

Vermont Library Association

Vermont Tech, Randolph

May 11, 2016

DRAFT

Voting Members Present: Virgil Fuller, Margaret Woodruff (virtual), Toni Fortini-Josey (virtual), Kelly McCagg (virtual), Angela Bernard, Bethany Dietrich, Kevin Unrath, Kelly McElligott, Nicole Westbaum (virtual), Shara McCaffery (virtual), Jessica Summer (virtual), Amy Wisehart, Karson Kiesinger (virtual)

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

The meeting was called to order by Virgil at 10:05.

MOTION: Bethany Dietrich made a motion seconded by April Shaw

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON March 9, 2016

YES: 11

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION: Bethany Dietrich made a motion seconded by April Shaw

TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG

YES: 11

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Virgil reported that the passport committee is hard at work planning this year's program. We'll have a table at the conference so folks will be able to pick up the materials they need. We will also have various pick up libraries around the state, which will allow librarians to pick their passports up there if they can't make it to the conference, or run out of passports at some point during the program.

We recently launched a form entitled "Report a Challenge to Library Resources" that will enable librarians from across the state to report material challenges at their library.

At the business meeting at the conference Virgil will pass the baton on to Margaret. He commented, "It's been a pleasure serving as your president during the past year and I am looking forward to my year as Past President. I know Margaret will do a wonderful job!"

Vice President: Margaret reported that she is excited that Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich will be the keynote speaker at the Vermont Library Conference and she hopes everyone will get the opportunity to hear her. Rebekkah's vision for sustainable communities and how libraries play a role in those communities offers great inspiration as well as practical guidelines for Vermont libraries. Margaret hopes that we can draw on her ideas and suggestions in the coming year.

Our non-profit application with the IRS is moving forward. Margaret supplied the attorney's office with the information they need to make sure the application is complete. VLA will incur a small fee for this but once complete, we should be all set for the foreseeable future.

Margaret would like to start putting together a database of services available at Vermont libraries, across the board. She hopes this will become a resource for those of us looking for information on library services and those wanting to share their knowledge and expertise in digital, concrete, and intellectual assets. If anyone is interested in working on this, please get in touch with Margaret.

She would also like to start putting together a VLA tickler list so that we can keep track of activities and the tasks associated with them. Margaret will make up a draft and then share that with everyone on the board to get feedback.

Past-President: Toni reported that she is participating in the conference committee and wants to remind the sections to inform your incoming VPs that they serve on this committee as outlined in the bylaws. She is preparing for the transition off the board by tidying up her email account to pass along only pertinent information to Virgil. Toni has contacted the board listserv to remind folks how to remove themselves from the list as their terms end. Please have your successors request access to the listserv by emailing Jessamyn West (jessamyn@gmail.com), join the directory of VLA leaders on our website by emailing the Webmaster, and remind all incoming leaders to read the bylaws to understand their responsibilities. Toni commented, "Thank you all for your support these past two years. It's been a pleasure serving alongside you."

Treasurer: Angela asked to please include mailing addresses with all payment requests. Also, it's never too early to start thinking about your budget needs for the coming year.

Secretary: Kelly reported that her last name has changed to McCagg and her email is now kmccagg@colchestervt.gov.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Laura reported that the section has been working to solicit and confirm academic library speakers for the conference.

Public Libraries Section: Kevin is pleased to report that more than 30 libraries participated in Library Snapshot Day 2016. After a three year hiatus, this level of participation was a pleasant surprise. Thank you to all who helped make this happen at their local library. Christine Porter, section VP, and Kevin are compiling results and will submit a polished report at the annual section meeting at VLA.

Unfortunately, planning for the spring workshop fizzled out this year, but a speaker has been lined up for a fall workshop. Stay tuned for more information soon to be forthcoming.

Technical Services Section: Kelly McElligott has no report at this time.

Friends & Trustees Section: Nancy Mark reported that she is actively recruiting trustees and friends to attend our May Conference and encouraging each to consider the Vice President position for the Trustees and Friends section. Of course she will be at the Conference and hopes that during the section meeting, we will emerge with a new vice president. Nancy invites all of you with your experience to send her any suggestions. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Trustees and Friends section as the President.

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

Awards Committee: Amy reported that the Awards Committee received one nomination for each of two awards this year: Library Advocate of the Year and the Green Mountain Library Award. The committee was completely satisfied with the outstanding qualities of the nominees (and the letters of nomination). She will inform the board of the winners at the May 11th board meeting, and seeks input about notifying them before conference or surprising them that day. Unless the president prefers otherwise, Amy is happy to draft remarks for the ceremony before the keynote.

VLA also recognizes at conference VLA members who have retired/are about to retire, or who have earned/are about to earn their MLS. Once she confirms their VLA membership, Amy will be able to provide retiree grad names to the president, and we invite them to attend the awards ceremony at the conference.

Amy has identified a potential committee chair and hopes to bring her name to the board meeting for the president's approval.

Department of Libraries: See Marty's report below.

Government Relations Committee: Selene has no report at this time.

Inclusion Committee: Amanda has no report at this time

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

Membership & Outreach Committee: Kelly McElligott reported that currently we have 271 members signed up! At this time last year we had 288 members, so we are close to meeting that number. 56 members have chosen to add NELA to their membership. Unfortunately there are 163 members that have not renewed from last year.

Nancy Tusinski reported that currently the substitute pool has 43 library substitutes and 32 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 5, Bennington 6, Caledonia 6, Chittenden 22, Essex 3, Franklin 8, Grand Isle 4, Lamoille 9, Orange 6, Orleans 4, Rutland 9, Washington 12, Windham 8, Windsor 9. Of the 32 libraries with access, there are 29 public, 1 academic, 1 community, and 1 school library.

Personnel Committee: Shara has no report at this time.

Scholarship Committee: April reported that the Scholarship Committee has awarded all scholarship and continuing education monies. The committee will be following up with those who were given grants and the scholarship to write an article for the VLA News in the next couple of months. We also have a committee meeting scheduled in June so that we can review how the process went and see if we need to make any tweaks or clarifications to our applications and the application process.

Conference Committee: Jessica has no report at this time.

American Library Association Councilor: Amy reported that VLA signed on to ALA's letter of support for Carla Hayden's nomination as Librarian of Congress in advance of her confirmation hearings. All 50 state associations endorsed the letter, and by all accounts her hearing went smoothly.

There has been some discussion on the ALA Council listserv about support and advocacy for school libraries, and Amy expects to see further discussion and action at ALA Annual in June.

ALA will hold a virtual membership meeting on Thursday, June 2nd at 2:30pm EST. This is a good way to get updates on the work of the association if you can't attend either national conference this year.

Amy will be attending Council meetings at ALA Annual in Orlando at the end of June.

As requested, Amy solicited feedback at ALA Midwinter from other state associations about their experiences with paid lobbyists. Many associations hire part-time lobbyists, and almost all told me that it was well worth the money. Some lobbyists help

associations organize a full day of legislative action at the state house, and they can help guide associations and identify legislative priorities. The only notes of caution were to make sure to hire the right person, and also to refine the messaging so that association members understand the need for a lobbyist and what that person is accomplishing.

New England Library Association Representative: Karson reported that the NELA Board met March 18. Program proposals of all types, including poster and ignite session ideas are still being accepted (deadline May 31) for the NELA 2016 Annual Conference: *Imagining Tomorrow* will be October 16-18 at the Doubletree Hilton in Danvers, MA. For more information visit <http://conference2016.nelib.org> and select the Program Proposal form. A link to FAQs regarding poster and ignite sessions is at the top of the page.

NELA's Information Technology Section Spring Event 2016 *Digital Privacy: A Practical Approach for You & Your Patrons* will be Monday, June 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Providence Public Library, Providence, RI. Registration and more info: <http://nelib.org>

NELA Advocacy Summit will be Tuesday, July 19 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens Boylston, MA. Keynote Speakers include Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director of the New York Library Association; Sari Feldman, ALA President and Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH.

In regards to advocacy, from CT NELA Representative's March Report: CT Places Matter Rally Day was March 23 (promoting how humanities and heritage organizations, including libraries, generate millions of dollars of economic activity) More information can be found at www.ctplacesmatter.org As of May 2 there have been no updates to the site, but they do have nice infographics and a two-page handout concerning "speaking points and object list" for a pop-up exhibit at the CT state capitol. I'll monitor and relay relevant info from the May CT report.

In addition, here is a link to the NELA website for RFP for conference venues: <http://nelib.org/nela-annual-conference-venue-rfp/>. This is not only for NELA's 2018 Conference but also NELA sections have one-day conferences. Questions can be sent to NELA Events and Communications Coordinator Megan Bishop: mbishop@nelib.org

OTHER BUSINESS

NELA Advocacy Summit: Karson reported that the summit is a result of the current NELA President, Deb Hoadley's, main priority of advocacy. Angela wondered if this is going to be an annual expense. Karson was unsure but will report back to board for budget planning.

MOTION: Toni Fortini-Josey made a motion seconded by Virgil Fuller

TO APPROVE THE DONATION OF \$150 TO THE NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TO ASSIST WITH THE COST OF THE NELA ADVOCACY SUMMIT

YES: 11

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Karson will provide Angela with the address to mail the check.

Christine Porter arrives at 10:18am.

Joint NELA/VLA Conference: Jessica reported that the conference would need to be held at the Sheraton in Burlington, as that is the only place in Vermont that can accommodate 650 attendees. There was a question of whether we would cohost in 2017 or 2018. Rhode Island will also cohost one of the years, but the only facility large enough just opened and NELA would prefer to give them time to prepare. NELA would handle all the money—they would pay for all expenses and keep all conference fees. We would need to provide 3-5 people to serve on the conference committee. The cost of the conference (for both NELA and VLA members) would be \$100 day or \$190 for the full conference; this cost includes food. Jessica does not support this because she doesn't think we would have good attendance and presenters are not comped the conference fees. Margaret asked Jessica to find past VLA/NELA conference numbers. Marty mentioned that DOL plans to cohost the Association for Small and Rural Libraries (ASRL) Conference, taking place in New Hampshire in the fall of 2019. Amy Grasmick clarifies that the joint conference would take the place of our regular spring conference. Jessica reported that the conference only brings in enough money to cover the cost, so no revenue would be lost. Amy Wisehart sees it as a great opportunity, and wondered if we could offer additional scholarships. VLA does not have the funds to offer additional scholarships, but NELA does offer one scholarship to a Vermonter who has not attended before. Kelly McCagg brought up the fact that we have a contract with StoweFlake for 2017 that needs to be negotiated. Marty Reid is very much in favor of us supporting the dual conference; a great opportunity for Vermont.

MOTION: Toni Fortini-Josey made a motion seconded by Kelly McCagg

**TO COHOST THE ANNUAL 2017 NELA CONFERENCE IN BURLINGTON, VT
PENDING AN AGREEABLE NEGOTIATION OF OUR CONTRACT WITH
STOWEFLAKE**

YES: 12

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Jessica Summer left the meeting at 10:33am.

Conference Committee Update: Beth reported that we have a good keynote speaker; Rebekkah Smith Aldrich will speak on sustainability for libraries. Despite poor communication with presenters, there are several good sessions planned. The

wonderful cover art was donated. Stoweflake will be providing all the necessary tech support. Toni reported that we have approximately 250 people registered. Beth created an evaluation that will be available via mass email with Eventbrite. Amy Grasmick had some questions about the awards ceremony. Helen Linda and Jessamyn West are this year's awardees, but how do we ensure that they attend the conference? Toni suggested forgoing the surprise and contacting them. There was also a question about how awards would be handled the year we partner with NELA. Toni mentioned that we could have a VLA meet-up to honor future awardees. Toni thanked Amy for all her great work! Any board members who are at conference early should meet at the registration table to assist with conference duties, such as introducing speakers at sessions. Karson and Virgil reported that they will be there early to help. Karson asked if we have a photographer to take photos, and if not, she is happy to help.

Christine Porter joins the meeting 10:49am.

Lobbyist Discussion: Amy Wisehart reported positive feedback from the states that work with lobbyists. She was not able to hear specific cost information. Virgil suggests gathering more information and talking about it more at the retreat. Marty remarked that it will likely cost about \$9-\$15K. Marty has the name of someone interested in lobbying for libraries. Virgil suggested we think about what issues we want this person to be working on.

Budget: Angela asked board and committee members to please let her know of any changes needed to the upcoming year's budget lines. There was a question about a \$300+ charge for the ILS webhosting of both websites (VLA and conference). Jessamyn can answer any questions regarding this. There was concern about the amount of money sitting in our paypal account. Kelly McElligott has the password and will help Angela transfer some of the money out.

There was a brief discussion about funding a lobbyist. Toni mentioned that there is a topic on the retreat agenda about raising membership funds that could potentially go toward funding a lobbyist. Margaret suggesting talking to Jeremy Johannesen the Executive Director of the New York Library Association.

Department of Libraries: Marty reports that last month they had three ILS vendor demonstrations attended by several VT librarians. They have not made an official award yet, but the librarians in attendance were very excited about a central ILS. This would mean all Vermonters would have access and it would move us one step closer to a statewide ILS. It would also allow us to search the online tools as well as the physical items.

Marty reported on the importance of National Library Legislation Day. This year's Trustee Conference will be November 12th. Promotional material for Universal Class will be sent out to all public libraries. VTLib is partnering with CCV to have students in six

public libraries. ARSL conference scholarship information will be announced today. Finally, the Youth Services Consultant position will be filled first, with the Assistant State Librarian soon after. The Regional Consultant position will be last to be advertised.

Next Meeting: This year's retreat will be June 8th at VT Historical Society. Margaret will be sending out an agenda prior. Please remind new people coming on to the Board to send contact info to the webmaster.

Odds & Ends: Toni thanked everyone for the experience!

Shara joined at 11: 14am.

Angela reported that she received a thank you note from the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Awards Committee thanking VLA for our donation of \$400.

The meeting was adjourned by Virgil at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. McCagg
VLA Secretary