

Vermont Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
November 11, 2004
Norwich University, Northfield

FINAL

In attendance: David Clark, Linda Wells, Daisy Benson, Teresa Faust, Gail Weymouth, Ellen Hall, David Martell, Pat Mardeusz, Trina Magi, Charlotte Maison, Donna Edwards, and Mary Kasamatsu.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the September 9 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Edwards presented the financial report [See attachment A: Budget Report November 11, 2004.] There were questions on some line items, including NELA, Intellectual Freedom, and the ALA Councilor. Donna will check on these and report at the next meeting.

President's Report – David Clark

- Meeting with the Board of Libraries – At their October meeting the Board accepted our invitation to establish supportive collaboration. A delegation of Library Board members, VLA, VEMA, public librarians, and college and special library representatives will meet Thursday, December 2 in Montpelier. Charlotte Maison has connected with NELA to ask how state boards function in other NELA states. David will report back in January. Gail suggested a representative of the Government Relations Committee also attend.
- New England Library Leadership Symposium – Marti Reid attended a meeting at the NELA Conference in October. She will be our liaison with the Leadership Symposium Committee. Applications by candidates to the Symposium are due February 4, 2005.
- We have been asked to send representatives to ALA midwinter pre-conferences on January 14 in Boston. These meetings are 1) the ALA Advocacy Institute and 2) the PLA Smartest Card campaign Network meeting.
- David's asked if someone could pick up VLA mail on a weekly basis; Daisy Benson will do so.
- The Gates Foundation wants to find out about what challenges libraries face in 2005 on issues such as general funding or technology initiatives. Board members cited replacement of technology acquired through Gates grants, automation for small libraries, networking, staff salaries, technology expertise, computer/network security. Could the Gates Foundation subsidize a DOL tech crew to provide support to public libraries? David will respond to Gates via Michael Dowling (ALA).
- David presented an offer from the Boston Celtics. They would like to mail flyers to Vermont libraries regarding Vermont Library Night to be Monday, January 3.

- David is working on arranging a bus trip and tour to the newly combined Quebec Provincial Library and Montreal Public Library

Business

2005 Budget Preparation --Donna Edwards

There was discussion of the need to generate income to support the newsletter. On the subject of advertising revenue from vendors, the question was raised as to whether it is appropriate to solicit corporate sponsorship. If so, how can this be done without compromising the independence of the newsletter? It was decided to keep the newsletter income expectation at \$1200.

There was discussion of the tax preparation audit, and conference income surplus (the income from the conference that is supposed to revert back to VLA and VEMA.) The conversation with conference leadership regarding how this money is to be divided has yet to take place.

It was decided to invoice the conference for the cost of tax preparation.

It was also decided to add a line for Vermont Library Conference Income and budget \$375 for Tax Preparation as both expense and income.

David Martell asked how section representatives could estimate how much programs were likely to cost and how to plan for that expense. Daisy suggested that a manual be developed that would include policies and procedures, as well as what to consider in planning programs (parking, food, meeting space, presenters, etc.)

Membership – Pat Mardeusz

Pat reported on initiatives aimed at reaching out to nonmembers, including sending recruiting announcements to library directors, sending Dear Friend mailings to lapsed members, and making up bookmarks for distribution at DOL workshops. Bookmarks would carry a tagline, such as “Join VLA -- Join the Conversation!” Pat plans to send out membership card postcards to welcome new members. She is also thinking about a table top display for conferences and events.

Website -- Pat and Daisy

will get together with Carol Minkiewicz to talk about possible additions to the website. There is no formal policy for submitting things to Carol for the website.

Location of January, March, and May meetings – David Clark

The Board will meet January 13 at the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. Directions were provided. The Board will meet March 10 at the new Middlebury College library, and May 12 at Norwich University. The May meeting will be followed by lunch at Sarducci's in Montpelier, as has become the tradition.

Section Representative Reports

Public Libraries – David Martell

David outlined three possible half-day programs: one on cataloging with Lorraine Lanius of DOL; one on design, renovation, and expansion issues; and one on grant writing. He is considering doing all three programs. Board members expressed interest in all of these ideas; however, given the scheduling difficulties inherent in winter travel and other logistical issues, it was suggested that the section do only one program.

College and Special Libraries – Teresa Faust

The conference at Landmark College was a great success. The conference announcements got the most response from direct e-mail solicitation. There were no responses from the newsletter advertisement.

The Vermont Library Conference committee could use more representation from college and special libraries. To date there is only one academic representative on the committee. Teresa requested help from the VLA Board members from colleges.

VL Trustees Association – David Clark for Marianne Kotch

Marianne's written report was made available to Board members. David reminded everyone of the Library Trustees Association conference on November 13 on the topic "Wasn't It Nice? Life After VPLF/Freeman."

CAYAL – no report

Organization Representative Reports

ALA – Trini Magi

Trina distributed and asked for Board feedback on a resolution on health care put forth by the Maine Chapter of ALA. The VLA Board supported Trina voting in favor of the resolution.

The ALA video on salaries for library workers titled *For Love or Money* was shown. The video describes library workers as "knowledge navigators" and refers to the ALA pay equity tool kit.

NELA – Charlotte Maison

Charlotte reported on the election of officers at the NELA Conference in October. There is a new president, Joanne Lamothe, from Tufts Library.

Vermont librarian Laura Casey of Putney received a NELA scholarship. Larabee Fellows received the award for first-time Conference attendees.

Charlotte expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Counterparts workshop in July. 25 people attended at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. She highly recommended this networking opportunity to anyone able to attend in the future.

Charlotte reported on a workshop on the economic value of today's libraries, how to see library values in ways that translate to boards and the public. She reported NELA has a new pay equity committee. She also mentioned the Maine Library Association's adoption of a resolution on Health Care Access.

New listserv information was distributed to Board members.

Board members were asked to think about worthy candidates from Vermont to recommend for the Emerson Greenaway award to honor someone who has made significant contributions in librarianship in the region. Candidates must be NELA members.

Charlotte will attend the NELA Board meeting in mid-November.

Committee Reports

Awards -- David Clark for Paul Carnahan

Paul has asked that we find someone else to head the Awards Committee. He is willing to be a contact person until we find someone else.

DOL – David for Marianne Kotch

David provided Marianne's written report. Bills for the Vermont Online Library memberships will be sent out in December. The Rutland consulting office is expected to open in December, with Lawrence Webster reachable there. Grace Greene is working with the new Green Mountain (YA) Book Award Committee, headed by Marsha Middleton.

Government Relations – Linda Wells

Schmooze II is coming up. A packet of information on legislative breakfast was sent to Carol Minkiewicz for posting on the website. The committee is also working on a poster for National Library Week. This will also be on the website. The Government Relations Committee will be working with Gail Weymouth on some of the intellectual freedom issues libraries face. There was discussion of training for librarians in how to respond. Trina says the ALA site has information on what to do if visited by the FBI. The Committee is also looking at the question of state aid to libraries.

Intellectual Freedom – Gail Weymouth

Gail cannot continue with the Committee for health reasons. She will advise by phone as needed. Joan Schneider will help with the John Swan lecture. David Martell expressed interest in the Committee. Gail requested Board members forward information to her at gailwey@town.killington.vt.us concerning government information sites that are coming down.

Membership—Pat Mardeusz

Pat's report was given during the business portion of the meeting.

Personnel -- needs chair

Conference Committee – no report

David Clark noted that there are currently three committees needing leadership.

Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:15.

The next meeting will be at 9:30 at the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. Directions were provided.