

Vermont Library Association  
Executive Board Meeting  
May 15, 2003  
Mid-State Regional Library, Berlin

FINAL

In attendance: Paula Olsen, Jenny Hermenze, Emilie Alexander, Ellen Hall, Karen lane, David Clark, Trina Magi, Sheila Kearns, Radka Ballada, Krista Ainsworth, Jessamyn West, Carolyn Barnes, Gail Weymouth, Linda Brew, and Daisy Benson.

### **Announcements**

- Welcome to Jessamyn West (New ALA Councilor at large and free-lance librarian, editor of recently published volume *Revolting Librarians Redux* from McFarland.
- Handouts: Revised VLA Leadership Directory and VLA News Deadlines
- *Where the Books Are* – Libraries in Vermont. Author Patricia Belding was wondering we would like/or could sell copies of this at our membership table during VLC and we could keep a share of the proceeds.
- Sally Reid (Friends of the Library USA) communicated to Ellen Hall that their grant was received- would like to work on doing a conference for Public Libraries related to this.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Action Taken: Minutes from meetings on January 16, 2003 and March 20, 2003 were approved with minor changes.

### **Annual Treasurer's Report** – Krista Ainsworth

[See attachment A: Income Statement FY 2002, Budget FY 2003, Profit and Loss Statement FY2003 to date]

The three documents listed above will be distributed at the Annual Membership Meeting later this month.

Money from membership continues to pour in.

We still haven't worked on generating more money from advertising and sponsorship. Gail Weymouth said that she is working on this but hasn't gotten very far.

Action Taken: Treasurer's Report accepted.

## **Special Reports and Announcements**

### *Legislative Day/ Patriot Act Update – Trina Magi*

Since our last meeting 3 community forums on the Patriot Act have been held (St. Albans, St. Johnsbury, and Burlington).

Bernie Sanders currently has 86 co-sponsors for the Freedom to Read Protection Act. He's hopeful that he will get 100 co-sponsors.

As of this date, 195 librarians in Vermont have signed on to our letter concerning the USA Patriot Act.

Trina Magi and Sybil McShane attended ALA Legislative Days. Among topics of discussion:

- Library Service and Technology Act is up for re-appropriation
- Several bills on copyright and fair use are floating around and these could have an impact on libraries
- Freedom to Read Protection Act
- Move to revoke the Executive Order concerning Presidential records
- Restoration of Freedom to Information Act
- JRH9 in Vermont State Legislature (expressing concern about USA Patriot Act)

In all, the Vermont representatives were very supportive. Trina is preparing an article for VLA News on ALA Legislative Days and associated events.

### *Compensation of Conference Coordinator – Ellen Hall*

[See attachment B]

This year the VLC Conference Coordinator has asked for increased compensation in the contract that is currently being negotiated [this year the contract was for \$7,560]. Ellen Hall presented some background information on how much other states pay for conference organizers and found that some states (such as Arizona) are paying at a similar cost/member ratio but that others (such as New Hampshire) are not paying a conference coordinator.

The board expressed concern that the cost for the coordinator has been rising steadily and out of kilter with the cost of living. Also some concern that we may be overspending in this area and that the duties of the coordinator have changed without prior approval. It was also suggested that we might want to build a process for a performance review into the contract.

There was discussion about the desirability of a multi-year contract, and a suggestion that we open the position up for competitive bids.

Ellen and Karen will take these comments and continue to work on the contract negotiations.

### *Tax Preparation Analysis* – Krista Ainsworth

Our tax information has been sent to Rod Sherman. She has spoken to him about the cost and hopefully it will be less this year.

It turns out that the whole reason we have to file at all is because the VLC is on our non-profit tax ID (whereas VEMA doesn't have to file). Should this money be coming from VLC funds?

### *VLA Listserv Proposal* – Daisy Benson [See attachment C]

The proposal to establish a VLA list was seen as generally a good idea. After discussion it was decided that 2 lists should be formed. 1) that is broadcast only and is only for members of VLA and 2) for discussion anyone may join.

These ideas will be taken to the membership for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

## **Section Representatives Reports**

*CAYAL* – Emilie Alexander  
Teri Austin will be the new CAYAL President.

*College and Special Libraries* – Paula Olsen  
Radka Ballada from Marlboro College will be taking over as new chair of the committee. She is still looking for a co-chair.

## **Organization Representatives Reports**

*ALA* – David Clark  
ALA WILL be meeting in Toronto (there was some concern due to SARS). There is a lot of concern in ALA about the destruction of Iraqi libraries. Michael Dowling, Head of ALA Chapters, will be at VLC on Wednesday during lunch if people are interested in talking with him. ALA consignment store will be at VLC and part of the proceeds will go to VLC.

## **Committee Chair Reports**

*Nominations and Elections* – Ellen Hall  
Elections will be held next week at the Annual Meeting.

*Awards* – Paul Carnahan  
Linda Wells (Sarah C. Hagar Award)  
Lois Noonan (Green Mountain Award)

U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders (Library Advocate of the Year)

*Government Relations* – Carolyn Barnes

Held 7 legislative breakfasts this year. Carolyn would like to find a new chair for the committee. Looking for ideas as well.

*Intellectual Freedom* – Gail Weymouth

[See attachment D]

Packets (see attachment) will be going out to all libraries. These are materials help libraries call attention to the USA Patriot Act and educate librarians about how to respond should the FBI visit their library.

A lot is happening in the world of intellectual freedom:

- Challenges on wrestling books
- Filtering
- New FCC regulations on media ownership
- Project for a New American Century
- H7 VT has not gone anywhere (H7 VT was proposed to change existing law by removing the exemption for libraries on prosecution for pornography. The effort died so the exemption is still in place.)

Could use any help people can give.

*Membership Committee* – Linda Brew

We currently have 375 members. We have collected \$10,000 in membership dues this year (Dec 1, 2002 – May 2003) this averages out to \$27.00 per member.

The survey of members concerning membership benefits that was conducted last year indicated that members would like to see a listserv, discounts at bookstores, scholarships, lobbying, welcome functions, outings, and a password protected membership directory online.

*Vermont Library Conference* – Jenny Hermenze

Jenny will continue to serve as c0chair for another year. They are still looking for a conference treasurer.

Personnel Committee – Nancy Wilson

Personal Committee will be on the agenda at our next meeting to give a full report of their activities.

Next Board meeting will be July, 17, 2003.

Annual Membership Meeting is next week.

Thanks to Karen Lane for serving as President during the last year. Great job!