

VLA Board Meeting
May 14, 2014 | 10am - 12pm
Sherburne Memorial Library, Killington, VT

Meeting called to order: 10:18am

Present: Amber Billey, Sarah Costa, Christine Webb, Amy Wisehart, Amy McMullen, Heather Grev, Charlotte Gerstein, Amy Grasmick, Shara McCaffrey, Wynne Brown, Helen Linda.

Attending Virtually: Christine Friese, Lara Keenan, Jimmy Allen, Jessica Summer, Selene Colburn

Introductions and opening remarks: Amber thanked Sherburne for hosting. There are three big agenda issues to address: bank accounts, VLA leadership, and the conference.

Leadership: VLA is currently without an incoming president and vice president. Our bylaws allow us to appoint someone from section leadership. Another option is to send out a Hail Mary call to the membership looking for volunteers. Christine suggested sending out a similar call to former board members from the last few years as well. There is also a faint chance Amber could stay on one more year, but her job is becoming much more time-consuming of late.

The board decided on a threefold approach: send out calls to VLA's leadership from the past few years, send out a call to directors across the state, and reach out to personal connections within the library world to see if anyone is interested. Amy Grasmick suggested Virgil Fuller, and Sarah suggested Paul Carnahan and Marjorie Strong (whom Helen reminded us was president once long ago). Amber and Sarah will coordinate efforts on this threefold approach, and Amber will talk with her new acting director about the possibility of her staying on one more year in case of emergency.

Amber is working on cleaning up VLA's digital documents over the next year and setting up shared Dropbox folders so that VLA's documentation has better longevity and shareability across changing leadership.

Minutes review from January and April. Wynne moved, Helen seconded; **January and April minutes were unanimously approved.**

Treasurer's Reports: Income is pretty good, and will be in good shape when current batch of checks are deposited.

VLA is having an existential crisis. We are a 501(c)3, we have an EIN number, but we have not been filed as an association with the Secretary of State. Various other library

associations in Vermont were registered with SoS in the late 19th century, but nothing specifically named as the Vermont Library Association. The Bank won't let us change signers without these Articles of Association. SoS gave us a few options and recommended we consult a lawyer. Wynne offered to ask a couple she knows at Downs Rachlin Martin. Wynne also offered to go ahead and register VLA as a trade name, which will make us exist with the secretary of state and let us change signers on the accounts. Moving accounts to a different bank or credit union may be an appropriate stop gap measure, and Jimmy will check with VSECU to see what documentation they require. Sarah moved to authorize Wynne to file a trade name application, Linda seconded.

Motion for VLA to file a trade name application with the Secretary of State unanimously approved.

Section and Committee Updates

Awards Committee: There are 21 retirees this year, 10 of whom are current or recent VLA members. Anyone who has been a member of VLA can be recognized at retirement. We're honoring an organization for the Green Mountain Award this year. Amy suggested including a sheet of nice paper in the registration packet that attendees could write nice thank you notes on and leave for members of the organization at the end of the day. Amber will get them into the registration packets

Government Relations Committee: We've revised the legislative breakfast packets and will be doing a new campaign for the breakfasts in the fall to better support libraries in making them happen. VLA supported legislation to simplify the process for libraries looking to serve liquor at fundraisers. The Liquor Commissioner was unsupportive and the bill did not pass, but some lessons were learned: we relied too much on one senator's support and should have gathered more grassroots support at the outset.

Selene will be staying on as chair but is looking for new leadership from within the committee.

The committee also tried to smooth the transition for public libraries no longer having paper tax booklets being provided by the state Department of Taxes.

Shara mentioned that the Board of Libraries met yesterday and is starting to work towards a vision of state funding for libraries. Charlotte also mentioned that academic libraries are pushing for more financial support from state legislature.

Technical Services Section: The section would like to create a Birdie MacLennan award. UVM is accepting contributions for a memorial that will expand the newspaper digitization project she founded. Tech Services suggested a Birdie award for excellence in technical services, though some felt that there would then be too many awards VLA

manages. It was suggested that the award need not be given every year, and could instead be given only when merited and carry with it a free year of membership in VLA. Christine will present a proposal for the award to tech services, and once approved there it will be presented to the VLA board later this year.

Public Libraries: The Tech Unconference was great. There were lots of attendees, nine sessions, and good feedback. We're still trying to spend down the grant money from the Lion's Club. Amy McMullen and Jessica Summer offered to help create the multilingual story kits for the grant.

Membership: About a month ago (before conference registration was open) we were at 200 memberships, which isn't bad considering the delays of the year. We have thirty new members this year. The board should think about reaching out to new members and trying to engage those new people more fully.

Everything is now moved over from the old site to the new site and has been appropriately duplicated across various section pages, publications, etc. If anyone wants control of their own section or are interested in learning about Wordpress web site management, they are welcome to receive training and manage their own section. For now Helen/the webmaster will continue managing section and committee pages.

The newsletter people have been great, and Helen would like to be able to hand off one of the other very large pieces of her committee work to somebody - so if anybody is interested in membership management or webmastering, let Helen know!

Charlotte suggested we make getting involved a theme at the conference, noting that there are many levels of involvement between being VLA president and just passively attending the conference each year. Amber is very interested in membership return on investment, and involvement is part of that.

VTLib Update: Christine thanked the committee for supporting the buildings day they had in April with 85 attendees. She noted Waterbury just won their new building vote last night - overwhelmingly!

Conference update: The conference should be great! There are six tracks, four sessions, poster session, vendors, social time, battledecks, and more.

The Library Libations mixer will be at Fletcher Free from 6:30-8:30 Monday night. It has about a \$300 overhead and should at least break even. We'll have a bar service and dj, raffle, selfie station, and door prizes. No idea how many will attend. The Facebook event isn't currently being seen by many people, so please invite your friends to help it gain visibility.

The conference brochure is almost finished and will be sent to Lara very shortly. Jess is in touch with St. Mike's, and John has volunteered the entire library staff to help with registration. Everything is set up for all conference pieces except Battledecks. Amy McMullen volunteered to make them and will bring them on a flash drive to the conference. Any others who want to volunteer to make a deck should send it to Amy -

kids@hartlandlibraryvt.org

Jess has a couple vendors interested in attending who are willing to show up for just the poster session. This is free to both us and them.

The first morning session will proceed as follows: opening remarks from Amber, memorials, certificates, retirements, awards, Amber's introduction of Marci, keynote. We're not paying the keynote speaker because she's sponsored by ALA. She requested that we give her "the true Vermont experience and a pint of Ben and Jerry's". The Conference Committee requested we reserve a room for her at Hotel Vermont to give her that experience, the cost of which is far less than our normal speaker fees. Helen moved to do so, Wynne seconded; **motion to book a room for conference keynote at the Hotel Vermont unanimously approved.** Wynne will need to show up there Monday with the credit card. Wynne will also renew the insurance for the conference.

This is our last meeting of the fiscal year. The next meeting should be the summer retreat in either June or July. Amber will send out a Doodle to schedule.

Meeting adjourned: 12:15pm.