

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting
January 8, 2014 | 10am-12pm
Fletcher Free Library | Burlington VT

Meeting called to order: 10:12am

Present: Cindy Weber, Amber Billey, Scott Murphy, Shara McCaffrey, Selene Colburn, Helen Linda, Laurel Stanley

Attending online: Christine Friese, Jessica Summer, Ray Brior, Barbara Ball

Opening remarks: Amber thanked Fletcher Free for hosting and expressed excitement for the coming year.

Selene moved to approve the minutes from November 13, 2013; Sarah seconded. **The minutes were unanimously approved.**

Officers' Reports

President: We are still looking for a treasurer. It should be someone comfortable with numbers and Excel. Shara said she would be willing and able to serve as a substitute treasurer until a replacement is found. Laurel suggested we post the search on the VTLIBRARIES list. For the coming year, Amber is thinking about updating the bylaws and looking at how Vermont libraries compare to similar libraries in other states. She attended the December Vermont Board of Libraries meeting and was very impressed.

Amber suggested the Trustees section sponsor Rob Geiszler to repeat his open meeting law presentation at VLA. Laurel and Christine will work together to get Rob to present to both trustees and librarians this year. Selene suggested working with the state's attorney's office and Ray to tailor presentation more towards libraries. Christine offered to have her or Marty work with Ray to do so.

Secretary: Former VLA president and current Aldrich Public Library director Karen Lane lost her husband to cancer last week. Shara will send a card to Karen with condolences from VLA.

Treasurer: Wynne sent an email update and will be sending an updated budget soon.

Section Presidents' Reports

College and Special Libraries: Helen attended the HIRT meeting and found it to be fantastic. HIRT is planning a session for the conference, but we should follow up with them to see how that's coming and be sure they have the submission form.

Amber reported that Daisy would like us to re-examine how we budget sections out of concern that this one meeting took up a very large part of the section budget for the year. We need to update the bylaws to show how roundtables make funding requests, and roundtables should be made aware of what sort of funding is available before they make purchases.

Public Libraries: See attached report.

Tech services: Meeting next week.

Trustees: Laurel will be working with Christine to plan the spring trustees meeting.

Youth Librarians: Heather was absent; nothing to report.

Committee Chair Updates

VTLib: The department is instituting a quarterly webinar series, the first of which will be held on 1/16. Each one hour webinar will have three parts: an update from Marty on VTLib initiatives, 10-15 minutes on technology developments, and open discussion for participants. The first one will contain a discussion with the librarians who attended ARSL last year, an introduction of the Edge Benchmarks, and the introduction of an impact survey from the University of Washington. There will be a kickoff for the Edge Initiative at ALA Midwinter, after which VTLib will begin trainings for libraries across the state. Rob and Christine are working right now on library standards and statistics from the annual reports..

Government Relations: First committee meeting will be today immediately following board meeting. Marty Reid will be joining us for part of it.

The committee still needs more public library representation. Two things we're working on: setting up the legislative breakfast sometime this year, and support for the two "booze in libraries" bills. See report for more details.

One step for the committee will be creating talking points that can be pushed out to librarians around the state for advocacy purposes.

Selene went to the statehouse yesterday for the Vermont Workers Center rally. It was great talking with them and seeing where more connection between our groups might be possible. They have a huge network and lobbying team and are a valuable VLA ally to cultivate.

Intellectual Freedom: Ray would like to offer author Dawn Sova \$1500 to do the John Swan lecture, \$500 of which will come from general fund and \$1000 of which will come from the John Swan lecture fund. Lecture would be in the pavilion building next to the statehouse on 1/27.

Selene moved to approve spending \$1500 for the John Swan lecture, Helen seconded; motion unanimously approved.

Membership and outreach: Website migration has been on pause. Sarah will now be in charge of organizing the people to organize the website. Registration opens March, and the new site should be ready prior to that. Helen will work out the Paypal kinks with Wynne.

Membership renewal reminders will be sent out after Paypal is working properly.

Jessica volunteered to help with the conference site, which will be folded into the main vermontlibraries.org site.

Personnel Committee: Met Dec. 17 to look at the last academic salary and benefits survey. Shara needs a statistician of some sort to replace a committee member who just resigned. Right now they're just doing initial research and will be reporting back on the 15th with results from that phase. The current plan is to get a hold of the human resources people at each school and get salary and benefit information directly from them, rather than surveying individuals.

Scholarship Committee: Barbara sent in mockups for the new scholarship application.

All agreed the application form should make more clear what the evaluation criteria are and should be more explicit in asking how the forms request more information on those criteria.

Awards Committee: Absent.

Conference Committee: An announcement of the conference date went out last week; the call for proposals went out this week. Proposals are due Feb. 14. This year we will also have poster sessions and extra tracks to allow more opportunities for networking. Christine and Amber are deciding who the keynote will be - they're leaning toward someone engaging who can speak on digital literacy and/or library storytelling for advocacy. We'll be hosting Battledecks instead of a bookcart drill team, and are thinking about doing a networking event thing the night before for those who come up early. There will be either four or five sessions after the keynote.

Inclusion Committee: Vacant

ALA Representative: Charlotte will be sending a report after Midwinter

NELA Representative: See attached report.

Strategic Plan

We've reduced the areas of focus from five to four by removing the organizational structure side, which we've successfully addressed. There's still debate over whether this should be a three or five year plan. Please take the plan home, review it, and return to the March meeting ready to discuss.

ARSL Conference 2016

Marty is in conversation with ARSL leadership to co-host the conference with New Hampshire. VLA will still work with and support the conference in any way we can.

Upcoming Events

Technical Services: meeting next week

John Swan lecture: end of the month

Legislative Breakfast

Newsletter: going out at the beginning of February. Please send in news pieces.

Calendar: Amber is still trying to organize a VLA calendar of regularly occurring events like newsletters publication dates and deadlines.

Next Meeting: March 12 at Midstate Library Service Center in Berlin, 10am - 12pm.

Meeting adjourned 11:59am.