions brought by council members for a vote. Resolutions passed during the 2016 Midwinter Council meetings include

- A resolution with recommendations for improved accessibility at ALA conferences
- A resolution condemning Islamophobia
- A resolution for restoring civil liberties and opposing mass surveillance that reaffirms ALA's commitment to intellectual freedom and urges the president and Congress to take steps to curb government surveillance
- A resolution to urge the Library of Congress to replace the subject heading "illegal aliens" with "undocumented immigrants"
- A resolution supporting ALA's Advocacy Implementation Plan, and encouraging divisions, chapters, and individual libraries to adopt the plan
- A resolution to recognize the service of James Billington, former Librarian of Congress

Other Midwinter Highlights - Advocacy

Advocacy remains a strong focus for ALA, and there were many Midwinter sessions highlighting the Libraries Transform campaign (<http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries>). This is a public awareness campaign and there are a lot of ways for libraries to get involved. The Aspen Institute also presented their brand-new action guide for public libraries, based on their recent report "Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries." More info about the report and the guide are available at www.libraryvision.org.

I am happy to answer questions or receive feedback about ALA and/or the work of Council. Please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Amy Wisehart
ALA Councilor
Director, [Hartland Public Library](http://www.hartlandlibraryvt.org)
director@hartlandlibraryvt.org
[802-436-2473](tel:802-436-2473)

New England Library Association

by Karson Kiesinger

The New England Library Association (NELA) is excited to offer extended membership through the Vermont Library Association. Complete details: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/extendedmembership>. Adding the NELA membership allows you to connect with library professionals from Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts; attend a variety of continuing education programs at the NELA Annual Conference or at one-day events hosted by NELA sections; develop your skills by volunteering or attending NELA's biennial leadership symposium; request a mentor or serve as a mentor; and stay informed about regional news through NELA News and email announcements.

The New England Roundtable of Teen and Children's Librarians (NERTCL) is pleased to announce its spring one day conference "Readers' Advisory" on Friday, March 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill, MA. Complete details: <http://nelib.org/nertcl-2016-spring-conference/>

Proposals are being accepted for the NELA Annual Conference (Oct. 16-18, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Danvers, MA). Submission form: <http://conference2016.nelib.org/program-proposal-form/>

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