

VLA Board Meeting
November 17, 2005
Mid-State Regional Library, Berlin

FINAL MINUTES

Present: Daisy Benson (presiding), David Clark, Maggie Drown, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Amy Grasmick, Deborah Kahn, Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Pat Mardeusz, Hannah Peacock, Lisa von Kann, Linda Wells, Gail Weymouth.

Meeting called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Consent agenda was moved to later in the meeting.

Minutes of Oct. 13 Meeting

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Budget

Donna Edwards handed out the budget report [Attachment A]. Points discussed:

- ALA dues will be billed and paid soon.
- Expenses for the treasurer are to cover envelopes and postage, items that in some years are borne by the Treasurer's employing institution.
- The tax preparation line is high because two years' worth of returns were paid in one calendar year, in January and June.
- Donna was asked for her prediction about the status of the budget at year-end, and she said she believes we will be in the black. Membership dues will be coming in at the end of the year.
- Money for the Freedom to Read Foundation comes out of Donations. The Foundation just sent a request for \$100.

The proposed budget was then distributed [Attachment B]. Not all sections and committees had submitted their projections. For those not responding, last year's figures were used. Points discussed:

- College & Special Libraries line was reduced to \$300 for expenses and income.
- It was proposed that we "get real" about the advertising line. EBSCO does pay for a quarter-page ad in the newsletter. Other advertisers may be involved with the conference and workshops. The advertising income line was reduced to \$200.
- Conference income was changed to \$2000. The Conference Committee had kept the profits from the conference for a while; this year VLA received a lump sum distribution of its share.
- Pat is withholding some membership dues payments until 2006.
- VLA has to file for income tax because the Conference makes a profit. The Conference Committee reimburses VLA for the tax preparation, about \$475.
- The Secretary does not foresee any expenses.
- Public Libraries, CAYAL, Library Trustees, and Government Relations Sections/Committees all had no changes from last year's figures.
- With all changes made, the proposed income for the year is \$14,775, proposed expenses \$11,066, leaving an overall surplus of \$3,709.

Retreat Follow-up

Daisy led further discussion of areas missing or under-emphasized during the Board Retreat in July, and what our major issue clusters are. Points discussed:

- Funding got a lot of votes as an important issue at the retreat but was not discussed.
- Is funding really the issue, or is it advocacy? Does VLA work to secure funding or advocate for funding? We are doing advocacy on this issue now.

- Restructuring the organization would be a major shift, a change in the governing structure.
- What can we call this issue of assessing the organizational structure and managing a potential change in structure? Strategic? Operations? How about “Structure & Governance.”
- College & Special Libraries need more attention in discussion of statewide issues and advocacy.
- Trustees also need more attention.
- The issues of consolidation and the creation of monopolies in publishing and distribution, and of distributors doing selection could fit under the umbrella of Intellectual Freedom.
- Should issues of technology fall under Advocacy or Partnerships? Partnership language seems nebulous, while technology language seems more concrete.
- “Partnerships” is more about partnering than role clarification of the various groups.
- Sections struggling with what to do can look to partnership initiatives for direction.
- Is “Membership” too limiting a term? We want to get members involved—“active membership”?
- Members join because of what we do, not the membership benefits. It isn’t worth the time to investigate discounts, for example.
- When a new librarian is hired, s/he should be given an individual welcome. That’s what the sections are about.
- Is “education” its own issue, or is it a mindfulness in all areas?
- The Personnel Committee is involved in both Advocacy and Membership.
- A request was made that academic librarians be included in salary surveys conducted by the Personnel Committee.
- Issues were distilled into these five clusters:
 - Advocacy
 - Structure & Governance
 - Intellectual Freedom
 - Membership
 - Partnerships

Daisy would like to hash this out further in the next month and seeks aid in doing so. Board members are to let Daisy know by Dec. 15 which of these clusters they are actively engaged in at present and actionable objectives for these issue clusters.

VLA News

Lisa von Kann brought up the idea of having our newsletter be electronic in format. Board members voiced opinions on both sides of the issue, no real consensus reached at this meeting. A newsletter committee was formed to give thought to this and other issues relating to the *VLA News*. On the committee are Lisa, Hannah, Linda, and Teresa. The eternal need for more content for the newsletter was again mentioned. The value of the newsletter as a membership benefit was also discussed.

Research Proposal

Trina Magi distributed a draft of her research proposal [Attachment C] and reported that State Librarian Sybil McShane said the Dept. of Libraries will award a grant to pay for a survey of librarians in the state. This joint DOL-VLA survey will prevent possible survey fatigue that might occur with two separate surveys being conducted in short order. DOL will create its own research questions and Trina for VLA will focus on confidentiality.

- The term “confidentiality” should be defined in the survey itself, as folks seem to have different ideas of what it may include.
- Not only law enforcement, but parents, spouses, trustees, and salespeople may be asking for confidential information.
- A free scoop of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream as an incentive to complete the survey may not mean much in some parts of the state where there are no scoop shops. A grocery store coupon would be better.
- Some libraries’ proactive activities may be breaches of confidentiality, such as messages left to alert a patron a requested item has come in or that an item is overdue.

Trina will email a draft of the survey instrument to members of the Board for review. The Board voted to approve the direction in which Trina is moving and her continuation in this vein.

Government Relations

Linda Wells reported that the packets for the legislative packets will be out in December. The Government Relations Committee is forming two sub-committees are being formed, one to look into the issues, the other to contact state officials. After meeting with Susan Bartlett, Chair of the State Appropriations Committee, Govt. Relations has decided to spend the year doing legwork and building coalitions, all in an effort to be a real presence in the 2007 Legislative Session.

One cautionary note was mentioned, that we would like to make sure state funding would not preclude cooperation with private colleges in the state, as in a cooperative courier service traveling among public and academic libraries across the state, an initiative discussed at the statewide academic librarian summit last week.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher Conference Funding

Daisy distributed a letter requesting support from VLA for DCF [Attachment D]. VLA gave \$400 to DCF last year. This should be a line item on the budget, but was accidentally omitted. Several Board members expressed concern about the timing of DCF conflicting with the Vermont Library Conference. This had been mentioned at least verbally to DCF in the past. Perhaps DCF could be a pre- or post-conference event, or even a track within the conference. More teachers than school librarians go to DCF, but it is of interest to public librarians as well. The Board approved giving \$400 to DCF this year, but sending along with the money a letter of concern about the timing conflict, a request to see the materials mentioning VLA's sponsorship of the event, and a request that VLA members get a discount on the registration fee.

Consent Agenda

Approved [Appended].

The health care statement for the legislative packets will be discussed via email.

State-wide Academic Library Summit

David and others briefly reported on the Nov. 11 meeting of academic librarians sponsored by the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.