

VLA Board Meeting
Norwich University
September 14, 2006

A P P R O V E D M I N U T E S

Present: Megan Allison, Daisy Benson, Barbara Doyle-Wilch, Donna Edwards, Teresa Faust (recording), Marianne Kotch, Trina Magi, Lisa von Kann (presiding), Linda Wells, Nancy Wilson.

Minutes of the May 14 board meeting were corrected and approved.

After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to call the written recording of the July 14 board retreat “minutes,” but “notes.” Notes from the July 14 board retreat were corrected and approved.

The consent agenda was accepted. Comments about the academic librarian salary survey should be sent to Amy Grasmick, chair of the Personnel Committee.

Budget

Donna Edwards distributed a budget report through July 14 [Attachment A], and another through September 14 [Attachment B]. These figures do not include conference income of \$15,250.49, which has not yet been deposited. A spirited discussion on possible uses of this money took place. We must spend it in the same calendar year as received.

- Some of the funds could be added to the John Swan endowment, which we would like to build to \$50,000.
- Some of the money could be used to pay a lobbyist. According to some sources, up to 5% of our budget could be spent on a lobbyist. Our tax accountant urges caution. The IRS itself was not very helpful on giving us a specific limit. ALA may be able to give us guidance on this, Nancy Wilson will check. Paying for a PowerPoint presentation could be considered part of lobbying, but if the presentation is also used in other public relations, it wouldn't be. A different tax status may be called for. Some groups, like ALA, have set up parallel organizations permitted to spend more on lobbying. Setting this up will take more than this year to do. Expenses of the Government Relations Committee for Legislative Day are already lobbying. It was reported that the IRS makes a distinction between general lobbying and lobbying on special issues.
- Perhaps we could host some ALA meeting on advocacy leadership training.
- NELA is in Burlington this year, perhaps we could host something. It's too late to sponsor a scholarship to NELA. Jerry Carbone is collecting items for a basket raffle at NELA; contact him if you have Vermont-related books or other items to donate.

- We can probably have some carryover profit, but how much? It is reported that an excess of \$25,000 requires more complicated tax reporting.
- The presence of the unused NYNEX funds being held for DOL training was again mentioned.
- The ALA Councilor's expenses will not be shared by an employer this year, so that is one obvious use for funds. Other expenses sometimes covered by a board member's employer, such as photocopying and postage, may not always be covered.

A decision will probably have to be made by the November board meeting.

Conflict of interest statement

Donna Edwards distributed a draft conflict of interest policy. Wording was clarified from "If a member of the board has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose factual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis..." to "If a member of the board has reasonable cause to believe any member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform that member of the basis...." The policy was approved as amended.

Survey of library directors on confidentiality

Trina Magi reviewed the major findings of her survey [results mailed prior to this meeting are Attachment C, presentation slides appear as Attachment D]. She was granted approval to share this information with the Intellectual Freedom Committee and to place it on the web site and in the newsletter. Awareness of confidentiality as an issue was raised through the conduction of the survey itself. Although some participants mentioned that they felt confidentiality was not an issue because their towns are so small, it was pointed out that confidentiality could be a major issue just because the towns are small.

Intellectual Freedom Committee

Trina reported plans for the University of Vermont to cosponsor the John Swan lecture this year, featuring two of the four John Does in the Connecticut PATRIOT Act case. Other speakers were mentioned as possibilities for the annual conference.

Government Relations Committee

Linda Wells and the committee are looking for comments on the web page designed by MLS student Helen Linda. Some questioned the term "toolkit." There may be too many acronyms without explanation. There may be some redundancy. The board agreed that the pages could go live with slight modifications.

The committee's calendar for area librarians group meetings across the state will be sent out through the listserv.

The committee has developed a flyer on state funding for public libraries, titled "Long Overdue."

It is possible that state funding for libraries could be included in the governor's proposed budget. What if it does appear in the governor's budget, but for a smaller amount than we wanted?

VLA Newsletter

Barbara Doyle-Wilch received two responses from people preferring a print edition of the newsletter over an electronic one. She proposes producing a short monthly electronic newsletter, and having a paper newsletter printed three times a year. Some items that need to be sent out, like the warning of the annual meeting, the absentee ballot, and membership renewal notices, could be sent out in special mailings.

Membership

Lisa, speaking on behalf of Pat Mardeusz, discussed the timing of membership renewal notices. The question arises: should a member joining in the fall of the year have to renew again in December/January. Consensus was no, that a new member joining in the fall would not have to renew their membership so soon and could in essence get up to six months of membership free.

The bylaws should be amended to read that only members are eligible to run for office.

Strategic Plan

Lisa thanked Daisy for her initiation of the strategic plan. Perhaps the annual report of the president and committee chairs should be the opportunity to review the plan and point out progress that has been made. Daisy will work with the webmaster, Barb Caron, to create links on the website between specific parts of the plan and the committees working on those aspects of the plan.

NELA

Lisa will host a small reception at NELA for presidents and vice-presidents of state library associations.

Nancy Wilson will be on the ALA Councilor panel presenting at NELA.

Adjourned.