

**Vermont Library Association Board Meeting**  
**November 13, 2013**  
**Midstate Library Service Center - Berlin, VT**  
**10am - noon**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:04am

**Present:** Amber Billey, Helen Linda, Lara Keenan, Christine Webb, Christine Friese, Wynne Browne, Laurel Stanley, Barbara Ball, Charlotte Gerstein, Heather Grev, Amy McMullen, Sarah Costa, Scott Murphy, Shara McCaffery

**Introductions**

**Approval of minutes:** Scott moved to approve the minutes from 9/11/13; Helen seconded. **Minutes unanimously approved.**

**Agenda:** We discussed using a consent agenda for this and future meetings to save time and allow for more of our board meetings to be spent on business rather than reviewing news. All agreed.

**Section Reports**

**Public Libraries Section:** Focus this year will be on informal librarian meet-ups, the Unconference, support for regional meetings, and mentoring. Mentoring used to be more standard across different types of libraries in Vermont, and it would be good to incorporate mentoring into our membership model.

Laurel contacted a 4-H representative and found that St. Johnsbury has an Americorps volunteer doing after school programs with them. She is wondering about the possibility of getting 4-H and Americorps into libraries as well as schools.

See addenda for complete report.

**Tech Services Section:** They're hoping to organize a workshop, possibly as part of VLC. Tech Services still needs a Vice President.

See addenda for complete report.

**Trustees Section:** Rob is willing to take his 501(c)3 talk on tour to present to smaller groups of librarians and trustees around the state. See the VTLib section for a report on the Trustees conference.

**Youth Services Section:** The Children's Librarian Roundtable was well-received. All who attended were VLA members, which means we've either reached saturation in membership or are not reaching non-members with event advertising.

**Officers' Reports**

**President:** Amber thanked Scott for coming on as Vice-President and congratulated him on a good Trustees' conference presentation.

**Treasurer:** VLA is in the black now and should end the year there. The only budget request filed so far is from Tech Services.

Helen asked that VLA put together nice membership packets that could be distributed by VTLib and others at such events and throughout our work. The board will set the budget for those packets at the next meeting when Helen brings an estimate of how much they will cost.

Wynne suggested offering \$250 per annum to each section for program and event costs. Amber moved to budget \$250 for each section to use for events. Helen seconded.

**Motion unanimously approved to budget \$250 for each section to use toward events.**

Wynne noted that the budget is still a work in progress and that new edits or requests can still be sent to her. The scholarship committee should come up with a budget proposal, and the board should create a marketing proposal.

We still need a treasurer in training for when Wynne retires next spring.

See addenda for complete budget and report.

**VTLib update:** VTLib is moving out of the Town Officers Education Conference next year and will instead be doing a similar spring conference on general education for librarians, trustees, and town officers around a central theme.

The Department combined the Trustees and Friends conferences. They had 113 attendees from 50 different libraries - record-breaking attendance. 41 were individual or institutional VLA members. They've gotten great feedback. The conference will be held on November 8 next year and may be at Killington rather than VTC or the State House to encourage more attendance from southern Vermonters.

Christine mentioned the possibility of a VLC panel on the importance of professional organizations, both for the profession and for the individual. All thought this was a great idea.

VTLib is involved with the Vermont Digital Economy Project, which funds such initiatives as Internet Interns and IBM workshops on social media roadmaps for organizations.

### **Committee Reports**

**Government Relations:** The committee is focused on reinsituting the legislative breakfasts.

**Intellectual Freedom:** Ray Brior met with Peter Welch's staff and is working on a number of advocacy issues.

**Inclusion Committee:** Kat has resigned. Amber asked Barbara Shatara at Fletcher Free to take over as chair.

**Membership Committee:** The new website may be up by the end of the year, at which point the larger volunteer web committee can begin working on content. Tote bag payments are not working well online right now.

**Personnel Committee:** Shara is aiming to complete the academic libraries salary and benefits survey by June 2014. Personnel and Membership committees should collaborate around mentorship to create a system of finding and welcoming new hires, inform them of the benefits of VLA membership, and connect them with mentors if desired. VTLib

has a new librarian packet that they're currently updating which contains most of the desired information. VTLib tends to know about new directors and children's librarians, but not other staff. Laurel and Shara advocated that new librarians be welcomed with a call, not just an email or letter.

**Awards Committee:** Barbara Ball is the new committee chair; she is making connections and has Wynne, Laurel, and Helen to mentor her.

**Conference Committee:** Quotes from VTC and St. Michaels should be in by the end of the week. There is a strong preference for VTC to allow better access for southern Vermont. The committee will meet once before the holidays and once before the conference. They are not yet accepting proposals. Christine asked that VLA announce who the committee members are.

**ALA Councilor:** See addenda for report.

**NELA Representative:** See addenda for report.

Amber moved to approve consent agenda and reports; Scott seconded. **Consent agenda and reports unanimously approved.**

#### **New Business**

**Upcoming Events:** Tech Unconference, Technical Services Meetup, and Health Information Roundtable (HIRT).

Amber met with the librarians interested in HIRT. Interest Groups don't fit within the bylaws; however, an interest group could be sponsored within a section, thereby giving them access to event funding through their section president. Amber proposed we amend the bylaws to incorporate interest groups within sections and that we recognize HIRT as an interest group within the College and Special Libraries Section; Wynne seconded. **Motions unanimously approved to amend bylaws to recognize interest groups within sections and to recognize HIRT as an interest group within the Colleges and Special Libraries Section.**

**VLA and ARSL (The Association of Rural and Small Libraries):** ARSL offers insitutional memberships for \$150. Amber moved; Sarah seconded. **Motion unanimously approved to become institutional members of ARSL.**

The ARSL president suggested that VLA cohost the 2016 conference. Helen moved to consider the possibility of co-hosting; Scott seconded. **Motion unanimously approved to begin investigating possibilities for co-hosting ARSL's 2016 conference.**

Christine suggested the conference not be in Burlington, and floated Killington as a possibility. She mentioned that conference attendance may be higher than past years' (around 450) because we are in the more densely populated Northeast. Sarah volunteered to help explore options with ARSL for conference possibilities.

**Declaration on the Right to Libraries:** Helen will publish the toolkit on the website. Amber will write on the declaration in her next VLA News President's Letter and will

encourage libraries to do signings a Town Meeting Day. We will consider tying the declaration into events for National Library Week and Library Legislative Day.

**Booze in Libraries Bill:** H. 385 has been introduced to provide legal protection to libraries serving beer or wine as part of a fundraiser or event. Amber proposed we offer a statement in support of H. 385. Helen moved; Laurel seconded. **Motion unanimously approved for VLA to issue a statement in support of H. 385.**

**Jim Condos' Transparency Tour:** Secretary of State Jim Condos is doing an informational tour on Open Meeting Law. It is not targeted toward libraries specifically but may still be useful for trustees to attend. Helen suggested we find a way to offer suggestions for adapting OPL in municipal law for the 21st century. Scott, Amber, and Selena will meet and figure out a course of action to support this advocacy. Christine and Helen will publicize Condos's tour schedule.

**VLA Calendar:** Amber created a calendar showing VLA's annual cycle, including deadlines, records archiving, news publication, and more. More details and deadlines are needed for items such as regular committee and section meetings and deadlines for conference proposals. Helen offered to make a Google calendar that could be subscribed to once this version is complete.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.**