

VLA Board Meeting  
January 12, 2006  
Norwich University, Northfield

A P P R O V E D M I N U T E S

Present: Daisy Benson (presiding), David Clark, Maggie Drown, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Stephanie Gagnon, Deborah Kahn, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Lisa von Kann.

Meeting called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes from the November 17 Board meeting were approved. Teresa will send final (corrected) minutes to Board members for their information and for posting on the web site.

Consent agenda was approved.

**Budget**

Donna Edwards distributed the year-end budget statement for calendar year 2005 [Attachment A].

The Web Site Design Maintenance line item is for the web site provider, SoverNet, and the domain name.

Donna distributed the year-to-date budget statement [Attachment B], which covers only 11 days and thus, not much activity.

A question was asked about the NYNEX Checking Account, now over \$13,700, noted in the Balances at Hand. This was a grant awarded over eight years ago (pre-Trina) to the Department of Libraries to use for training. As the state is not permitted to handle these funds from a corporation, VLA agreed to hold them until DOL uses the money. Suggestions on ways DOL may be able to use these funds were forthcoming, such as paying for a "rent-a-geek", an expert to travel to a library to resolve computer problems and provide training, or to support training that would result in more usage of the Vermont Online Library. The idea of using the funds as grants to individuals to pay 50% of the costs of a training course was mentioned. Others thought it would be easy enough to spend the money on group training. Daisy will remind DOL that the fund exists.

Does the VLA budget include monies for travel expenses for those board members who are not reimbursed by their home institution? No.

Donna distributed a new updated expense voucher [Attachment C]. This will also be emailed to members of the Board for their convenience.

**Conference Committee Report**

Stephanie Gagnon brought up the issue of liability in the conference exhibits. VLA and the VLC do not want to be liable if someone gets hurt in the exhibit hall. The contractor with the lowest bid for pipe and drape wants VLC to sign a contract granting that contractor no liability. One possibility is that we could require each exhibitor to show a certificate of insurance. For larger vendors, this would not be a problem. For smaller vendors, such as the "puppet man", this may not be possible. It does not seem to be possible to get umbrella coverage for VLC at a reasonable cost without these individual exhibitor certificates. This is the third year this issue has come up. At this late date, the conference committee is not worrying about it for this year, but the issue must be dealt with. Many options have been investigated, including talking with the Sheraton and with an independent insurance agent.

Other conference news:

Confirmation letters have been sent out to presenters.  
The ALA president wanted \$1,000 to speak; the contract was sent back asking ALA to cover that cost.

NELA's presentation this year is "Google Takes Over the World."

Some Vermont crafters will be exhibitors this year. This is to offset the conference not being held near Church Street Marketplace this year. The crafter exhibitors are not only selling their wares, but they are people who would be willing to teach classes at libraries. Scrapbooking and knitting will be represented. These exhibitors are members of the handcrafters guild.

With the focus on Vermont authors, state officials and press have been invited. The governor has been invited to the authors event on Tuesday evening. There will be a jazz band and bellydancing.

The conference committee asked a designer to come up with a pin, which depicts the Green Mountains. Any profits will go to Intellectual Freedom.

Conference registration information will be sent out in early March. Teasers will be emailed every few weeks.

There is a competition for conference dollars this year, particularly with PLA meeting in New England.

Stephanie noted that the amount of work involved in co-chairing the conference is very nearly a full-time job. Tasks dropped by others were picked up by Linda Wheeler and Stephanie. Questions were then raised about how the committee was selected. Section chairs are to nominate and place representatives on the conference committee. They are recruiting now. Current conference committee members may be reappointed but should not assume they are on the committee next year.

### **Health Care Resolution**

Trina Magi distributed the draft of the resolution on health care [Attachment D], modeled on similar resolutions from ALA and other organizations in Vermont.

The words "publicly funded" in the last paragraph were discussed. The wording indicates a position other than the governor's; are we taking a political position here? Do we want to be, or do we want to be saying only "something must be done?"

A motion was made to amend the resolution by cutting the words "publicly funded." Motion approved.

The resolution as amended was approved. It will appear on the web site, in *VLA News*, on the listserv, sent to the Government Relations Committee, the legislative committee on health, the legislative leadership, the governor, and Vermont Health Care for All. We probably do not need to send one to ALA. David will compile a list of state officials for Trina, and she will mail out the resolution.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion**

Daisy distributed a draft of an outline of the strategic plan she and Lisa developed from the discussion to date [Attachment E].

The Education issue cluster was added back in, as some education-related issues stand on their own, without strong ties to other issues.

The outline does not match our governing structure.

Under Intellectual Freedom, drop the year 2007 regarding the John Swan Lecture.

Under Membership, change “Explore changes to VLA News...” to “Explore changes to better communicate with the membership via the web, newsletter, etc.”

Under Membership, is “maintaining” current membership really worth including as part of the strategic plan? Shouldn’t a plan challenge us? But increasing the membership is not a primary goal at the present time. Increasing the activity of members is a goal. Consensus was to drop the line in its entirety.

Are meeting minutes public? Yes, they are to be posted on the web. There is a delay in this at present.

Under Structure and Governance, change “Develop a better process for ensuring that VLA materials are appropriately archived” to “Develop a more effective means...”.

Are these things listed in the strategic plan considered to be our goals as an organization? Yes. Specifics will be added.

Daisy will revise the outline and it will appear on in the next *VLA News* and on the web site for membership comments before the annual meeting. A fuller plan will be discussed at the annual meeting, not for a vote, but to solicit input and communication.

### **ALA Resolutions and Issues**

Trina Magi reported that a conference committee on legislation now has the PATRIOT Act reauthorization; the Senate version is preferred by ALA.

ALA has authorized its first dues increase since 1995. The \$30 increase will be phased in over three years.

ALA is filing a Freedom of Information request to see if there are FBI files kept on the organization or any of its officers.

ALA has filed an *amicus* brief in a Connecticut court case supporting “John Doe’s” right to speak about his experience of being compelled to turn over library records under PATRIOT Act provisions.

ALA and ALAPA want to conduct a nation-wide survey of library salaries and make the results available.

### **Adopting the New Orleans Public Library**

Daisy reported that VLA and DOL have been assigned along with 20 other libraries and ALA’s Black Caucus to support the recovery efforts of the New Orleans Public Library. It is possible that individual libraries in Vermont entered themselves into the program and have been assigned to assist another library. VLA would like to know if this is the case. Daisy will send the information regarding our assignment of NOPL to the listserv and newsletter.

### **Miscellaneous announcements**

Trina reported that the joint DOL/VLA survey on confidentiality and DOL questions hit the mail yesterday to 213 libraries. Deadline for responses is February 1. As the results come in, she will take an initial look at the question regarding strengthening the Vermont statute on library records. If the results are overwhelmingly in favor of strengthening the statute, it’s possible something could be done about it during this legislative session.

David Clark reported that he has joined two more boards of directors. He has a two-year stint with the ACLU of Vermont, and is the only librarian on the board of the Vermont Center for the Book.

Deborah Kahn reported that the Public Library Section will be offering a program called “Screening Reality” with media expert Rob Williams. They got a grant to cover the cost of the program. More details will be forthcoming.

Lisa von Kann reporting for the Government Relations Committee said they have a draft of a proposal for a law calling for a state government study commission on statewide support of funding of libraries. The Card Room at the State House has been booked for January 12, 2007.

Lisa also reported that a meeting of the ad hoc Newsletter Committee will be held directly after the next Board meeting in March, possibly over lunch.

Nominations are being accepted for VLA vice-president/president-elect, treasurer, and ALA Councilor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.