

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting
May 22, 2012
McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College
1:30 – 2:00 pm

Present: 59 members present (approximately)

Meetings minutes by: Heidi Steiner

Meeting called to order at 1:30pm by President Joe Farara

President's Update

Joe provided an overview of the Association's busy year and in searching for a common theme, he identified advocacy on behalf of librarians, libraries and the first amendment.

- The Librarian Relief Fund (LRF) was established to provide assistance to Vermont librarians directly affected by Tropical Storm Irene. Almost \$6000 was raised and cash awards were given to all six applicants.
- The Association co-sponsored a Library Leadership Workshop with the New Hampshire Library Association, bringing ALA President-Elect Maureen Sullivan to Howe, NH for a day-long event. The 40 seats from each state filled up quickly and having Maureen was a great stroke of luck.
- A series of comments were made to the state's Congressional delegation on the PROTECT IP Act (PIPA) and Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). The Association has developed a close relationship with Senators Sanders and Leahy and Representative Welch; they respect and value our opinions.
- Workshops were held on ebooks and young adult services and casual meet-ups brought librarians together outside of their respective buildings.
- Online giving through Network for Good facilitated the LRF and the Association is in the process of enabling payment for online conference registration and membership renewals using PayPal.

Joe commended the conference committee for their great work and introduced incoming President Deb Gadwah-Lambert.

Incoming President's Agenda

Deb thanked Jane and the conference committee and commended keynote speaker Michele Gorman. Channeling Steve Jobs through her speech, Deb quoted: "Do what you love." Deb is and is happy to be serving VLA. To introduce her agenda, Deb stated we have fallen on hard times, but it is time to talk and take action.

The incoming President described the many unique and valuable services libraries provide, but made sure to highlight the most important thing is to know what's going on in our individual communities. She encouraged advocating for our people and having an elevator talk in our communities. Deb promoted "Turning the Page," the free online advocacy training from PLA, and stated you do not need to be a Director to take it – staff, librarians, and trustees all have something to learn. As such, she also praised how technology affords us many opportunities that only cost our time, encouraging attendees to check out the DOL listings of online workshops, as well as Universal Class.

Deb likes to look to leaders she admires – and those are people who step and volunteer to serve. She encouraged everyone to start thinking about how they might benefit in helping serve VLA: “Let’s put a dent in the universe” – Steve Jobs.

Budget Report

Treasurer, Wynne Browne, presented the 32nd Treasurer’s Report. At the end of 2011 the Association’s balance looked higher than it really was because of Librarian Relief Fund donations awaiting distribution. The Association was basically even at the end of the year. Wynne stated the Association’s assets as \$37026 including the John Swann Endowment.

Slate of Candidates

Secretary, Heidi Steiner, presented the slate of candidates and called a voice vote. The slate was unanimously approved.

- ALA Councilor – Charlotte Gerstein (Castleton State College)
- NELA Representative – Kip Roberson (Pierson Library)
- Public Libraries Section, President – Lucida Walker (Norwich Public Library)
- Public Libraries Section, Vice-President – Judy Russell (Fairlee Public Library)
- Youth Section, President – Amy McMullen (Hartland Public Library)
- Youth Section, Vice-President – Tracey Dugdale (Woodstock Public Library)
- Intellectual Freedom Chair – Ray Brior (Johnson State College)
- Government Relations Committee Chair – Oceana Wilson (Bennington College)

Heidi noted a very important position, Vice-President, remained unfilled and asked those in attendance to consider serving.

Other Business and Q&A

Conference Chair, Jane Napier, made a call for conference committee members for next year, noting they are already planning. Anyone is welcome to join—just step up!

An attendee asked the current membership and Membership Chair, Cindy Webber, shared there are 332 members. It was asked whether this was up or down: it is up from last year, though we are still recovering from a sharp dip a few years ago.

Joe returned to the stage and again addressed the urgent need for a Vice President. Though ideally this year’s candidate would come from academia, anyone dedicated to serving the association is welcome. An audience member inquired about the responsibilities and how often the Board meets. Joe explained the three-year arc of the appointment and meetings every other month around the state.

With no other questions or observations the meeting adjourned at 1:55pm