

Vermont Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
January 13, 2005
Barre, VT
(Daisy Benson, Acting Secretary)

FINAL

In attendance: David Clark, Daisy Benson, Donna Edwards, Marianne Kotch, Charlotte Maison, Amy Grasmick, Patricia Mardeusz, Trina Magi, Teresa Faust, Jo Lynn Ostler

1) Meeting called to order at: 9:40am

2) Minutes of the November 11, 2004 meeting – approved

3) Financial Report (Donna Edwards) [see attachments A and B]

Donna presented an idea to permit board members to request an advance from VLA to make purchases so that they do not have to put out their own money. (a copy of the Check Request form is attached).

Discussion:

Noted that there is actually money leftover in the budget from last year (\$6820).

We hold money for the DOL summer reading program and it was decided that this money should not appear on our operating budget but should have a sheet of its own. The operating budget should only show money in the VLA checking account.

4) VLA Presidents Report (David Clark)

(See appendix at end of document)

Discussion:

Contract with VEMA for VLC is in place. In future we may want to consider a 2 year contract for the Conference Coordinator.

Memorandum of Agreement – Conference budget, planning money set at \$15,000 as a seed to get conference committee going at start of each year (3 year commitment for this).

For current year conference has \$30,000 on hand. \$15,000 is for planning, \$6,000 for insurance contingency, \$9,000 from last year waiting to be split between VEMA and VLA.

Meeting with Board of Libraries

Several VLA Members attended the last Board of Libraries meeting. Over the next year the board and VLA will be co-sponsoring a series of meetings around the state try to identify current statewide problems with libraries and work to some unified solutions. Charlotte Maison suggested that it might be nice to have a statewide strategic plan.

Action Taken:

David Clark asked the group for VLA to have permission to proceed in discussions with the Vermont Board of Libraries to identify needs of libraries in the state.

Approved

Museum pass program

Application to Vermont Arts Council by VLA, Vermont Museum and Galleries Association, and the Vermont State Town Clerks and Treasurers Association. So, that is moving forward. Marty Reid, Nancy Wilson, and Lawrence Webster will be meeting January 26 to discuss this further.

NELA Leadership Symposium (NELLS)

VLA can send 4 people from Vermont. NELLS asks for a monetary contribution...last year was \$500.00. Donna will verify this and if we have not contributed yet for this year we will.

Action Taken: Agreed to support NELLS in amount of 500.00 for this year's summit. Additionally we will set aside \$400.00 (100 per participant) to help defray cost of attending for Vermont participants.

5a) 2005 Budget

Discussion:

Changed name of line "mailing" to "Bulk Mailing and Permit." Other mail expenses come out of individual section budgets.

Action Taken:

Budget Approved

5b) Book reviews in VLA News

Teresa Faust reported that she was approached by someone wanting to see if a book could be reviewed a book she had published in VLA News. Do we have a protocol for handling this?

Discussion:

We don't have such a policy and David suggested that we might wish to develop one. Other suggestions were made that we encourage people to take out an ad in VLA News instead (as they are in essence getting free advertising if we run a review; or that we stick to reviewing materials with a targeted relevance to Vermont rather than spending our energy on things that other venues are already doing better.

Action Taken: request denied.

5c) Drexel Request for Mailing Labels

Drexel has asked if we could provide a list of members so that they can send a mailing to them about their program.

Discussion:

We have a policy of not sharing our list with anyone.

Marianne suggested that they download the preformatted list of libraries in Vermont from the VALS web site.

5d) Library logo signs (see outline above in President's report)

Discussion:

This is probably a local issue. But, more power to them.

5e) Our March 10, 2005 meeting will be in Middlebury.

SECTION REPORTS

Public libraries – No report

College and Special Libraries – No report

Vermont Trustees Association (Marianne Kotch) – Town Officers Training is coming up in April. Several sessions will be held throughout the state.

CAYAL (Jo Lynn Ostler)- planning a workshop for April – a bus trip to Canada. Plan to visit the McCord Museum and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and also the Insectarium.

The Green Mountain Book Awards – Hannah Peacock has been working on that as well as on the Conference Committee.

It was suggested that we might approach David Martel of the Public Libraries Section about co-sponsoring.

ALA Representative (Trina Magi)

Trina asked for input regarding the ALA strategic plan. There is a health care resolution and a statement of concern regarding the closure of the library system in Salinas, California. Talk of adopting an early warning system to aid library systems in crisis.

Discussion of resolution on workplace speech – felt that it was perhaps a little vague as worded.

ALA is assessing the impact of the Patriot Act.

Office for Intellectual Freedom is working on learning more about advanced barcode technologies.

Council will be looking into guidelines for corporate sponsorship – what criteria should there be for ALA sponsors – there has been some concern that ALA is too tight with some sponsors. Those present agreed ALA should be cautious about too much corporate sponsorship.

Amicus brief filed on Cheney energy policy commission – for not disclosing who is on the committee.

Follow-up:

Deferred discussion on ALA Strategic Plan to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NELA Rep (Charlotte Maison) – Annual conference this year will be in October (16-18) in Worcester.

Awards Committee – Paul Carnahan is looking for a new chair for this committee.

Department of Libraries (Marianne Kotch) – DOL received a Gates “Staying Connected” grant. This will fund some replacement computers and tech support. Continuing Education calendar for coming year will be posted soon. New head of educational programs is Mara Siegel. VOL expected to receive renewed funding.

Government Relations (Marianne Kotch reported)– Legislative breakfasts coming up. Will be doing a reception instead of the book carts at the legislature this year.

Intellectual Freedom (David Clark) – Gail has a speaker in mind for the Swan lecture. Karen Lane has indicated that Barre could serve as host. Jo Anne Schneider has said she will work on organizing this.

Membership (Pat Marduesz)

Pat presented the following report:

Membership Report

- *As of January 12, 2005, we have 244 current VLA members (exp. 12/31/2005).*
- *We have 25 new members.*
- *Several people renewed their membership for 2005 that hadn't been members for the past couple of years. A couple of people actually mentioned getting the “We want you back” letter.*

- *I have not had time to pursue the bookmark promotion. I will work on that.*

Membership Benefits – Exploring our Options

Amazon.com

does not offer any benefit to non-profit organizations. No discounts or special deals beyond what they all ready offer.

Barnes & Noble

Spoke with Jason Lampe Manager, Library Services/Professional Services Division at Barnes & Noble.com. He also sent me an e-mail summarizing what we discussed on the telephone.

this is the upshot:

Subject to a few internal approvals, we would be looking at:

- *additional 5% off the lowest Online Price available to VLA members who connect to B&N.com through our online "Library Bookstore": www.bnlibrary.com only*
- *2% rebate paid quarterly to VLA calculated by those who enter "VLA" in the "Library Name" field of our order path on the Library Bookstore*

I would need to know how VLA will market this program to your members, and then we'll discuss internally to determine if this is something we can do.

(In regard to marketing, I mentioned the possibility of putting something in our newsletter and mentioning it periodically on the VLA listserv. This seemed to satisfy him, but at his request, I sent him a photocopy of our newsletter).

Liberty Mutual

Talked with Maria Milliken. I have the packet of information with me.

Discussion:

There was some discussion of whether or not VLA should be forming partnerships with national chains rather than with local bookstores. Perhaps we could communicate with the New England Booksellers Association. Or Booksense?

Action Taken:

Pat will continue to look into the options on this and we will discuss again.

Personnel (Amy Grasmick) – Welcome to Amy. She reports she is trying to get the ball rolling again. One issue that the committee is looking at is health insurance. Questions have come up about if VLA can play a roll in providing group coverage to small libraries. Plan to revise the public libraries compensation report. The salary survey is needed again. The New Hampshire Library Association has a nice toolkit for pay equity – emphasis on uniform job descriptions. Next meeting will be January 20.

Discussion – Yes, uniform job titles would be very helpful. Would make working with trustees easier, and give a solid base for working on salary surveys. Another idea was to keep abreast of VT Health Care for All. Perhaps mobilizing with town governments. Ask them what role VLA could play – sign on to a coalition.

Conference Committee – group was disappointed not to have heard from the Conference organizer at any of our meetings this year.

Meeting ended at 12:00

Next meeting March 10, in Middlebury.