

VLA News

May 2018

President's Letter

by Joy Worland

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The April 23rd VLA Library Summit was a gathering of representatives from VLA leadership and membership, VSLA, VTLIB, the Board of Libraries, the Vermont Humanities Council, and other library-invested people. Our facilitator was library consultant Lawrence Webster, who led us through a day rich with ideas, possibilities, strong emotions, collaboration, and optimism. Together we took stock of where we are now and made plans to move forward. Join us at the conference on May 18th to discuss specifics. Thanks to all who attended, Lawrence, and VTLIB for the grant to make this possible.

This spring Vermont Comic Con generously partnered with VLA to offer free entrance to the Green Mountain Comic Expo for children with library cards attending with a paying adult. Look for similar coupons for Vermont Comic Con, September 15-16. Much appreciation to Vermont Comic Con for celebrating the crossover between our worlds and for decreasing financial barriers to attending their events.

May 7-8 is National Library Legislative Day, an annual event for library advocates from all over the country to articulate library issues face to face with legislative staff. Vermont will be well-represented by incoming VLA President Cindy Weber and Assistant State Librarian Tom McMurdo (among possible other Vermont attendees). For more information and a link to register to attend virtually or in-person go to ala.org/nld.

Taking advantage of the VLA newsletter's feature of highlighting personnel changes in Vermont libraries, here is a shout-out to Joslin Memorial Library's new-ish children's librarian, Anna Church. Anna started as children's librarian last fall, encouraging tiny people to enjoy books, create art, explore the outdoors, and make connections between these activities. She has made the space look beautiful, has brought new families into the library, has helped update the collection, and is always eager to learn more ways she can contribute to improving library services.

I give a lot of thought to how to staff small Vermont libraries. It can sometimes be discouraging for a number of reasons, but it can also be inspiring. A real high point for me this year was, during Agricultural Literacy Week, watching Anna facilitate a well-attended conversation with young local "farm kids" at the library. Anna, who grew up locally, who has worked on a farm, who has known some of the kids since they were toddlers, was able to not only bring a more diverse group of people of varying ages into our space, but was able to draw them out in discussion partly because of her background.

more details.

Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

Check out what's happening with the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 38
Substitutes: 80

Types of Employers:

Public: 37
Community: 1
Academic: 1
School: 1

Volunteers may be able to work in more than one county. Availability in pool by county:

Addison: 25
Bennington: 9
Caledonia: 14
Chittenden: 20
Essex: 8
Franklin: 20
Grand Isle: 12
Lamoille: 21
Orange: 15
Orleans: 6
Rutland: 12
Washington: 26
Windham: 15
Windsor: 18

Check out the [VLA Job Postings](#)

Meet Your

Yes, Anna works very part-time at the library and has another job as a preschool teacher. The number of hours she is available and the library budget's capacity to compensate her presents real limitations. But there is a lot to be said about the complex relationship between quality and quantity and for how localized expertise can benefit the library and the community, often resulting in rural libraries excelling at what can seem like paradoxically high levels. Post-VLA summit and looking ahead, I'm excited to explore this paradigm and its potential to enhance library services and increase library sustainability.

See you at the conference May 18th at Lake Morey. If we're lucky, our keynote speaker will return from his space travels in time to attend! <http://www.thewinooski.com/index.php/2018/04/24/bill-mckibben-rides-dolphin-into-space-as-species-leaves-earth/>

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Vermont Library Conference

by Jeannette Bair

There is still time to join over 260 librarians from around the state at the 2018 Vermont Library Conference at Lake Morey Resort and Conference Center on May 18th. Find the link to register via Eventbrite on the conference tab on the VLA website (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/2018-vermont-library-conference/>). **Registration closes Friday, May 11th.**

We are thrilled to have two world renowned authors, Sue Halpern and Bill McKibben, who are passionate advocates for libraries, keynoting at the conference.

With a doctorate from Oxford, Sue has taught at Columbia University and Middlebury College. She contributes commentary on a variety of issues to *The New York Review of Books*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *Smithsonian*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Sue's nonfiction includes books on subjects ranging from butterfly migration to therapy dogs, and her fiction examines the hearts and souls of her characters. Her newest novel, released this winter, is

Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer their time for VLA because they feel that it is important to be involved in an organization that benefits their fellow Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders (for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#)). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President:

[Joy Worland](#)

Vice

President/President

Elect:

[Cindy Weber](#)

Past President:

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Secretary:

[Kelly McCagg](#)

Treasurer:

[Shara McCaffrey](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section

President:

[Alana Nuth](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries Section President:

Summer Hours at the Robbers Library. She will also be a featured speaker at the Andrew Carnegie medals ceremony at the June ALA conference in New Orleans.

Bill McKibben's book, *The End of Nature*, began the discussion of climate change almost 30 years ago. He has published a dozen books of nonfiction and last year he published his first novel, *Radio Free Vermont*, a rollicking story of an oddball band of patriots who think maybe Vermont would be better off as its own republic. He writes for publications as diverse as *National Geographic*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *Rolling Stone*. He holds honorary degrees from 18 colleges and is a visiting professor at Middlebury College. He has received the Right Livelihood Award, the Gandhi Peace Award, and the Thomas Merton Award for his work. *Foreign Policy* named him on their list of the world's 100 most important global thinkers. Bill has been awarded many accolades for his environmental activism, most recently for his work to spearhead the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline and divestment from fossil fuels. However, probably his most cherished honor came in 2014 when biologists named a newly discovered species of woodland gnat in his honor, *Megophthalmidia mckibbeni*.

The conference day will open with keynote speaker Erica Freudenberger, who will share her expertise on how to make your library one of the best small libraries in the country. Libraries have an opportunity to strengthen the social fabric in a digital age, create connections, collaborations, and help communities to build the world—or at least their corner of it—as they would like it to be. We can empower the communities we serve by helping them identify and multiply resources through strategic collaborations, develop inclusive plans that encourage citizens to become active agents in our democracy, and adapt local, sustainable strategies allowing them to innovate and thrive, so that libraries may as well.

Come early and come hungry, breakfast is 8:00-8:45. Over the course of the day, you will have your choice of five out of 25 workshops, three plenary speakers, VLA business and section meetings, and end the day with a reception in the lounge and out on the terrace overlooking the lake.

Jeannette Bair

VLA Conference Committee Chair

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Vice President's Letter

by Cindy Weber

As the Vermont Library Association Vice President, I will be attending the [National Library Legislation Day](#) events in Washington, D.C. on May 7th and 8th. The American Library Association provides a briefing day on May 7th. The day will be divided into sessions that will provide information on hot issues affecting libraries, and thankfully for me, there will be a new advocate training session. The day will end with a congressional reception, which will honor libraries and library supporters.

The big legislation day starts the following morning with a meeting with Senator Sanders' office. The afternoon will highlight meetings with

[Jennifer Lee Murray](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services Section Co-presidents:

[Stacey Knight](#)

[Wendy Sharkey](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends President:

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians President:

[Adele West-Fisher](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

VT Dept. of Libraries Representative to the Board:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Government

Relations Chair:

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:

[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual

Freedom Chair:

Representative Welch's office and Senator Leahy's office. As a newbie to legislative advocacy, I am happy to say that I will be in the company of a representative of the Vermont Department of Libraries and a Vermont school librarian. I am looking forward to this chance to learn more about our legislative process and the opportunity to advocate for Vermont libraries!

Cindy Weber

VLA Vice President

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Friends & Trustees Section

by Howard Burrows

Past President's Message

The town of Brattleboro is updating its town plan. It seems that any town or regional plan provides a great opportunity to review the many ways that a library participates, or could participate, in activities considered essential to the success of your community. It is appropriate for trustees and friends to be aware of these opportunities as they set policies and create funding. Be warned, though, opportunity acts as both carrot and stick; hopefully, you can use the following as carrots to lure new funding and new coalitions that will promote the welfare of your libraries and your people.

The items below are taken from the matrix beginning on page 105 in Brattleboro's draft plan (www.brattleboro.org/vertical/Sites/%7BFABA8FB3-EBD9-4E2C-91F9-C74DE6CECDFD%7D/uploads/Draft_2018_Town_Plan.pdf) with suggestions for a possible role for the library.

- Economic development: The library can work in tandem with the Town Manager to help build partnerships, help with education and workforce development using sources on the internet, provide books and book groups, or even provide tools that help with grant pursuit.
- Energy efficiency: The library can play a major role in analysis or promotion of clean energy, both by having books and online resources with necessary information and by organizing programs that bring in experts to discuss and demonstrate effective and sustainable energy use.
- Agriculture: In a rural environment, opportunities are ubiquitous for agricultural businesses, and for family gardens. In a changing climate, everyone must learn new approaches. This can be done with information resources and outreach to academic and nonprofit green living organizations. Health programs can inform the public about the advantages of new opportunities for sustained organic living, such as permaculture techniques.
- Education: Now more than ever, every library plays a critical role in lifelong learning. With the Vermont Department of Libraries new emphasis on a unified library system spanning types of libraries from elementary schools through colleges, technical schools, special libraries, UVM, and even the medical school, every library can draw information and expertise across layers of educational specialization, creating awareness of research findings

[Angele Mott Nickerson](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Christine Porter](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel Chair:

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship Chair:

[Jami Yazdani](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:

[Jeannette Bair](#)

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:

[Sarah Costa](#)

[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:

[Marti Fiske](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

NELA

Representative:

[Steve Picazio](#)

Represents Vermont in the New England Library Assoc.

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that assure effective adaptation as new information becomes available and as new technologies are developed to aid in its application.

· Housing: In providing a community center, libraries can share information about all kinds of local resources and services. This could include services for proprietors, renters, builders, and home owners.

· Transportation: Libraries inform. A key opportunity involves leadership to develop understanding and appreciation of advantages and effective dispersal of public transportation, carpooling, walkways, bike paths, and other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.

· Arts and cultural services: Libraries can work with community organizations to support creation of prominent art activities, events, and installations. Together, these can enhance public spaces, assure and promote fairness and diversity, and increase familiarity and accommodation across what otherwise might exhibit as cultural and ethnic divides. This would include historical awareness and new appreciation of changing values that could otherwise seem strange and “unnatural” to some in the neighborhood. Library service can provide materials, workshops, and arts programming to engage and inform communities in fair civil action that benefit each individual.

· Historic and scenic resources: Vermont has a rich history; libraries have a central role in preservation of records, promotion of historical settings, and development of new research in cultural heritage, and promoting and participating in grant programs.

· Natural resources: Vermont is special. As such, libraries have a special role in developing or disseminating educational materials to preserve and enhance those attributes that make Vermont special.

· Land use: The core value for any library is to maintain and enhance quality of life in every neighborhood. This involves supplying the knowledge to create effective zoning laws and traffic patterns, climate prediction, and disaster mitigation.

· Technology: Books, book groups, network connections, social computing, and technology training are all now central to thriving in the world. Libraries have a new and accelerating opportunity to move beyond traditional roles. In fact, it is libraries alone that are in a position to administer this, but it means taking on new responsibility. Adding to this, in the future libraries may need to participate in a new “information economy.”

Note that these are “opportunities.” Any one of them would stretch the services of an individual library. Yet by working with other libraries, maybe we can stage larger fundraising events and begin to explore opportunities that seem out of the question for any library working alone.

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News has been clipped by the mail service.

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College & Special Libraries Section

by Alana Nuth

The VLA College & Special Libraries Section is looking forward to this year's [Vermont Library Conference](#). In particular, we would like to highlight the following workshops hosted by academic librarians from around the state and region!

Legal Information for all VTers

Presented by Natalia May, Vermont Law School

Facing the Future: Facilitating Climate Change Conversations in Your Library

Presented by Madeleine Charney, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Start Spreading the News: Help Your Users Navigate News Media in a Time of Fake News

Presented by Daisy Benson, University of Vermont

Book Repair 101

Presented by Helen Linda, Agency of Digital Services and formerly, Goddard College

Actionable Data: Collecting and Analyzing Information for Maximum Impact

Presented by Helen Linda, Agency of Digital Services and formerly, Goddard College

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Christie Silkotch, Science and Data Librarian at University of Vermont, has accepted our nomination as incoming vice-president/president for the College & Special Libraries Section. We will be holding our annual election during the VLC so please join us to say hello to Christie and to participate in the election!

Alana M. Nuth

VLA College & Special Libraries Section President

Collections Development Librarian, Bailey/Howe Library, [University of](#)

[Vermont Libraries](#)

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Technical Services Section

by Stacey Knight

Technical Services Unconference

Wendy Sharkey, co-president of the VLA Technical Services Section, organized an unconference at the Bennington Free Library on April 3, 2018. Thirteen people attended, all of whom use Koha for their ILS. Attendees representing both public and college libraries came from as far away as Stowe and as close as Southern Vermont College. Cataloging newcomers to seasoned veterans were also represented.

Topics of the day included a broad discussion on how to recognize a good record to more detailed discussions on the importance of indicators, how genre labels are being used, and how to get cataloging training to those who need it. The day also included a demonstration of a de-duplication plug-in and how one library handles merging records.

If you attended the unconference, please share your notes with Wendy Sharkey at wendy@catamountlibraries.org so a master copy of the unconference minutes can be produced. Thanks to all those who attended and created a meaningful learning opportunity with your peers!

Stacey Knight
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Youth Services Section

by Adele Fisher

Youth services librarians have been busy at work promoting various literacy activities for their patrons. Elsie Goodrich, youth services coordinator at Winooski Memorial Library, reported that a volunteer position of "Youth Hangout Buddy" was created. The volunteers consist mostly of high school students with community service requirements, but it's open to any interested volunteers. They come in during after-school hours and hang out with the kids just playing games or doing crafts. We are a small staff, with lots of child activity, so having other young adults there really helps lower behavior problems and helps parents who might need a few minutes to work on a computer or browse uninterrupted.

At the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, the 3rd annual Junior Jam was held on April 27th as part of the St. Johnsbury PoemTown celebration. Elementary and middle school students were invited to share their original or favorite poetry in the art gallery for their family and friends.

A youth services librarian road trip to the Eric Carle Museum was planned for Saturday, May 5th. Three of the current exhibits include "The Art of Eric Carle: Seasons," "Eighty Years of Caldecott Books," and "Paddington Comes to America."

With summer reading coming up, a summer reading librarian resource list will be published by May 11th to the youth services mailing list. This is a list of librarians who are willing to answer questions and share information about summer reading for librarians who are new to summer reading or other librarians who might want to bounce ideas off someone.

Adele West-Fisher
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Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

It has been a long time coming, but it feels as if spring has now arrived and with its (delayed) appearance it is also time for the annual [Vermont Library Conference](#) and the announcement of yearly awards! I hope that all who are able will take the time on May 18th to celebrate not only our worthy award winners, but to recognize the dedication of our many unsung heroes who devote their time and energy to the Vermont library community.

The conference also provides the opportunity to applaud individuals in our VLA community who are celebrating milestones, either through retirement or by earning their MLS/MLIS. Speaking of which, if you know someone who is retiring, or who has retired in the last year and is a member of VLA, please send their name (and library) along to me as soon as possible.

I would like to thank my committee members - Nancy Mark, trustee of the Castleton Free Library and president of the VLA Friends and Trustees Section, and Prudence Doherty, public services librarian at special collections at UVM, for their thoughts and insights. Their contributions to the awards process is invaluable and much appreciated.

Happy spring to all, and I look forward to seeing you at VLC on May 18th!

Lisa Milchman
VLA Awards Committee Chair
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Scholarship Committee

by Jami Yazdani

Continuing Education Grant Announcement

The VLA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the spring 2018 VLA Continuing Education Grant has been awarded to Billie Langlois of Castleton University. Billie will be using the grant to support her participation in an ALA Advanced eCourse, "Cataloging for Non-Catalogers." Congratulations, Billie!

VLA Conference Scholarship Announcement

Thanks to support from the Department of Libraries, VLA was able to offer scholarships to fully or partially cover the registration cost of attending the 2018 [Vermont Library Conference](#). Congratulations to the 18 applicants awarded scholarships covering the full registration cost:

- Bridget Stone-Allard, Georgia Public Library
- Caroline Meagher, Hancock Free Public Library
- Charlotte Gerstein, Castleton University, Calvin Coolidge Library
- Courtney Bowen, Kimball Public Library
- Cyndi Candiloro, Readsboro Community Library

- Elizabeth Faling, Cobleigh Public Library
- Ellen Kaye, Goddard College, Pratt Library
- Jennie Rozycki, John G. McCullough Free Library
- Jennifer Molinski, William H. & Lucy F. Rand Memorial Library
- Jessica Shurlow, Mount Holly Town Library
- Joni Osterhaut, Brandon Free Public Library
- Katherine Zenel-Langlands, Goodrich Memorial Library
- Kathleen Hoyne, Cabot Public Library
- Laura Abrahamsen, Davies Memorial Library
- Lise Cavanaugh, Westminster West Public Library
- Mary Burnham, Tenney Memorial Library
- Sara Armstrong Donegan, Carpenter-Carse Library
- Stacy A. Wein, Copley Hospital, Health Sciences Library

Learn more about VLA's scholarship and continuing education funding opportunities at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee>

Jami Yazdani
 VLA Scholarship Committee Chair
 Director of Library Services
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Membership and Outreach Committee

by Christine Porter

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to RENEW your membership for 2018 today! We have convenient online membership processing, including the ability to pay via PayPal, which you can do here:

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/join/> (don't forget to click the big green button to fill out the membership form before you pay).

Don't forget that members receive a discount to the VLA conference, which is being held on Friday, May 18th, and that's just one reason to join!

Conference registration can be found here:

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/2018-vermont-library-conference/>

Don't forget to join the Vermont Library Substitute Pool

(<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/vlsp>)! The VLSP is a way for people who are looking for substitutes or temp workers to connect with folks in their community who are looking for library work.

The VLSP needs your help! Do you know a library that is struggling with a staffing concern? Do you know a librarian, or someone who works in libraries, who is looking for extra work? Tell them about us, they may not know that VLA offers this service. You do not have to be a member to participate.

Finally, if you have had a good experience with the VLSP, either as an employee or an employer, please let us know! We'd love to add your

testimonial to the website.

As always, we're working hard to bring you the most for your membership dollar. Please let us know if you have ideas for additional membership benefits (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/>) you'd like to see.

Christine Porter
VLA Membership and Outreach Committee Chair
Director, [Windsor Public Library](#)
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Intellectual Freedom Committee

by Angele Mott Nickerson, MLS

The Committee of Intellectual Freedom held the biannual John Swan Lecture on April 12th. This lecture series focuses on bringing speakers to Vermont to discuss issues related to intellectual freedom. This year's speaker was Deborah Caldwell-Stone of the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom, where she is the deputy director. Held at the town hall in Shelburne, the talk by Deborah focused on the librarian's role in patron privacy. She discussed the history of patron privacy and why libraries should work to protect privacy. After answering questions from the attendees, she addressed practical ways in which librarians can protect privacy, specifically in an online environment.

Turnout for the event was lower than hoped for, and in the future hopefully the lecture series can be moved to May to be part of the annual VLA conference to increase attendance. Although few were able to come, feedback from the event was positive, and the committee was grateful to have the Flying Pig Bookstore of Shelburne assist in sponsoring the event by providing a table of books focused on privacy and the Internet.

The committee is currently on the lookout for a new chair starting in June. Please spread the word so the committee can continue building on the work started this past year.

Angele Mott Nickerson, MLS
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American Library Association

by Marti Fiske

ALA Midwinter 2018 - Denver, CO

This was my first conference as councilor to ALA. It was an amazing process but certainly no vacation! Meetings started at 8 a.m. and continued until 10 p.m. Most of the time I had meetings straight through lunch (yay for trail mix!) with maybe time to regroup for dinner on a couple of the evenings. I also

discovered that I'm susceptible to altitude sickness though luckily not more than a constant low-grade headache. For the next conference I'm headed BELOW sea level to New Orleans in the heat of June.

Here is a breakdown of the business most likely to be of importance to the average librarian. You will find complete agendas, reports, and resolutions at <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/node/3868>. Feel free to contact me if you need help getting more information.

Three executive search firms were interviewed to look for a **new executive director to ALA**. Issacs & Miller of DC was finally hired. There were seventeen applicants with four candidates in final interviews. No candidates were recommended for hire. Mary Ghikas (interim ALA executive director) has accepted a contract through January 2020 as executive director. Due to the lack of qualified candidates, this autumn council had voted to allow MLIS or MA in school libraries as a preferred educational requirement instead of mandatory. The vote on educational requirements was appealed by petition to vote by the general membership this spring. The search for a new director will be reopened a few months before Mary's contract expires. Final candidates will hopefully be introduced fall 2019. Mary would stay for six months after hiring to help with transition.

Over the next 18-24 months, focus will be on **restructuring ALA** and fiscal issues. The ALA budget fell into the red last fiscal year; however, the organization is financially healthy with assets well over liabilities. The executive board is looking to new revenues and investments. They believe that with the endowment and headquarters building at Chicago, ALA has the fiscal strength to leverage commercial loans. President Jim Neal is overseeing the process of reorganizing ALA for the 21st century. He will continue leading the reorganization after his term has ended. To paraphrase Mary Ghikas (executive director): *ALA needs to focus on what is work that will be done by us and us alone. We can support other issues important to members but focus needs to remain on what no one else will/can do for libraries.*

New standards for school libraries have been published by the American Association of School Librarians. You will find them at <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2017/11/aasl-announces-new-national-school-library-standards-learners-school-librarians>

Hot issues that the ALA Office for Library Advocacy (OLA) is dealing with across the country are cuts to state and/or county funding, dissolution of school libraries, and the introduction of privatization plans, often at advanced levels without trustees and the director being part of the conversation.

ALA-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) is a 501(c)6 with a focus on ALA members, including post-degree certification, rather than libraries and library issues. ALA-APA publishes "Library Worklife," a monthly newsletter published on the second Wednesday of each month. ALA-APA also publishes the library salary database, which is free to organization members and available by subscription to individuals. ALA-APA is in financially good condition and expects to repay its loan to ALA in a year or two. This year's revenue to date is higher than expected.

Formal debate was held between candidates up for **ALA President**. President-elect candidate's web page for Wanda Brown is at <https://www.wandaforala2019.com>. Video of the forum is available on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPVNP3qD1GM&feature=youtu.be>.
(You'll see me in the grey sweater at the lower left of the screen.)

A new scholarship for mid-career library workers was created to honor Lois Ann Gregory's 50 years of service at ALA. Council amended it to make it more clear that non-degreed library workers may apply as well. \$50,000 needs to be raised by donations to put it into effect.

Council voted to place an **increase in membership dues** on the spring ballot for approval of the general membership. In September 2018 dues would increase by \$2-5 depending upon the membership level. In September 2019, it will tie to the Consumer Price Index for the next five years.

Honorary membership in ALA was granted to Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress. The award will be conferred at the annual conference in New Orleans in 2018.

Resolutions were adopted that stated the importance of **net neutrality** and added uncensored access to **visual and performance arts to the Library Bill of Rights**.

Marti Fiske
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New England Library Association

by Steve Picazio

New England Library Leadership Symposium II

NELLS II offers an intensive 3-day leadership retreat for New England librarians and library trustees who have more than 15 years experience. The 2018 program will explore "The Changing Nature of Work."

The retreat will take place from August 14-16 at the Rolling Ridge Conference & Retreat Center in Andover, Massachusetts. Early registration discount ends on May 15.

To learn more and apply, visit <http://nelib.org/connect/committees/new-england-library-leadership-symposium-nells/nells-ii-2018/>

Steve Picazio
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Sharing Shelf

by Janet Clapp

Vermont library workers are an incredibly helpful group, always willing to share. Just observe the high volume of activity on Vermont library email lists if you want proof. Suggested by Marti Fiske from an idea she heard at ALA Midwinter, *VLA News* would like to add a new feature that incorporates your excellent ideas and cooperative spirit. You, the readers, will submit questions, and in each newsletter we will post one of these questions. You, the readers, will share your answers, experiences, and photos that will then appear in an article in a future newsletter, to the benefit of us all.

What would you like to learn from the membership? Email vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com anytime.

This month's question was contributed by Amy Williams, assistant director at Rutland Free Library: "**What inexpensive and easy things does your library do to foster delight?**" Share your thoughts on this topic by emailing vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com by July 1st.

Thanks to Marti for sharing this idea, to Amy for the first question, and to all future contributors!

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The People of Vermont Libraries

If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) send this information to vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com and we'll put it in the next issue of the VLA News.

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