

# Vermont Library Association

Proposed Amendments to VLA By-laws

Presented to the membership 4/21/14, to be voted upon at annual meeting 5/20/14

## **Amendment #1**

*Article and Title:* Article VI: Board

*Currently reads as:* It may also state and vote upon proposals in formal meetings and by mail ballot.

*Proposed amendment:* Change “mail ballot” to “mail or electronic ballot”.

*Rationale:* This will allow for expedited voting procedures for the board and align the bylaws with current practice.

## **Amendment #2**

*Article and Title:* Article VIII, Sections 1 and 4: The Communications Committee and The Outreach Committee

*Currently Reads as:*

1. The **Communications Committee** shall be concerned with the information program of the Association. The committee will be responsible for the association’s digital and print communications media and for the composition and distribution of news releases and other publicity for VLA and its components.
4. The **Membership Committee** shall recruit members to the Association, oversee the member renewal process, develop member benefits, and make recommendations for honorary membership.

*Proposed amendment:*

Combine the two sections to read as follows:

1. The **Membership and Outreach Committee** shall recruit members to the Association, oversee the renewal process, develop member benefits, make recommendations for honorary membership, and manage member outreach. Outreach includes but is not limited to the association's digital and print communications media, news releases, and other publicity for VLA and its components.

*Rationale:* This change reflects the current structure and function of this committee, which has acted as one committee rather than two for several years now.

### **Amendment #3**

*Article and Title:* Article VIII: Committees

*Currently reads as:* N/A

*Proposed amendment:* Add the following standing committee:

“The **Conference Committee** shall plan and execute the the annual Vermont Library Conference, including securing a venue, recruiting speakers, calling for presenters, organizing registration, and other duties as necessary. The committee shall consist of a chair, the vice presidents of all sections, and the current past-president.”

*Rationale:* The conference’s accounts and budgets are no longer separate from those of the VLA, so it is critical that the conference be represented by a standing committee with a vote on the board rather than by an ad-hoc committee.

### **Amendment #4**

*Article and Title:* Article IX: Representatives

*Currently reads as:* N/A

*Proposed amendment:* Add the following: "A non-voting representative to the Board shall be appointed by the Vermont Department of Libraries to facilitate collaboration between the two organizations in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II: Objectives ."

*Rationale:* We have long had a non-voting representative from the Department of Libraries attending board meetings, but their representation is not listed in our by-laws.

### **Amendment #5**

*Article and Title:* Article XII: Voting

*Currently reads as:* Other matters may be voted upon at any meeting of the Association, or, when required, by mail ballot.

*Proposed amendment:* Change "mail ballot" to "mail or electronic ballot"

*Rationale:* This will allow for expedited voting and cost-savings for VLA and align the bylaws with current practice.

## **Amendment #6**

*Article and Title:* Article XIII: Elections

*Currently reads as:* The Secretary shall prepare an official ballot which shall be presented at the Association's annual business meeting. There will also be a printed ballot for write-in candidates and absentee voting. All voting must be on official ballots.

Write-in candidates and nominations from the floor must have the candidate's permission to place his/her name in nomination.

*Proposed amendment:* Change text as follows.

"The Secretary shall prepare an official slate of candidates which shall be presented at the Association's annual business meeting. Write-in candidates and nominations from the floor must have the candidate's permission to place his/her name in nomination. If only one person is nominated for each position and no members present wish to make further nominations, the slate shall be approved by acclamation. If there are contested positions, the election shall proceed by voice vote."

*Rationale:* The elections have been accomplished through voice votes on an uncontested slate for many years, so this change will align our bylaws with current practice. Paper ballots are prohibitively time-consuming for a brief annual meeting of so many members at a one-day conference.

## **Amendment #7**

*Article and Title:* N/A, Bylaws endnote

*Currently reads as:* Written communications to the membership shall be considered as issued and given when have been conveyed into the custody of the U. S. Post Office.

*Proposed amendment:* Written communications to the membership shall be considered as issued and given when it has been conveyed into the custody of the U.S. Post Office or sent electronically to all members.

*Rationale:* This will simplify the notification process, limit expenditures on communications, and align the bylaws with current practice.