

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting

11/17/09

10a.m.-Noon

Dorothy Ailing Library, Williston, VT

Called to order at 10am

In attendance: John Payne (President), Sharon Thayer (Membership Committee Chair), Amy Grasmick (Personnel Committee), Marti Fiske (Vice President), Wynne Brown (Treasurer), Helen Linda (Advocacy Committee), Kip Roberson (NELA representative), Judah Hamer (Past President), Lisa Von Kann (Government Relations Committee), David Sturges (Secretary)

1. Minutes from last meeting – Motioned and seconded. Approved without changes.
  
2. Budget Update (Wynne Browne):
  - a) Limited excess funds are available. Our only revenue stream is through membership. We will remove money in the line for the lobbyist as we are not planning on using their services this year. Still need to decide what to do with the \$1700 CD.
  
  - b) There was a discussion about support for the NELS conference. Other New England State Associations are not supporting it this year. The conference will likely be cancelled this year, so we will not send any money. There was a discussion about whether to use those funds to support some other purpose, like attendance in Washington to visit elected representatives.
  
3. Membership (Sharon) – There are eighteen 2010 members at this point. Will send out email reminders and reminder cards. Will be contacting expired memberships
  
4. Patriot Act Update (John) - There are multiple versions circulating in the House and Senate. Senator Leahy is supporting the Judiciary Committee version, which is somewhat watered down from what the library community wants, but is still pretty good. Senator Lieberman has also sponsored a bill to reauthorize the act as written. There are two house versions, the Conyers bill is the most favorable to libraries and the one that we hope passes. Eric Holder, on behalf of the Obama administration has voiced support for the Leahy version. Debate will begin shortly. VLA members are urged to contact Congressman Welch's office to voice support for the Conyers bill.

5. Substitute Librarian pool (John and Helen) – A meeting of the representatives from DOL, VLA and VCAL was held to discuss the logistics of this program. A site will be created using Google, where employers can post needed help and job seekers and volunteers can post their availability. Privacy was a concern so access to the database containing the job seekers will be limited. There will be on designee at each library with access to this database. Listings will expire after a certain time period. BETA testing of this will happen near the first of the year with a spring roll out of the service.
6. VLC 2010 planning (Kip) – Things are moving along quickly. The conference is booked at St. Michael's College for May 25, 2010. The total cost at this point is \$5900, dramatically less than the cost for last year's two day conference at the Sheraton. A deposit has been made with St. Michael's College, but we need \$2000 additional for expenses. A unanimous vote was taken to approve this money. Attendance is capped at 250. The price includes lunch and snacks and rental of a large room for the keynote and four breakout rooms. Cost will be \$55 for members and \$70 for non-members, which includes lunch.

Most planning is done with speakers and presenters already identified. Registration will be done with volunteers. There won't be any vendors. Speakers are not charging a fee and are accepting just mileage reimbursement.

Conference is open to VSLA members @ the member rate. There was a discussion around continuing to offer a registration waiver to DOL certificate candidates. The group also discussed a student discount. The conference committee will make recommendations whether to offer these waivers and discounts.

7. Other Business
  - a) The need for training for board members on using the website was revisited. Judah will coordinate this for the next meeting.
  - b) Kip gave a NELA report. There were fewer than 400 in attendance. The vendors were upset and are recommending to NELA to switch to an every other year conference. There will be a joint conference with NELA in 2011.