

Vermont Library Association
Mid-State Library, Berlin
March 9, 2016

Voting Members Present: Virgil Fuller, Margaret Woodruff (virtual), Kelly McCagg (virtual), Angela Bernard, Laura Crain, Kevin Unrath, Kelly McElligott, Nancy Mark, Ian Gauthier, Selene Colburn (virtual), Shara McCaffery (virtual), Amy Wisehart, Karson Kiesinger (virtual)

Non-voting Members Present: Christine Porter (virtual), April Shaw, Marty Reid,

The meeting was called to order by Virgil at 10:08.

MOTION: Laura Crain made a motion seconded by Angela Bernard

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON January 13, 2016

YES: 12

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: Laura Crain made a motion seconded by Nancy Mark

TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG

YES: 12

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Virgil reported that Nancy Tusinski is going to be replacing Helen as the new Sub Pool Coordinator--thank you Nancy! Some other folk also expressed interest, but Nancy was chosen based on the fact that she was the first to reply along with her familiarity with VLA. If you need folks for your sections/committees, please let Virgil know and he can pass these names along since all expressed interest in getting involved with VLA in other ways.

He has been working with the Public Library Section about coordinating a library snapshot day. A press release will be sent out sometime in March. We hope to hold snapshot day sometime in mid-April during National Library Week. Virgil would like to thank Kevin, Christine and Margaret for their work in putting this together!

VLA received super positive feedback about our statement regarding the VTLIB budget. VT Digger and Stowe Today were the only two newspapers that published it, but we shared it far and wide on the state listservs. Selene and Cindy and the rest of the Government Relations committee deserve a ton of

credit for this, along with the rest of the work they have been doing. Some of the feedback included:

1) *Awesome job*

2) *Very nice letter. May we share parts of it on library social media?*

3) *Well done, nice letter. Thank you for everything you are doing as our prez.*

4) *Since I've bent everyone else's ear about this, I figured I probably ought to bend yours as well since you're clearly engaged in the discussion with the legislature about Vermont library budgetary concerns.*

I am concerned that rural libraries are being marginalized. The new interlibrary loan system has the capability of greatly improving interlibrary loan access throughout the state. However, those libraries deemed "too rural" are being excluded. At the same time, they have lost their Dept. of Libraries allocated IMLS funding.

Moving forward, I hope the Vermont legislature is aware of the fact that Vermont library patrons are facing inequities in library service (and in state funding) that ought to be remedied (with appropriate allocations of state funds) if it is committed to promoting equitable service to all Vermonters.

5) *Thank you, Virgil, for sharing this eloquent, respectful, and succinct letter. We are well represented!*

6) *Thanks for sharing this. Is there a library day scheduled during the state legislative session this year? I am a school librarian and I think that it would be beneficial if VSLA and VLA worked together on issues like this that impact us all.....VSLA has a legislative issues person and I am not sure if they have contacted your VLA Government Relations person or not. But either way, I will bring this up at our next meeting.*

An update on conference details will be shared via email once information is available.

Virgil reached out to last year's Library Passport committee to see if they would like to do the program again and if they would like to serve on the committee. To date he has only received one reply and it was yes and yes! If you know of anyone who may be interested in working on this committee, please let Virgil know.

Vice President: Margaret reported that VLA's formal status as a nonprofit is getting taken care of thanks to pro bono assistance from lawyers at Gravel & Shea. We will need to spend some funds to re-register with IRS but after that we will be set. This will also make transition of officers much less complicated.

Margaret has heard back from a few committees, but she still needs a full complement to get started on a slate for next year.

Past-President: Toni will send a sympathy card to Trina Magi, VLA past president, whose husband recently passed away.

Treasurer: Angela has no report at this time.

Secretary: Kelly has asked that section and committee leaders please be sure to send their reports to the VLA President and Secretary.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Laura reported 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.

The Vermont Library Conference committee has not been convened and therefore the VP of CSL has not been able to determine if there have been adequate submissions for academic library programs for VLC. At this time we do not know if it is necessary to solicit more submissions and or whether presenters who have submitted have been contacted by the conference coordinator.

Public Libraries Section: Kevin reported that the section has been hard at work planning for Library Snapshot Day. The goal of Snapshot Day is to take a “snapshot” of a day in the life of your library and help you get a picture of how Vermont libraries are making a difference in our communities! Libraries of all types are invited to participate, with detailed information available at <https://vtlibraryday.wordpress.com/> . Your Snapshot Day can be any day during National Library Week, April 10-16.

Also, the section has been planning for the Spring workshop, tentatively scheduled for late April, which will focus this year on providing great service to seniors. This demographic is the fastest growing in Vermont and libraries will thus need to provide services to meet the needs of a wide range of seniors in the coming decades.

Technical Services Section: Kelly McElligott reported that they have received four nominations for the first Birdie Award. The nominations committee will meet in March via conference call to discuss the decision and award a winner. The book repair workshop is slated for the VLA Conference.

Friends & Trustees Section: Nancy Mark reported that she has received an enthusiastic response to sharing ideas, successes, and suggestions on a state-

wide listserv. Helen Linda and Amy Howlett have been very helpful in passing along member names and information to be added to the roster. Ultimately this listserv will take the form of an online forum. Our first post should feature the date, time, and place of a spring meeting for Friends groups in Vermont. We have at least two offers to host this get-together along with many fellow friends expressing interest in attending. If you know of any Friends group that would be like to be part of our discussion and plans, please send these names to Nancy at: nmark@brsu.org.

Youth Librarians Section: Nicole has no report at this time.

Awards Committee: Amy reported that as of February 24th, she had received no nominations for VLA's annual awards. The deadline was extended until March 15th in the hope that this will provide the opportunity for folks to make nominations.

Amy will be bowing out of the role as chair of this committee at the end of this cycle, but will be happy to solicit a replacement, if that is the pleasure of the board and the president.

Department of Libraries: Marty has no report at this time.

Government Relations Committee: Selene reported that the committee last met on January 15th and was joined by Virgil Fuller (VLA President) and Martha Reid (Vermont State Librarian).

We authored a press release on behalf of VLA, thanking the Governor and legislature for maintaining stable funding levels for the Vermont Department of Libraries. The press release highlighted the significant cuts faced by VTLIB in last year's budget cycle, praised their work and emphasized the importance of preserving federal funding. It appeared in Vermont Digger and was sent to relevant listservs.

Government Relations Committee member Dan De Santo, who also serves as a library trustee in Waterbury, authored a letter in support of VTLIB to regional legislators. Our intention is to make this available as a sample/template to other library boards and commissions.

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. [still working on this!]
- Getting Engage up and running as an online tool to facilitate advocacy and action alerts. [still working on this!]
- Establishing a collaborative relationship with the VSLA government relations committee.

The committee meets next on March 11th, 2016.

We are seeking new leadership to transition onto the committee heading into 2016-2017. Ideas and recruits are welcome!

Inclusion Committee: Margaret reported that they are looking at a possible presentation about autism resources for individuals and families at the annual conference.

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Ray has no report at this time.

Membership & Outreach Committee: Kelly McElligott reported that she met with Helen the beginning of February in order to take over the Membership Committee. Currently we have 29 members taking advantage of the combined NELA membership. VLA membership, as of February 24th, is at 180 members with 37 new members. Kelly would like to begin confirming VLA membership for the conference in order to make sure we are getting the proper amount of money from non-members attending the conference. There is an extremely large amount of money in the PayPal account and it would be nice to have some transferred over to our own bank account instead of having it sit in an account that is accessible online.

Nancy Tusinski reported that she would like to thank Helen Linda for her many years of work on the VLA Board and wish her well in her new position. She would like to try to market the substitute pool and reach out, especially to the many new library directors working in Vermont. She has used the substitute pool in the past and was very happy that it was there when she needed temporary help. If anyone has any creative marketing ideas around the substitute pool, feel free to email her at nancytusinski33@gmail.com. Currently the substitute pool has 39 library substitutes and 30 library accessors on the list. The county list shows how many substitutes are available in each county. A substitute may be willing to travel and therefore may be listed on more than one county. Currently there are: 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.

Personnel Committee: Shara has no report at this time.

Scholarship Committee: April reported that the Scholarship Committee was happy to award two continuing education grants to applicants. Christine Porter was awarded a grant for a cataloging class to complete her Public Librarian Certification and Alice Godin was awarded a grant for a Wordpress website class. Both will be providing written articles for the VLA News about their experiences in these courses. In total, we received four applications and have now depleted our \$500 fund for this grant. An announcement of this has been

sent to the webmaster email to be posted. In the coming months she is hoping to put together a proposal for fundraising ideas to increase the funding available for this grant. Any suggestions would be welcome.

We are currently in the process of evaluating applications for the graduate scholarship and do not have a decision at the time of this report (but will have by March 1st). We have four applicants for this scholarship as well.

Conference Committee: Jessica has no report at this time.

American Library Association Councilor: Amy reported that she began her term as VLA's ALA Councilor at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Boston in January. She attended a very useful orientation session before the first council meeting, and learned a lot from other state chapter councilors, especially other New Englanders. There were ongoing conversations during Midwinter about ways that ALA and state chapters can improve communication and work together on initiatives. She expects more discussion and possibly a resolution at ALA Annual in June. She will update the VLA Board as this conversation moves forward.

ALA Council Resolutions

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" due to the derogatory connotations of the term "illegal alien".
- A resolution supporting ALA's Advocacy Implementation Plan, and encouraging divisions, chapters, and individual libraries to adopt the plan. I think the Advocacy Implementation Plan deserves a look by the VLA Board. We might consider adopting the plan for our own advocacy, or developing a similar plan.
- A resolution to recognize the service of James Billington, former Librarian of Congress.

Chapter Councilors' Forum

State chapter councilors get together for a forum during each ALA conference. At the forum during Midwinter they discussed, again, ways that ALA and state chapters can work together and communicate more effectively. Amy also asked for feedback from state chapters who hire paid staff and/or lobbyists. Those who have hired lobbyists had mostly positive experiences to share, and some said that it was their association's greatest asset. She passed notes from that

conversation along to Virgil, Margaret and Selene. Amy is happy to share those notes with anyone else on the VLA board who would like to see them.

New England Library Association Representative: Karson reported that the NELA Board met January 15. The meeting was largely devoted to review of the finance report. NELA is working toward more transparency and making contingency accounts for operational stabilization, annual conference, and general expenses.

NELA is considering ways to better handle new volunteers, to mobilize them and not allow them to “slip through the cracks.” There was a discussion about forming a small membership task force to create a workflow/procedure for handling new volunteers.

We now have a Vermonter serving on the NELA Conference Committee 2016! Thank you to Jane Ramos, Director, Sherburne Memorial Library. NELA 2016 Conference is October 16-18, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers, MA.

As part of NELA President Deb Hoadley’s advocacy initiative for this year, NELA is planning a New England Advocacy Summit for early-to-mid summer 2016 and is looking for a contact person from Vermont (could be someone on VLA’s Government Relations Committee or anyone else interested in planning for this event). If you are interested, please contact Krista McLeod: kmcleod111@yahoo.com.

Also re: advocacy, from CT January report: Connecticut Library Association is contributing money towards an impact study measuring the economic impact of libraries and other cultural organizations on the greater communities in CT. The study is underway with the hope of having some data available for this upcoming legislative session.

NELLSII is in planning stages: targeted to people with 15 years minimum experience and no previous NELLS participation. NELLSII will be self-sustaining; participants will pay, and estimated cost is currently \$725 per participant. Tentative dates: August 23-25, 2016, same location as NELLS. At least 21 participants will be required for a NELLSII.

OTHER BUSINESS

Department of Libraries: Marty reported the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB) will be partnering with the Community Colleges of Vermont (CCV) to place CCV student interns in six Vermont libraries as job hunt helpers for Vermont residents. These interns will work with Vermont citizens who need assistance using computer technology to explore careers and online education, prepare resumes and search for and apply online for jobs at the town libraries in Barre, Brattleboro, Newport, Rutland, St. Johnsbury and Winooski. The

project is designed to increase digital literacy in Vermont by helping Vermonters use online resources and career development software to identify, prepare for and pursue their career goals.

The Green Mountain Digital Archives is working to get all digital content online via the Digital Public Libraries of America. Rebekah Irwin of Middlebury College has been leading the committee working on this. The courier system is working relatively well. Marty is working to get grant award letters out in the coming weeks. The RFP for a new resource sharing system that will replace VALS has been released. There will be a vendor demo in late April or early May with a select committee of librarians invited to attend. They are currently looking to schedule the date and location of this year's Trustee Conference.

Library Snapshot Day: Kevin reported that the committee has created a blog, website, and facebook page to be launched in the coming days. Libraries will be able to share their statistics, stories, and pictures via these online tools. Libraries are encouraged to pick a day during National Library Week (April 10-16) to serve as their "snapshot day." This is a great advocacy tool. Virgil will write a press release to be released in the coming weeks to create media attention.

NELA Advocacy Summit: Karson reported that there will be a conference call tomorrow that Selene will participate in in order to plan the advocacy summit. Currently it is scheduled for July 19th at a location to be determined. Please let Karson know if you are interested in serving.

Conference Updates: Virgil reported that the conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th at Stoweflake. Registration will be operational by the end of the month. A contract has been signed with Stoweflake, but details are still being confirmed with the keynote speaker. The schedule is almost finalized. Virgil will be contacting Amber to find out who designed the cartoon illustrations used for conference brochures in the past. There were several concerns brought up, such as:

- Little to no involvement from Conference Committee
- No evaluations made available at last year's conference
- Conference budget for this year as last year we ran over
- Limited time in which to submit program ideas and little to no feedback following submissions
- No information provided concerning the schedule—academic vs. public, etc
- No information provided concerning the conference theme

The conference committee is composed of the chair (who receives a stipend), past president and committee vice presidents. It was recommended that this position and responsibilities be discussed at the next Board retreat. Virgil will ask Jessica to submit a report to the entire Board.

Selene logged in at 10:43am.

Government Relations Committee: Selene reported that a survey will be distributed to all VLA members asking for their input concerning the priorities of the committee—what should they be focusing on. There is a committee meeting this Friday at 2pm at Fletcher Free. Committee leadership will be discussed at this meeting as Selene is running for State Legislature this cycle. Cindy Webber and Rubi Simon are possible candidates for the chair. They will also be discussing the progress made on the advocacy tool Engage. Marty reported that she met with Louis Meyer who is running for Lieutenant Governor. He wants libraries as part of his platform. Marty suggested a forum for candidates as a possible program. There was a discussion about this occurring at the conference. Margaret suggested we get the candidates involved in the passport program as they will be traveling around the state. However it was stressed that the candidates must visit the libraries, not their aides. Marty said that possibly mailing a passport to each candidate or representative in addition to a personalized letter from the President of VLA would look great. Virgil will discuss this at the next passport committee meeting.

501c3 Status: Margaret reported that we are making process with the 501c3 status. The lawyers preparing the paperwork are not charging us. Preparation of this year's taxes will cost approximately \$70, with an additional \$150 for filing with the IRS. Angela also mentioned that this would help when transitioning treasurers and other executive turnover.

Odds & Ends: April reported that Allison Maynard of Pettee Memorial Library was awarded the Graduate Student Scholarship. Shara reported that salary statistics will be posted to the website. However, if you need them before that, she will be happy to provide them to individuals. Amy inquired if there had been any more thought about hiring a lobbyist. Virgil said he would add it to our next agenda.

The meeting was adjourned by Virgil at 11:14am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. McCagg
VLA Secretary