

**Vermont Library Association
Annual Business Meeting
Sheraton Hotel, Burlington, VT
May 13, 2008**

APPROVED M I N U T E S

The annual business meeting was called to order by VLA president Barbara Doyle-Wilch, with approximately 35 persons present.

Barbara acknowledged the members of the VLA Board and the VLA representatives of the Conference Committee for their work over the past year.

The minutes from the last annual meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report

Donna Edwards presented the treasurer's report. She pointed out several discrepancies. The treasurer's line was higher than budgeted because of an upgrade to the Quicken software. Also postage and supplies were a little higher. The president's line was higher because of the retreat lunch. The postage line will go down because we are no longer doing a bulk mail permit (people will be reimbursed for postage instead).

Donna also reported that we have raised nearly \$6,000 from libraries, friends, and trustees for the lobbying effort. Also the lobbyist lowered his rate to \$12,000 from \$15,000.

Highlights of the Year – by Barbara Doyle-Wilch

Barbara noted that full committee reports will be posted to the web.

- **Personnel Committee** - published the results of the academic librarian salary survey.
- **Membership Committee** - Sharon Thayer took over as the Chair. We now have 55 new members.
- **Government Relations Committee** - reported that the legislature passed an act to create a legislative study committee to do a library study. Our committee presented a case statement to the legislative committee and our lobbyist worked with the committee as well. The library study has now been published. See ***Legislative Study of State Aid to Support Public Libraries***
<http://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/misc/act25studyfinal.pdf>

The Government Relations Committee also organized a legislative day at the statehouse.

Lobbyist Report (John Shullenberger)

John reported that we were not successful at getting public funding but we made serious inroads. We got many legislators who indicated support for libraries, but the budget writers were faced with difficult decisions due to revenues being below forecast. Therefore legislators were trying to keep what was already going and not add any new funding. But he believes great connections were made between librarians and legislators and we have increased understanding. Besides the budget situation, we also did not have support from the State Library and State Library Board – which made us appear not to have unanimity.

He believes in the end we'll get there, but it will take time. Next year's revenues look even worse. Cuts had to be made to existing programs, so there were no new initiatives except for corrections and substance abuse programs, which we can't compete with. We created a base with legislators and the budget writers, improved understanding, but the budget situation just wouldn't allow it. So it was not a matter of opposition to library funding – it just wasn't feasible at this time.

He also noted that Lawmakers see us as resource. Lawmakers were able to see how library funding will be helpful to their own districts. Lastly, he stressed lawmakers need to hear from non-librarians – our actual users, educators, businesses, library boards, etc. so that legislators will see funding libraries as a constituency priority. John cautioned that we consider whether we want to pursue funding next year.

It was announced that the Governor signed the Library Confidentiality Act today.

David Clark asked if VLA could do a public relations release re: the confidentiality act that libraries could send to their local papers. John suggested we wait until we get more detail on the interpretation of the act. It was an emotional issue for some people who were afraid that this was invading family – there was a compromise on the age. Parents can see records for children under 16.

Barbara Doyle-Wilch and Trina Magi expressed their great thanks to John and presented him a book on the seasons of Vermont. Trina particularly noted his integrity and responsiveness. Lisa von Kann presented John with a certificate for two to a local restaurant.

Election

The candidates were asked to talk briefly about themselves.

- John Payne (candidate for Vice-President/President-Elect) is the Director of Library and Information Services at St. Michaels, where he has been for 2 years. He has been on the North Carolina Association Board for 4 years and was President of Mountain College Library Network for 8 years.
- Wynne Browne (Treasurer) is the only law firm librarian left in the state.
- Kip Roberson (NELA representative) was not present.

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Election results

The winners of the election and the new officers of the VLA Board are: John Payne, VP-President-Elect; Wynne Browne, Treasurer; Kip Roberson, NELA Representative.

Bylaws revision

Brenda Ellis reported that last year the Board had identified some parts of the VLA Constitution and Bylaws in need of revision. A document indicating the suggested changes was distributed at last year's annual meeting and also on the VLA web site under Publications and announced in the quarterly membership letter from the president. Most changes were to clarify unclear passages and to keep the by-laws in line with changes in actual practice. Changes to the bylaws must be approved by the membership after an opportunity to discuss any of the changes, which the board decided to do as part of the annual meeting. The vote on the bylaws changes will take place electronically (and by paper ballot for those members without email addresses).

Acknowledgements

Barbara Doyle-Wilch asked for a big round of applause for Jessica Allard for doing such a wonderful job with the conference

New President

Barbara Doyle-Wilch turned the meeting over to Judah Hamer. Judah encouraged all to get involved with the organization and volunteer, but acknowledged that many people were already heavily involved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Recorded by Brenda Ellis, VLA Secretary, 2007-2009.

Year End Budget Report 2007 - 2007

1/1/2007 through 12/31/2007 Using Amended VLA Budget 2007

1/7/2008

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Category Description	1/1/2007 Actual	- Budget	12/31/2007 Difference
INCOME			
Advertising Income	175.00	200.00	-25.00
CAYAL Income	725.00	1,000.00	-275.00
College Special Libraries Income	180.00	300.00	-120.00
Conference Income	3,814.00	2,000.00	1,814.00
Government Relations Income	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Intellectual Freedom Income	0.00	235.00	-235.00
Membership Income	11,540.00	12,000.00	-460.00
Public Libraries Income	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Tax Preparation Income	425.00	475.00	-50.00
Vt. Lib. Trustees Assoc. Income	712.00	250.00	462.00
TOTAL INCOME	17,571.00	17,160.00	411.00
EXPENSES			
ALA Councilor Expense	2,655.51	2,000.00	-655.51
ALA Dues	110.00	110.00	0.00
Awards Committee Expense	3,481.57	3,697.00	215.43
Bulk Mailing Permit, PO Box rental	244.00	185.00	-59.00
CAYAL Expense	1,134.33	1,000.00	-134.33
College Special Libraries Exp.	188.82	300.00	111.18
DCF Conference	0.00	400.00	400.00
Donations Expense	100.00	300.00	200.00
Government Relations Expense	342.50	575.00	232.50
Intellectual Freedom Expense	100.00	100.00	0.00
Lobbyist Expense	16,769.72	17,000.00	230.28
Membership Expense	31.01	600.00	568.99
NELA Representative Expense	150.00	465.00	315.00
Personnel Committee Expense	230.00	430.00	200.00
President Expense	526.85	200.00	-326.85
Public Libraries Expense	0.00	500.00	500.00
Secretary Expense	0.00	50.00	50.00
Tax Preparation Expense	425.00	475.00	50.00
Treasurer Expense	189.50	50.00	-139.50
Treasurer's Bond Expense	90.00	90.00	0.00
VLA News Expense	2,632.22	3,200.00	567.78
Vt. Library Trustees Assoc. Exp.	788.75	250.00	-538.75
Web Site Design Maintenance	325.00	225.00	-100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,514.78	32,202.00	1,687.22
OVERALL TOTAL	-12,943.78	-15,042.00	2,098.22

May 2008

Vermont Library Association Government Relations Committee Report

During the summer and fall of 2007 the GRC met regularly with members of the Legislative Study Committee that was mandated in the 2007 Act 25. The legislative study analyzed aid for public libraries in 11 states that are comparable to Vermont. The average amount of state support from this sample group was \$2.24 per capita. If we were to receive this amount in Vermont, public libraries would receive \$1.4 million. In 2005 we received \$15,500. It also contained the VLA Case Study, created by the GRC, to inform Vermont Legislators of the issues facing Vermont's public libraries and to make our case for direct state aid. Members of the GRC along with VLA lobbyist, John Shullenberger, worked closely with the committee to provide resources for this mandated document.

At the same time, in collaboration with the VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, and especially Trina Magi, the GRC worked to create and pass a new confidentiality law for libraries. On both of these legislative initiatives lobbyist John Shullenberger worked diligently to counsel VLA and create opportunities for us to appear and influence (!) members of the House and Senate on both direct state funding and confidentiality.

The GRC organized the annual Library Legislative Day on January 18 at the Statehouse. Librarians, trustees, Friends and supporters gathered to meet with legislators and hear from Vermont authors Howard Norman, Reeve Lindbergh and Philip Baruth in support of state aid to libraries.

In spite of broad legislative support, the initiative for direct state funding did not succeed this year. Exploring creative funding streams outside of or along with the general fund would help to move this important legislation forward in next year's session. The GRC is committed to the proposition that the state of Vermont needs to join the 42 other states that recognize the fundamental importance of libraries in strong communities and provide support for their vital services to Vermonters.

Meetings with the Vermont Telecommunications Authority Board began in March with potential collaborations explored.

Committee Members 2007-2008

Paula Baker
Susan D'Amico
Hilari Farrington
Martin Hahn
Amy Howlett
Marianne Kotch
Marty Reid
Deb Spackman
Lisa von Kann

Annual Report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee
Vermont Library Association
May 2008

Members:

Paula Baker
Jerry Carbone
Paul Donovan
Karen Lane
Trina Magi, chair
Michael Roche
Lisa von Kann
Gail Weymouth

Accomplishments, 2007-2008:

Library Confidentiality Law

The committee is very pleased to report that we were successful in getting the library confidentiality statute enacted. The governor signed S. 220, "An Act Relating to the Confidentiality of Library Patron Records" on May 13, 2008.

The committee wishes to acknowledge the skill and effort of lobbyist John Shullenberger, who shepherded us through the legislative process and succeeded in getting the bill on the agenda of the House Judiciary Committee in the final days of the session. We have greatly appreciated the support of the Vermont School Library Association, VSLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Christine Eldred, Allen Gilbert of the Vermont American Civil Liberties Union, Cheryl Hanna and Kimberly Chehardy at Vermont Law School, and Deborah Caldwell-Stone of the Office for Intellectual Freedom at American Library Association.

During the last 14 months, members of the committee drafted the bill, secured sponsors, developed and mailed information packets to VLA members and Vermont library directors, recruited witnesses and prepared talking points, and wrote a formal position paper on the importance of confidentiality of minors. Members of the associations urged their representatives to support the bill, and testified at three committee hearings.

Although the committee is disappointed that the legislature compromised on the issue of confidentiality for minors and allowed parental access to records of minors under the age of 16, the committee is pleased with the other provisions of the bill.

Here is summary of the bill:

- It includes a broad definition of "library," covering public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries, archives, and special libraries open to the public.
- The definition of protected records is broad, including registration records and transaction records that disclose an individual's activities within the library, including materials viewed in print or electronic form, research questions posed, materials requested through interlibrary loan, materials borrowed, or any other library service or consultation the patron has requested.
- It affirmatively declares the above records to be confidential and prohibits their release, except:

- with written permission of the patron to whom records pertain
- to officers, employees, volunteers, and agents of the library to the extent necessary for library administration purposes
- in response to an authorized judicial order or warrant
- to custodial parents or guardians of patrons under 16
- in school libraries, to the custodial parents or guardians of a student, in accordance with the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- It provides for a patron right of action, meaning that a patron whose confidential records have been illegally shared may bring a civil action against the library.

Censorship Survey

Gail Weymouth compiled data and prepared a preliminary report on the fall 2006 censorship survey of Vermont public librarians.

Advocacy Regarding USA PATRIOT Act

Following the release of a Justice Department Inspector General's report on abuses of National Security Letters, the committee wrote and sent letters to members of the Vermont Congressional delegation urging them to continue their efforts to change the USA PATRIOT Act.

Intellectual Freedom Toolkit

Added content and links to helpful materials regarding materials challenges and censorship to the "Intellectual Freedom Toolkit" on the VLA Web site.

Information and Advice

The committee provided information and advice to several librarians on issues including filtering, privacy, police inquiries, and book and film challenges. Also provided information regarding Banned Books Week to a Castleton State College student writing an article for the campus paper, *The Spartan*.

Nomination of Connecticut Librarians for Intellectual Freedom Award

Jerry Carbone prepared a successful letter of nomination for the Connecticut "John Doe" librarians Janet Nocek, Barbara Bailey, Peter Chase, and George Christian, who were awarded the 2007 ProQuest/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award of New England by the New England Library Association.

Announcements

Gail Weymouth will be chair of the committee 2008-2009.