

**Vermont Library Association**  
St. Michael's College, Colchester  
January 13, 2016

**Voting Members Present:** Virgil Fuller, Margaret Woodruff, Toni Josey, Kelly Tomaseski, Angela Bernard, Laura Crain, Kevin Unrath, Kelly McElligott, Nancy Mark (virtual), Nicole Westbom (virtual), Selene Colburn, Helen Linda, Amy Wisehart (virtual), Karson Kiesinger (virtual)

**Non-voting Members Present:** Bethany Dietrich, Christine Porter, Howard Burrows (virtual), Tom McMurdo (virtual), April Shaw, Marty Reid,

**The meeting was called to order by Virgil at 10:10.**

**MOTION:** Toni Josey made a motion seconded by Helen Linda

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18,  
2015**

**YES: 13**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**OFFICER'S REPORTS**

***President:*** Virgil reported that he has been attending meetings with the Government Relations Committee and Marty Reid to discuss a plan of action on how to best advocate for VTLIB. A press release will be sent out January 27<sup>th</sup> and we are planning a survey to send out to librarians in the coming days to see how we can best advocate for them.

VLA has purchased three copies of the most recent Intellectual Freedom manual. These are eBook copies and are currently available on Listen Up! Vermont.

Virgil has also been working together with VTLIB to put together a Request for Consideration of Library Resources form that will be available on the VLA website at some point. This way we will be able to keep track of materials that have been challenged and will send our findings out to ALA. The form we are working on greatly resembles the ALA form found here: <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/online-challenge-reporting-form>.

A letter of support was sent in December to the New Jersey Library Association on their stance concerning Cory Booker speaking at ALA midwinter. They were questioning ALA as to why they would have somebody speak at conference who had cut libraries budgets while he was the Mayor in Newark, NJ. They thanked us for sending it and to my knowledge we were the only state chapter to send them a letter of support.

**Vice President:** Margaret reported that she currently has two people on the Nominations Committee. She needs at least one person from each section, so please continue to send her names.

**Past-President:** Toni is on sabbatical and has no report at this time.

**Treasurer:** Welcome Angela!

**Secretary:** Kelly has no report at this time.

## **SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**College & Special Libraries Section:** Laura reported that progress is being made in finding a candidate for the incoming section Vice President. Once the Conference Committee meets, Beth Dietrich will have a better idea of how many submitted presentations represent C&SL and recruit additional submissions if necessary.

**Public Libraries Section:** Kevin reported plans are underway for the section's spring conference. They are also still working on Snapshot Day 2016 with a date to be determined.

**Technical Services Section:** Kelly McElligott reported that they are now accepting nominations for the first Annual Birdie MacLennan Award to be given to an outstanding technical services librarian who exceeds expectations. Please email your nomination to [kmcelligott@stowelibrary.org](mailto:kmcelligott@stowelibrary.org) by February 15th. Be sure to include the technical service librarian's name and brief statement supporting the nomination (no more than 250 words).

**Friends & Trustees Section:** Nancy Mark reported that Howard Burrows, Past President of the VLA Trustees and Friends Section, will be attending the ALA Conference in Boston on Friday, January 8, 2016. His participation will provide valuable insights, especially as they relate to the ways in which Trustees and Friends can support our Vermont libraries. As Vice President of the Trustees and Friends section, Nancy looks forward to learning about highlights from the Conference from Howard and others and to applying them to future commitments for our organization. One of those commitments will include ways for groups of Trustees and Friends to meet, both face to face, as well as through an on line site, to share ideas, successes and challenges, in order to promote the significance and stature of our libraries throughout Vermont.

**Youth Librarians Section:** Nicole reported that she is working on scheduling a performers' showcase to assist with Summer Reading Program planning. The date will be available in time for the next newsletter.

**Awards Committee:** Amy had no report at this time.

**Department of Libraries:** Marty reported that beginning later this week a new VOL resource from Gale Cengage will be added. U.S. History in Context will be available to school, academic, and public libraries who are VOL members. The format of this comprehensive database is similar to what is already available in Science in Context and Research in Context. This is an excellent resource for students, and will also be of interest to public library users with an interest in American history.

To read more about this resource:

<http://solutions.cengage.com/InContext/USHistory/>

School and academic libraries saw an increase in VOL costs for 2016. We have used the increased revenue from these libraries, in part, to pay for this subscription.

**Government Relations Committee:** Selene reported that the committee met on December 11th and was joined by Virgil Fuller (VLA President) and Martha Reid (Vermont State Librarian). We're currently working on:

- A survey of VLA members seeking input on legislative priorities and strategies, to help shape the committee's work and structure moving forward.
- Getting Engage up and running as an online tool to facilitate advocacy and action alerts.

We also met at length with Martha Reid to better understand the Department of Libraries' current budget challenges and to discuss ways that the committee and VLA can help in the upcoming legislative session. Marty reports that the VTLIB budget looks to be level-funded, with a total loss of seven positions between prior budget cuts and retirement buyouts. At this level of funding, VTLIB is at serious risk for loss of federal funds, due to an inability to meet match requirements. VTLIB would like to prioritize a VALS upgrade that has not been approved by the state's IT department. Estimates are not complete, but it's likely that this additional investment from the state would be sufficient to preserve federal funding, while meeting the department's priority goal (and one Vermont libraries have asked for in earlier studies.

We've been asked to help make the case for this additional investment during the 2016 legislative session.

The committee reconvenes on January 15<sup>th</sup> and will strategize at that point so we are ready with a press release and position in response to VTLIB funding levels in the Governor's budget. Gov. Shumlin's budget address is scheduled for

January 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be important to understand the position of the VLA board on this issue prior to the budget release.

Rubi Simon of Burlington's Fletcher Free Library will serve as co-chair of the Government Relations Committee starting in mid-February.

***Inclusion Committee:*** Margaret has no report at this time.

***Intellectual Freedom Committee:*** Ray reported that they have started reaching out to possible speakers for the John Swan lecture. Any suggestions are welcome.

***Membership & Outreach Committee:*** Helen reported that current renewals stand at 50 total members: 14 are new, 15 are taking advantage of NELA extended membership, and 3 are taking advantage of the ALA/VLA joint membership. Renewal postcards will be sent out later this month with an improved mailing list. Helen is going to start asking individuals who have shown an interest in M&O in order to get some assistance as she needs to lessen her time commitment to the committee. She has accepted a new job—congratulations!

***Personnel Committee:*** Shara reported that after the 2015 Trustees & Friends Conference they received many inquiries about the Salary Survey and were pleased to be able to correspond with Library Directors and Board members. The Survey compilation was completed in mid-November but still needs to be written into an accessible report and posted on the web page. Amy Howlett and Stacey Knight have been working on updating the Tool Kit. This month is the target time for completion.

***Scholarship Committee:*** April reported that they have received their first applicant for the continuing education grant with a decision to be made by next week. They have also finished updating the graduate scholarship application to reflect that only individual members are eligible, and will be sending out an announcement soon. The deadline for this year's applications will be February 12<sup>th</sup> with the winner(s) being notified on March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are also in the process of updating the continuing education grant application to reflect the same individual membership eligibility.

***Conference Committee:*** Jessica has no report at this time.

**ACTION ITEM:** Virgil will reach out to Jessica to find out what progress has been made.

***American Library Association Councilor:*** Amy will report on the Midwinter Meeting in Boston at the March VLA meeting due to limited time today.

***New England Library Association Representative:*** Karson reported The NELA Board met November 20, 2015. She is stilling looking for someone from Vermont to serve on the NELA Conference Committee 2016. The first of two onsite meetings is Jan. 15. Full details are below. (Note: there is no travel reimbursement.)

#### NELA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Benefits: Comp for Conference Registration (includes Lunch!), work with great people, build your resume, volunteer - give back to NELA

#### Responsibilities & Expectations:

1. \*Must attend 6 Conference Committee meetings-Virtual option available, except for the onsite meetings held at the hotel. The 2 Conference meetings held onsite are in January & July. Must also attend the pre-conference meeting on Sunday of conference and the post-conference meeting at the end of the day on Tuesday.
2. Duties include at least 2 hours at NELA Table in Exhibit Hall, Registration Desk, runner (on call assistance as needed) or Exhibitor Hall Desk (Excludes ITS who will be on TECH call during conference). General overall conference assistance as needed.
3. Respond in timely manner & use Project Management Software
4. Suggest program ideas for conference
5. Develop and submit program proposals (follow Program Planning Kit)
6. Invite, coordinate and be the program handler for speaker(s)
7. Write program descriptions for conference brochure and other promotional material
8. Work with Events & Communication Coordinator and Conference Chair to encourage new and existing vendors to participate in upcoming conference.
9. Work on Scavenger Hunt or another interactive ways to engage attendees and vendors
10. Work on scheduling of programs and events
11. Solicit sponsorship opportunities
12. Meet Conference deadlines

NELA Conference Committee Meeting Dates:  
Jan 15 (DoubleTree Hotel, Danvers, MA); March 18 (Pearle Crawford Library, Dudley, MA); May 20 (Plaistow Public Library, Plaistow, NH); July 15 (DoubleTree Hotel, Danvers, MA); September 16 (TBD) 12:30 PM

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

***Consent Agenda Review:*** Virgil will request that section/committee reports be sent to Kelly Tomaseski and himself two weeks prior to the meeting date. Kelly will send compiled reports to all board members one week prior to the meeting. At the next meeting we will have a motion to approve the consent agenda.

***Appointment of Treasurer:*** Virgil introduces Angela Bernard who has volunteered to serve as VLA Treasurer until the next regular elections.

**MOTION:** Kelly Tomaseski made a motion seconded by Virgil Fuller

### **TO APPOINT ANGELA BERNARD AS TREASURER OF THE VERMONT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**YES: 13**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

***ALA Engage Demo:*** Selene presented a demonstration of the ALA Engage advocacy tool which empowers VLA to call on its members/supporters to take specific actions in regards to legislative support, etc. There are clear potential uses for the Government relations committee and beyond. Currently they offer only federally elected officials in their database. The Featured Alerts option lets us highlight a specific item for which action is needed. Many state chapters use Engage as a parallel site to their main website. There are various forms of engagements that can be created: write a letter, make a call, sign a petition, share your story, tweet officials. Helen recommended contacting Jessamyn to see how our current website can be incorporated with Engage and vice versa—separate and embeddable. Selene would like to make regular presentations to keep the Board up to date on the development process. The Board supports moving forward with this pilot program and including current member emails for building a distribution base.

**ACTION ITEM:** Helen will send Selene the current list of membership emails.

***Dept. of Libraries Budget Scenario:*** Marty reported on the current plan for VTLIB—three point vision.

1. An additional \$100,000 has been approved for the budget (may still be cut by the Legislature). This, in addition to other funds, will be used to replace VALS with a more robust software. An RFI was distributed to create a budget. Approval is needed in order to accept bids via an RFP.

- Once implemented, the new system will work in tandem with the ILL currier pilot program.
2. Work has begun to purchase a new ILS for the VTLIB collection making searching and use of the collection easier.
  3. Finally, the possibility of a shared ILS for all Vermonters with a library card is on the horizon.

**Leadership Workshop:** Toni reported that despite interest and support of this program, there is no one currently available to head this initiative.

**MOTION:** Toni Josey made a motion seconded by Kelly Tomaseski

**TO TABLE THE VLA LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM UNTIL THE 2016 RETREAT**

**YES: 14**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**Comic Con:** Helen reported that she was contacted by Comic Con to see if we plan to participate this year. It does provide us with a lot of exposure.

**MOTION:** Toni Josey made a motion seconded by Margaret Woodruff

**TO COMMIT TO PARTICIPATING IN VT COMIC CON FOR THE SAME RATE AS THE PRIOR YEAR**

**YES: 14**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

Helen will also invite them to attend our annual conference and attempt to get tickets to Comic Con to raffle off.

**The meeting was adjourned by Virgil at 12:02pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Tomaseski  
VLA Secretary