

Vermont Library Association
Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
September 9, 2004
Norwich University, Northfield

In attendance: David Clark, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust, Daisy Benson, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Ellen Hall, Carol Minkiewicz, Marsha Middleton, Jean Jolly, Lise Albury, Jo Lynn Ostler, Sheila Kearns, and Mary Kasamatsu.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from July 8, 2004, were approved with corrections.

There was discussion of whether to post draft minutes on the website. Consensus was to post only approved minutes. Minutes in draft form will be sent to board members only.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Edwards presented the financial report [See attachment A: Budget Report September 9, 2004]

Report from Federal Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.

We welcomed Marsha Middleton from VEMA who attended the National Legislative Day. (VEMA and VLA alternate sending representatives.) Marsha's visit to Washington included a visit to the Library of Congress. Delegates to the Legislative Day were briefed on how to meet with legislators. Librarians were encouraged to invite legislators to library events and to be confident in talking with them. The important role of trustees as library advocates was emphasized. Delegates learned that legislators listen to trustees because they are not perceived as protecting their jobs. Delegates met with Senators Leahy and Jeffords, and heard Representative Sanders speak at a Library of Congress Center for the Book reception. Marsha had packets of information for the legislators about what libraries are doing. She noted that ALA's website (Issues & Advocacy, Take Action) includes legislative action alerts, and information about U. S. Representatives and Senators and how to contact them. The next big library Legislative Day is Tuesday-Wednesday, May 3-4, 2005.

Marsha also reported on efforts of a working committee to establish a list of discussion books for high school students, modeled on the Red Clover and DCF lists for younger children.

President's Report

- Leadership Symposium

Marty Reid has been designated to represent VLA on the planning committee for the New England Library Leadership Symposium, July 25-29, 2005 in Rhode Island.

- Website

Carol Minkiewicz from Kellogg-Hubbard Library was introduced. Carol maintains the VLA website. There was brief discussion of website issues. Daisy Benson will work on these with Carol. Regarding photos from VLA events, these can be emailed to Carol or Daisy for use on website.

- Museum and Gallery Pass Update

David Clark and Mark Case (VMGA executive director) have formed a committee to work on a public library museum pass program for 2005. Committee members from VLA include Nancy

Wilson (Bristol), Julie Zelman (North Bennington), Marti Fiske (Shelburne), and Lawrence Webster (DOL).

VLA, VMGA and the Vermont Town Clerk and Treasurers' Association are exploring possibility of applying for a grant from the Vermont Arts Council to fund workshops on collection preservation. Ellen Hall noted there is a similar preservation effort underway involving Association of Vermont Independent Colleges (AVIC.) Some of the colleges have archivists. The State Archivist is also eager to share knowledge with organizations. It was suggested that David pursue coordination of efforts between VLA and these various organizations.

- Board of Libraries

Following up on discussion at the July board meeting, David contacted the Board of Libraries. In return, Vermont State Librarian Sybil McShane contacted David with the response that the BOL is drafting a response and also informed him that the website for the BOL had incorrect information describing the function of the BOL. The correct information clarifying the Board's responsibility is now on the website.

Sheila Kearns from the Department of Libraries (representing Marianne Kotch) relayed a request from Sybil that she be copied on any matters affecting VLA interactions with the Board of Libraries.

David is still interested in having a citizen board that advocates to legislators for libraries. Sheila noted that advocacy is not part of the BOL responsibility as defined by the Legislature.

- DCF Request

David has received a request from Leda Schubert, President of the DCF Friends organization, for co-sponsorship of this year's Dorothy Canfield Fisher conference in May 2005. Last year VLA co-sponsored the conference with a \$400 donation. David reported that last year 26 VLA members attended the conference. Each registrant who belonged to one of the co-sponsoring organizations received a \$20 reduction on the registration fee. The Board voted to again endorse and support the DCF conference with a \$400 donation.

- Position descriptions

Board members were asked to review description of their positions and note any recommendations for changes to be discussed at November meeting.

Newsletter Update – Lise Albury

Lise reviewed newsletter article assignments. Members enjoyed the photos in the latest newsletter, especially "Name that Librarian." Lise noted the always delicate balance between waiting to receive copy and wanting the newsletter content to be timely. The suggestion was made that stories that are not time sensitive could be held for printing at times when copy is short. Public library newsletters could also be solicited for possible short features.

Vermont Online Library Update – Sheila Kearns

Renewals are due to take place in November. Next spring a committee will evaluate the current arrangement with GALE and decide whether to continue or seek other proposals for other database services.

Section Representative Reports

College and Special Libraries -- Teresa Faust

There will be a November workshop on “Teaching with a Difference” about teaching students with learning disabilities. It will include a session on how to teach Boolean searching.

Vermont Library Trustees Association – Sheila Kearns

The annual VLTA conference will be on Saturday, November 13, at the Brown Public Library in Northfield. The topic will be “Wasn’t It Nice? Life after Freeman.”

CAYAL – Jo Lynn Ostler will be meeting with Hannah Peacock (CAYAL Vice President) to discuss possible programs. One idea is a program exploring the natural connections between theater, literature, and recreation.

Organization Representative Reports

ALA – Trina Magi

ALA has instituted a new membership dues category of \$35 for support staff. Information is available on the ALA website by clicking on the “Our Association” tab.

The ALA video on pay issues is not yet available.

Trina reported on the rescission of a federal order for the destruction of five government documents. The Justice Department had asked that the five documents be removed from government documents depositories. The government claimed the documents were only training materials. ALA disagreed. Two of the documents were texts of federal laws. The documents included information on how to retrieve items seized by the government during an investigation. ALA had filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the withdrawn materials. With the rescission of the destruction order, the documents remain in the government documents depositories and available to the public.

Committee Reports

Department of Libraries – Sheila Kearns

Sheila noted that discussion had already covered the effort to develop a reading list for high school students.

Membership – Pat Mardeusz

Pat distributed her report, “Membership Notes and Queries” for discussion. Pat will provide Lise with fluorescent membership renewal stickers to affix to the December/January newsletters. Pat’s report offered suggestions for attracting and retaining members, based on her review of ALA “Membership Best Practices” web page and membership practices of other New England library associations. She also proposed distributing VLA bookmarks to DOL workshop participants and implementing a slogan – “Join VLA – Join the Conversation!”— (approved by the Board) to be used with promotional material highlighting VLA activities and accomplishments.

Daisy Benson suggested having a traveling poster or display promoting VLA membership.

Conference Committee – David Clark for Stephanie Gagnon

David reported that he has been working with Stephanie on the contract for the Conference Assistant, Linda Wheeler. They are working with VEMA on a memorandum of understanding.

Next Meeting

There was discussion of holding meetings at other libraries to allow Board members to see new facilities. Opinion was divided between those who wanted to visit other libraries and those who would prefer to keep a consistent meeting location. As a compromise, the next meeting will be November 11, 2004, at 9:30 at Norwich University, and David will check into having the January meeting at the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre.