

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting
May 21, 2013
McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College
1:30 – 2:00 pm

Present: 95 members present (approximately)

Meetings minutes by: Heidi Steiner

Meeting called to order at 1:31pm by President Deborah Gadwah Lambert

President's Update

Deborah opened her update by expressing her love for the conference theme and praised the keynote speaker, Barbara Stripling. She noted being particularly pleased by the formation of Rural Librarians Unite and the spirit of the library community coming together at the Hug the Athenaeum event.

Deborah expressed she learned a lot this year and urged everyone to take time to take care of themselves. She said we all need to prevent burnout and let ourselves relax. Deborah also encouraged everyone not to take everything personally and be optimistic in the face of adversity.

She closed by thanking all of the Board members, Committee members, and volunteers for their work over the course of the year.

Budget Report

Treasurer, Wynne Browne, presented the 33rd Treasurer's Report. At the end of 2012, the overall assets of the Association were \$58,687, which includes the transfer of roughly \$30,000 in funds from the conference account. John Payne noted the conference fund had only \$1,700 in it three years ago and everyone applauded the Conference Committee. Wynne stated all normal expenses in 2012 broke even, but there were also unusual expenses because the Librarian Relief Fund funds were paid out in full and conference expenses were a line item.

Wynne expressed we are still in very good shape and encouraged everyone to contact her if they had any questions.

Deborah returned to the stage to introduce Heidi for the elections.

Slate of Candidates

Secretary, Heidi Steiner, presented the slate of candidates for elected positions and called a voice vote. The slate was unanimously approved with no nays or abstentions.

- VP/President-Elect – Liza Comiskey (Highgate Public Library)
- Secretary – Sarah Costa (Aldrich Public Library/Calef Memorial Library)

- Youth Section, President – Heather Grev (Sherburne Memorial Library)
- Youth Section, Vice-President – Amy McMullen (Hartland Public Library)
- Public Libraries Section, Vice-President – Lara Keenan (Essex Free Library)
- College and Special Libraries Section, President – Daisy Benson (UVM)
- College and Special Libraries Section, Vice-President – Prudence Doherty (UVM)
- Technical Services Section, President – Christine Webb (Fletcher Free Library)
- NELA Representative – Nancy Tusinski (Weathersfield Proctor Library)

Heidi also read of the slate of Committee Chairs for 2013-2014 and encouraged members to get in touch with the Chairs if they were interested in getting involved.

- Awards– Amy Grasmick (Kimball Library)
- Membership & Outreach– Helen Linda (Goddard College)
- Scholarship– Scott Murphy (Milton Public Library)
- Inclusion– Kat Redniss (Brownell Library)
- Government Relations – Selene Colburn (UVM)
- Intellectual Freedom – Ray Brior (Johnston State University)
- Personnel – Shara McCaffrey (St. Johnsbury Athenaeum)
- VLA News Editors – Janet Clapp and Debbie Landauer

In closing, Heidi highlighted that the Board is still seeking a Conference Chair, which pays a stipend, as well as a Treasurer in Training to work with Wynne this year and take over in 2014.

Deborah returned to the stage to introduce Cindy for the membership report.

Membership Report

Outgoing Membership Committee Chair, Cindy Weber, announced there are 335 current VLA members. 31 are new this year. Last year attendees asked for demographics, so she reported that 231 are from publics, 11 from schools, 58 from colleges, 8 from specials and 27 others. Cindy noted membership has hovered around 330 at conference time and rose to as high as 360.

Cindy expressed she has enjoyed serving as Chair for the last three years and noted Helen will be looking at a new membership database.

Deborah returned to the stage to introduce Helen.

New Sections and Committees

Incoming Membership and Outreach Committee Chair, Helen Linda, took the stage to further explain the new Sections and Committees of VLA. Helen noted she will be holding the umbrella that has membership, outreach and all VLA communications under it in her newly realigned position. This includes the website, negotiating things with the listserv and social media. She stated Janet and Debbie would be taking over the VLA News.

Helen explained that the Inclusion Committee is going to be promoting diversity of resources and inclusive practices in libraries and encouraged attendance at their conference session. The Technical Services Section used to be the Cataloging Round Table and members are hoping to promote the work done by the technical services umbrella. Finally, the Scholarship Committee is charged with creating scholarships and grants. Tote bag profits will seed that fund. As part of membership initiatives there will also be more ways to support that.

Deborah returned to the stage a final time and thanked everyone again who helped VLA out in the last year. Deborah noted that if she did one thing right this year, it was at the last year's VLC reception when she and other Board members talked to Amber about being Vice President.

Incoming President's Address

Amber Billey introduced herself as the Cataloging and Metadata Librarian at UVM. Amber noted she has only been in a Vermont one year. She's new! Amber is truly hoping to bring together a fantastic Board and a fantastic community. She has learned so much about the library landscape in the Vermont in the last year and strongly believes in professional organizations as a place to come together as a community.

While President, Amber will be focused to on strategic planning and outreach. VLA has a new logo! It is the path to the tree of knowledge...and it's Vermont! She stated members are going to see a rebranding. VLA is a getting a new website and there will be more outreach via social media. Amber reminded everyone that the VLA listserv is for everyone--you do not have to be a member.

Amber will also be focusing on membership. She wants there to be value received when you become a member of the VLA. There are new Sections, revised Committees, and new Committees this year. She hopes Sections will bring programming to the conference and dynamic programming throughout the year. Amber said that part of membership is bringing people together, which means bringing people together regionally, as well. She knows VT-Lib already organizes some regional gatherings and wants VLA to support that. Then once a year we can all come together at Conference to share.

The new President wants VLA to be the voice for libraries in the state and see collaboration with VT-Lib on digital literacy. She noted it is important these two groups work together on similar interests. Amber began wrapping up by saying she is so excited about this year and wants to reach members where they are--building a stronger library community in Vermont. In closing, Amber thanked Deborah and Board for fooling her into being President.

The meeting adjourned at 1:54pm