

Vermont Library Association Annual Meeting Minutes  
May 25, 2010, 4:15-5  
McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College

Present: 37 members present (Approximately)

John Payne welcomed the group and thanked them for staying.

Minutes were approved without changes.

As the outgoing president, John presented a year end report.

### **Membership**

Two years ago around the time of the economic collapse we suffered a roughly 20% drop in membership. One of the goals for this year was to arrest that decline. As of last year's conference membership was at 303; I am pleased to report that as of today it is at 305. The good news is that we have stabilized and we are heading in the right direction. The bad news is that at this rate we will be back to where we were circa 2043. Membership does continue to sneak up during the year; we will probably end the year around 325. While we would like to have more, this is a sustainable level.

### **Budget**

These This is reflected in our budget. Income for 2009 was down \$3000, but we budgeted very conservatively and came in under that budget, so we ended up the year in the black by \$2000.

### **Report on Activities**

Library Substitute Pool— This service is about to go live. This idea came out of the Green Mountain Library Consortium and it is officially a joint project of GMLC, VCAL, and VLA. It will be a web based clearinghouse to connect people who would be interested in either paid interim positions or in volunteering in libraries with libraries that have needs. John stated that this is a mechanism through which libraries can help each other by sharing staff in case of an absence. Libraries can post their needs and individuals can post their availability.

### **Patriot Act**

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (Gail and Trina) and John both did a lot of political work for a few months to affect the outcome of the reauthorization of the Patriot Act. They worked with the staff of our congressional delegation, and especially with Senator Leahy's office, since he is chair of the Judiciary Committee. While John had only good things to say about Leahy's staff and his intentions, it was a classic example of what's wrong with Washington. Leahy had to compromise with Feinstein, and Jeff Sessions made some amendments, and still the bill that came out of committee was still too liberal for Lieberman, so he submitted his own bill, and the same thing happened in the House, and at one point there were four competing versions of the reauthorization bill. We were advocating the Conyers bill and the Leahy bill. So in the end Congress just kicked the can down the road by doing a one year

reauthorization of the existing bill. So Leahy's office took us seriously, good communication, but we are going to have to do it all over again this fall.

### **Conference**

John discussed the restructuring of the conference. John reiterated that the old model of the conference was not sustainable. At that point we knew it would lose money but not how much. John pointed out that we may not have had a conference at all this year under the old model. But the survey indicated that was not what the membership wanted, and so the challenge was to find a way to keep the parts of the conference that people said were most important but do it for less than half the price. This year is an experiment, but we managed to do that. We cut the cost of registration by 40%, but we will be in the black by more than \$3000. Financially this works, but that doesn't mean that we do it exactly this way in the future. So we need to make some decisions, and as I like to say, decisions are made by the people who show up. John conducted an informal poll about the future of the conference

The following questions were posed to the group in attendance.

1. Day conference vs. two day – Vote in favor of a one day conference, but some members raised the issue of future partnership with VSLA and how might change the need for a two day conference. The majority of members present were open to that future partnership.
2. Should we continue to have the conference on a college campus – There was an unanimous vote yes.
3. Should we have vendors at the conference – This vote was split approximately 50/50
4. In 2011, should we have a joint conference with NELA, or a separate conference – 15/16 vote
5. Should the conference be held every year, or every other – Unanimous for every year

### **Section reports**

Children & Youth (Jane Napier) – Had one meeting, which was a potluck. The focus of the meeting was on working with the media.

College and Special Libraries (Charlotte Gerstein) There are now 74 members of the listserv. The section collaborated with VSLA to provide a panel at their conference. The topic was "What college freshmen need to know". On June 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a instruction roundtable at Castleton College for Vermont Academic librarians.

Lucinda Walker (Public) – Held successful workshops on the librarian as a social worker.

**Elections** – All officers unanimously elected. 37 ballots were cast.

Joe Farara was elected Vice President/President-Elect. Wynne Browne was re-elected as treasurer and Kip Roberson was re-elected as NELA Representative

John's closing remarks

Marti Fiske (new VLA President) made some remarks and discussed her priorities for the coming year.

Adjourned at 4:57