

VLA Board Meeting
March 8, 2007
Norwich University

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Megan Allison, Jerry Carbone, Teresa Faust (recording), Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Lisa von Kann (presiding), Nancy Wilson.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved after correction.

ALA Councilor

Nancy Wilson reported on her first ALA conference, her first as ALA councilor as well. The councilors meeting was likened to a Vermont town meeting. Nancy is likely to be serving on the Human Resources Development and Recruitment Advisory Committee.

Telecommunications

Lisa von Kann reported that she has been invited to send a representative to attend an ALA preconference on telecommunications policy. Nancy Wilson will attend. It seems that with so much discussion in the state about high speed internet access, VLA should be involved. The Department of Innovation and Information is involved. Lisa will speak with State Librarian Sybil McShane about how we might be included. An animated tangential discussion about Second Life was launched at this point.

Nominations

Nominations for office should be sent to Barbara Doyle-Wilch.

Jeffords award

The idea of presenting retired Senator Jim Jeffords with an award of appreciation for his work on behalf of libraries was brought up in email discussion prior to this meeting. Lisa has since learned there is time to include such an award during the conference awards presentation. Lisa distributed a copy of a newsletter article from another state in which a similar thing was done [Attachment A]. There was a brief discussion regarding the nature of the award, and the need to confirm Jeffords' availability. It was suggested that the award mention specifically how Jeffords benefited libraries. Numerous specifics were mentioned and Lisa will talk with Sybil more about this. Pat Mardeusz volunteered to assist Lisa with the work involved.

Intellectual freedom

As mentioned at the last board meeting, Trina Magi believes it wise to hold off on strengthening the state's confidentiality statute until next year, spending the time to educate librarians and trustees about the issue. Trina will contact ALA for assistance in the specific wording of the statute. Librarians in Connecticut are trying to strengthen that state's stature as well. Trina will also contact VEMA so they are aware of the effort and can tell us their concerns. Our lobbyist will try to get a feel for the level of support we can expect on this issue as he talks with legislators about funding for libraries. Trina will hold a brown bag luncheon at the annual conference to discuss the issue. It will also be put on the agenda for the fall conference of library trustees.

Trina brought up a series of questions we need to consider as we go about strengthening the statute.

- What kinds of records would the statute cover? Obviously we need to be sure both print and electronic records are included.
- What types of libraries will be included?
- Will there be any exceptions? Possible exceptions involve efforts to recover overdue and lost items.
- What will the sanctions be?

Trina also reminded us that the USA PATRIOT Act is still here and still a problem for libraries, despite attempts to correct it. With the approval of the board, she will contact Senator Sanders and Congressman Welch to see what they are doing now in regards to fixing the act. The upcoming John Swan lecture featuring the John Doe librarians from Connecticut should bring more publicity to the issue.

Section reports

Lisa spoke to a number of section leaders who were not able to be at the meeting.

From Selene Colburn, the College & Special Libraries Section is planning a program in June on Libraries 2.0. The section is also planning on developing a wiki. Selene and Lisa worked on an op-ed piece about state funding for libraries that is being sent to newspapers around the state.

From the Awards Committee, Lisa showed a picture of the Danforth Pewter award. The award will be presenting to retiring librarians who are VLA members and who have worked in Vermont libraries for at least 10 years.

Lisa receives a number of newsletters from other chapters and ALA groups. Teresa would be happy to have these for ideas for the VLA News.

Lisa distributed a letter from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation [Attachment B]. Vermont libraries are in the third tier for replacement, meaning replacement of computers will occur in the third year. This brought up a discussion on why the Gates Foundation and ALA are pushing the e-rate in spite of the filtering requirement.

Lisa received a letter from Google, seeking a partnership with VLA but with few details. Lisa will respond with a "tell me more." The receipt of such a letter brought Lisa to consider whether VLA needs a technology committee, and some discussion followed. Technology touches each section and committee, and promotion of technology without the discussion of underlying philosophical issues could be problematic.

NELA will not ask VLA to send money to support Counterparts, meeting at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass., on July 20, but hopes VLA will sponsor VLA attendees. It was proposed that VLA set aside \$300 to divide among those planning on attending. As a quorum was not present, this will be discussed at the next board meeting in May.

Also on the agenda for the May meeting is confirmation of the date of the July board retreat.

NELA

Jerry Carbone reported that the NELA conference in Burlington made less money than expected. Of the 1,000 members of NELA, only 59 are from Vermont. This is more members than Maine has, but half the number New Hampshire has. NELA appears to represent primarily southern New England. The turnout at Lisa's reception at NELA was very disappointing. Jerry is nearing the end of his term as NELA representative and encourages anyone interested in the position to contact Barbara and the Nominations Committee. The next NELA conference will be at Sturbridge, Mass.

DOL and VLTA

Marianne Kotch distributed a report from DOL [Attachment C]. DOL is starting a blog on WebJunction. Look for content from Marianne, Mara and Sylvia.

CAYAL

Megan Allison reported that the storytime held during the Jan. 12 legislative day at the State House was a big success, with 60 children attending. CAYAL will hold a workshop on Oct. 25.

State funding initiative

In answer to a question regarding the status of state funding, Marianne reported that last week, legislators from the Rutland area proposed \$2 million for state funding for libraries. This will be long process. Marianne also related that some legislators are having difficulty distinguishing between DOL and VLA.

E-News

Lisa reported that the electronic newsletter is now out and looks great, thanks to Lise Ewald. Nancy received a link to the newsletter, but would prefer to see the newsletter itself in her email, as headlines catch her eye and invite her to read more. Others reported that they received the newsletter itself, not a link. Teresa will investigate.

By laws revision

Despite attempts to avoid it, the board continued plodding through the bylaws, with an eye toward areas in need of revision. Articles V through XIII were tackled, which completes the initial examination by the board. Teresa will assemble the suggested changes for board review.

Adjourned.