

**Vermont Library Association**  
Midstate Regional Library, Berlin  
November 16, 2016

**Voting Members Present:** Margaret Woodruff, Joy Worland, Virgil Fuller (remotely), Kelly McCagg (remotely), Angela Bernard, Beth Dietrich, Nancy Mark (remotely), Jennifer Murray, Stacey Knight, Ian Gauthier, Kelly McElligott, Toni Josey, Amy Wisehart

**Non-voting Members Present:** Tom McMurdo, April Shaw

**The meeting was called to order by Margaret at 10:13am.**

**MOTION:** Margaret Woodruff made a motion seconded by Joy Worland

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING AND THE  
CONSENT AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> PREPARED BY KELLY McCAGG**

**YES: 13**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**President:** Margaret reported the following:

1. Library Programs & Resources Survey: We launched the survey last month and continue to receive responses. If anyone has suggestions or tips for compiling data from surveys, please contact Joy Worland or Margaret Woodruff.
2. Information Literacy: The statement on the role of libraries in the advancement of information literacy is posted on the websites of the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries and the Vermont School Library Association as well as the VLA site. A press release was sent to newspaper and other media outlets in Vermont.
3. After attending the Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) in Denver last month, Margaret discussed possible applications of the RIPL learning and techniques here in Vermont with executive board members. We agreed that including RIPL-based sessions in the upcoming un-conference and the VLA/NELA conference would be a useful way to share the information. She's contacted Deb Hoadley and Mary Danko who will work with us to make sure that this is included in the VLA/NELA programs.

**Vice President:** Joy has no report at this time.

**Past-President:** Virgil has no report at this time.

**Treasurer:** Angela reported that she has recently created a mileage reimbursement form for people who need to travel distances on the VLA's behalf. If you have attended something for the VLA or had to drive as an essential part of your role you may ask the treasurer for a blank copy of this form.

Just a reminder when you are requesting reimbursement or any kind of monetary payout Angela requires a request, or copies of receipts, in writing so that she can maintain a paper trail of all the checks she writes and who has requested them and why. So, if you are requesting a check for a guest speaker or reimbursement please email her in plenty of time and mention if you have a deadline. If you have had to pay out of pocket for VLA expenses, please scan and email a copy of the receipts or mail them to the VLA PO Box. Just don't forget to give me an address where she can send the check!

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

## **SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**College & Special Libraries Section:** Bethany reported that she and Alana hosted their fall event Reaching Across the Aisle, Reaching Across the Desk: Engagement, Inclusion & Outreach in Academic Libraries on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> at Castleton University. They provided a lovely space for the event and some delicious food for our breakfast and lunch, not to mention extremely attentive and helpful Conference & Events Staff. We were able to get sponsorship from EBSCO and ProQuest that covered a lot of the cost and charged a small fee that basically covered part of the lunch. After all the bills are paid (and our current year's budget is spent) we should be looking at about \$150 in revenue from EventBrite. Bethany would like to request that we are able to "bank" that to increase our section budget for the following year.

Beyond that it was a great day. We have been receiving very positive feedback in our Survey Monkey evaluation and we were really pleased with the quality of presenters. We also attracted people from all over the state and New England – we even had someone register from Brown University in R.I.! We also held a vote regarding when to host the event next year because of a conflict with the NELA conference. It is typically held in October and for next year most of the votes wanted it hosted in November, so that will be our goal for 2017.

**Public Libraries Section:** Christine reported that approximately 12 people had the pleasure of hearing a presentation given by Andrew Piper from McGill University in Montreal. He has done all sorts of interesting work in the digital humanities, and spoke about his 2012 work *Book Was There: Reading in Electronic Times*. The work is a meditation on where reading has been and where it might be going in the digital future. He talked about analyzing texts word by word to find patterns, language use in classic literature, and about studies he has done which show bias in New York Times book

reviews based on words chosen for use. We thank Andrew for his time in coming to Burlington to speak with us!

Our focus for 2016 is going to be promoting the services we have available to us that we can use to help our patrons. We anticipate coordinating Snapshot Day again this year, though hopefully in a way that garners participation from even more libraries. We have also been talking about helping libraries advocate for themselves by possibly leading a series of workshops on the resources we have and how best to utilize them. This idea is still in development but came about when Jennifer approached me about possibly creating a book discussion database or google doc that could be accessible to libraries, not knowing that one already exists. That list is underutilized likely because there are others who are not aware of its existence. Christine would like to focus on services such as that list, create awareness of the service and share ideas on how libraries can use that service to their advantage.

On a personal note, Christine would like to thank everyone for their kindness and concern during her illness. She appreciates those who stepped up to make the Andrew Piper workshop a success during a time that was very difficult for her. She is very grateful!!!

**Technical Services Section:** Stacey has no report at this time other than she is looking for someone to serve with her as vice president.

**Friends & Trustees Section:** Nancy reported that the Friends and Trustees will meet soon for the 2016 Trustees and Friends Conference on November 12 at Stoweflake Resort and Spa. The conference is co-sponsored by the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Vermont Library Association.

Howard Burrows, Past Section Chair, has released a compelling invitation in the VLA News and Mara Siegel has sent announcements to the membership. Many of us are reaching out personally to fellow Friends and Trustees, emphasizing the importance of this year's theme, Sustaining our Public Libraries for the Future. Those of us who have heard Rebekkah Smith Aldrich speak, know that her keynote address will inspire all of us, trustees, friends and librarians, to support and strengthen the mission of sustainability in our libraries.

Nancy looks forward to sharing this conference with you on November 12.

**Youth Librarians Section:** Ian has no report at this time.

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

**Department of Libraries:** Marty wants to report the updates and good news about current activities at the Department of Libraries. As many of you know, our Department worked for over a year with Himmel & Wilson Library Consultants, which resulted in their [2016 Department of Libraries Reorganization Study](#).

As a result of that work, the Department is making the first round of changes in our organization and our programs and I am happy to report on these program updates:

1. This week Scott Murphy joined our Department as the new Assistant State Librarian for Library Advancement. Many of you know Scott as the former Director of the Milton Public Library. Scott also worked for our Department for a brief period before taking a job as a library consultant with the South Carolina State Library. Scott will head our Library Advancement division which includes our consulting and continuing education programs for libraries, services to youth and families, and services to special populations, including the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped. One of Scott's first assignments will be to build the new team of employees in the Library Advancement division.

Scott should be the first point of contact for public library staff and trustees who have questions or needs related to library consulting. You can reach Scott at: [scott.murphy@vermont.gov](mailto:scott.murphy@vermont.gov) / 802-828-2714.

2. Beginning in January 2017, the Department of Libraries will be providing the Vermont Online Library (VOL) databases statewide to all Vermont public, academic, and school libraries. This means that in 2017 libraries will not be asked to pay a VOL membership fee and will be able to provide public access to the Gale databases in the Vermont Online Library at no cost. This will allow us to market and promote the Vermont Online Library to citizens and students as a statewide service. We are currently working with Gale to develop a new VOL portal which will make it much easier for Vermonters to access and use the wide array of databases included in the VOL. We will have further announcements regarding these changes before the end of the year.
3. VTLIB is on the move! In the coming weeks our Department will be busy moving offices and library collections so that our organization can operate more efficiently and we can leverage the advantages that will come with staff working together in more convenient space to better serve libraries, State government, and citizens. In Montpelier, we will be moving current offices now located on three floors at 109 State Street to a centralized location on the second floor. You will not see any interruption in our services or interlibrary loan, and staff phone numbers will remain the same. Our Montpelier-based operation will include: State Librarian's Office, department administration, Interlibrary Loan and statewide resource sharing, cataloging and bibliographic services, information technology, and services to State government, including state library collections.
4. Our Library Advancement division (consulting, continuing education, services to youth, Library for the Blind, existing book collections) will be housed at the Midstate Library Service Center in Berlin and that transition will take place over the coming months as we reconfigure office space and recruit to fill staff vacancies. Stay tuned for more information to come as we make these changes.

5. We will continue to streamline our library collections to meet our core mission. This past summer we transferred Vermont state documents to the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) in Middlesex. Vermont citizens and State employees can now find state records, archives, and Vermont documents/publications at a single location. This is a great move and improves access to these information resources for everyone.

We will have more changes to announce in the coming weeks and months and I will keep you informed of these changes. We are excited about the opportunities that these changes bring to our Department for improving our services and programs. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact us! Our staff directory is on our website:

[http://libraries.vermont.gov/contact\\_us/directory](http://libraries.vermont.gov/contact_us/directory)

**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 we have 297 members for 2016. She removed all the members that applied but for whom we never received payment. NELA memberships were included with 79 of those members.

She ordered renewal postcards and with the help of volunteers from Stowe Free Library, they will be in the mail by the end of November. She has contacted the Trustees and they would like to do their own mailing. Lists will be shared. Kelly has submitted our final membership numbers to ALA. The following document was added to Google Docs [link](#) :

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fPzhP\\_7B1XC0darfH8vKC7X1fDGzE35NVZL7VfGcab8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fPzhP_7B1XC0darfH8vKC7X1fDGzE35NVZL7VfGcab8/edit?usp=sharing)

Kelly did receive a few membership applications in late October so she did mention in the VLA newsletter that our membership is based on the calendar year.

Nancy Tusinki reported that 31 institutions have access to the Vermont Library Substitute Pool (VLSP). Fifty-two substitutes have signed up to be on the VLSP list. A complete count of participating libraries/substitutes by county can be obtained from Nancy.

**Personnel Committee:** Shara has no report at this time.

**Scholarship Committee:** April reported that they have sent out announcements for the third VLA Graduate Student Scholarship and will be sending out a reminder in the next VLA News. We have also begun the scheduling for the next meeting so we can look over any applications we receive. The scholarship has been advertised on VLA social media

and on the VTLIBRARIES listserv, so she is hoping for several applications. April will have an update on how many applications were received at the next meeting, but will not have a final count yet since the deadline is not until November 15th.

**Conference Committee:** Toni reported that the contract was signed for Killington Grand Resort Hotel and Conference Center to be our venue for VLC 2017, the 123rd Vermont Library Conference. With NELA 2017 in our backyard (October 2017 in South Burlington), VLC 2017 will be a low-cost unconference, a participant-driven conference where attendees choose the topics for workshops and discussions and become active participants in the conversation.

The committee will gather suggestions from the registration form to tailor the discussion sessions to the needs and interests of the participants. Many ideas were submitted in the VLC 2016 evaluation that can be a starting point for topic ideas. The committee will meet November 3 to plan vendor and sponsorship opportunities to reduce the registration cost of VLC 2017.

**American Library Association Councilor:** Amy reported that she has regretfully submitted her resignation as ALA Councilor since she will be starting a new job in Maine in December. She will attend ALA Midwinter in Atlanta in January as the VLA Councilor, and plan to submit a report to the VLA Board and membership immediately following. The VLA Board will appoint an interim councilor to serve at ALA Annual in June, and the membership will elect a new councilor for a three year term at the May membership meeting. Please feel free to contact Amy with any questions or concerns. After November 30<sup>th</sup>, the best email address is [awisehart@gmail.com](mailto:awisehart@gmail.com).

Amy has enjoyed her time on the VLA Board and will miss working with us!

**New England Library Association Representative:** Karson reported that the NELA Board met September 16. Jody Gray, Director, Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services for ALA spoke to the board about building diversity in NELA (the session was recorded). NELA is considering supporting state diversity initiatives, possibly partnering with ALA and providing professional development opportunities to the member states or offering a diversity summit similar to the July 2016 Advocacy Summit.

The NELA Conference “Imagining Tomorrow” was held October 16-18 in Danvers, MA. Karson attended the entire conference and helped with table talks, the NELA table, registration, and distributing announcement and evaluations. It was another great NELA annual conference. She submitted some highlights to the *VLA News*, and is happy to answer questions. Special thanks to Amy McMullen who brought the VLA Pride banner that was displayed along with information about the upcoming Friends & Trustees Conference and NELA 2017 conference in Burlington (and thanks again to Amy Wisehart for the nudge).

NELA Election Results:

President: Mary Danko

Vice President/President Elect/Conference Chair: Debbie Gadwah Lambert

Junior Director: Kara Reiman

Secretary: Kathrine Adylott

Educational Assistance Committee Chair: Betsy Solon

Public Relations Committee Chair: Jason Omar

ITS (Information Technology Section) Chair: Dave Bartos

NETSL Section (New England Technical Services Librarians): Kari Swanson

Thank you to Margaret and everyone working to get information out about NELA 2017 and budget preparations so as many Vermonters as possible can attend. NELA will be looking for Vermonters to serve on conference committee (especially people in the Burlington area) and to help as conference ambassadors. Please start putting on your thinking caps, and if you are interested let Karson know.

Please also consider if you or anyone you know would be interested in serving as the VLA representative to NELA. Karson's term will end May 2017. The NELA Board meets six times a year on third Fridays; virtual attendance is available. One meeting per year requires in-person attendance. She's happy to answer questions.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

***Report from Department of Libraries:*** Tom reported that GMLC will continue to manage the courier service for the first 6 months of 2017. VTLib will take over on July 1, 2017. They will need to put out an RFP to collect bids.

***Trustees Conference:*** Nancy reported that she too appreciated Marty's comments at the conference regarding the importance of libraries following the presidential election. These comments will be sent out via the listserv. Nancy compliments the staff of VTLib on a well-planned conference. She is concerned about membership. Adam Bortz, a Friend from South Burlington is willing to serve as vice president of the section. There was a brief discussion about the benefits of membership to the Trustees and Friends.

***Engage:*** Margaret reported that Selene was elected. We now need a new chair for the committee. The committee is continuing to work on preparing the engage software to launch VLA's advocacy site.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

***ALA Councilor Replacement:*** Amy reported that she has taken a new job in Maine. Her term will be up in May, but she can only serve until January 2017. We need someone to serve as an interim for ALA June 2017, and then elect a person who will take over in January 2018. Charlotte who served prior is willing to serve as interim, but is not willing

to serve another full term. Marti Fiske is willing to serve as interim and in the coming year. Amy suggested an open invitation to all membership. There was a brief discussion concerning an electronic election. The plan is to appoint Charlotte as the interim and then hold the election in May as scheduled.

**VLA Conference Update:** Toni reported that they recently sent out surveys for vendors and topics. These, along with evaluations from last year, are being used to plan the conference. The committee is currently focusing on sponsorship levels including sponsoring break-out rooms, etc. We are looking at sponsorships to lower the cost of the conference, with the main cost originating from food services. Toni is looking for a conference chair or co-chair.

**Strategic Plan:** Joy reported that they are working on how to best collect input and feedback from membership. Toni suggested an opening session where conference participants could discuss the strategic plan, including a sharing of information prior to the conference.

**Institutional Support Form:** Margaret reported that they are still working on this. Amy will send out an email to other ALA chapters asking for feedback/samples.

**Tech Soup X VLA:** Margaret reported that Tech Soup wants VLA to serve as resource point--see attachment. Margaret will refer her to Toni to serve as a possible vendor at the conference. All were in agreement that this was a good way to begin our relationship.

**Safety Pin Image at VT Libraries:** Margaret wondered if this was too political a statement for Vermont libraries to jointly make. Libraries are a safe place, but would it be seen as partisan? There was a brief discussion. Amy sees this as an opportunity for discussion in our libraries.

**MOTION:** Joy Worland made a motion seconded by Beth Dietrich

**TO ENDORSE THE INCLUSION STATEMENT MADE BY AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**YES: 13**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

Margaret will ask the webmaster to put the statement on our website and Facebook. There will be further research and discussion about other statements.

**Future Meeting:** January 11, 2017 at Durick Library, Saint Michael's College, Colchester VT



Due to Amy's leaving, Ian will check to see if the Eldridge Library is available for our March meeting.

Thank you to Amy for her service!

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. McCagg  
VLA Secretary