



**Vermont
Library
Association**

Vermont Library Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Videoconferencing sites across the state, including:

Hartland - Montpelier (VTLib) - Rutland - Williston (Dorothy Alling)

Meeting called at 10:25pm

Roll call!

VTLib Conf room - Tom, Sharon, Mara, Virgil, Nicole,

UVM - Jimmy

Rutland - Charlotte, Janet, Karson

Hartland - Amy, Howard

Dorothy Alling Library - Amber, Toni, Helen, Prue, and April

Congratulated Sarah on her son's arrival!

April is new and now the chair of the scholarship committee! Sent a notice for the MLIS scholarship this week.

- Approval of November minutes
 - Minutes approved unanimously
- Agenda Review
 - no additions
- Reports
 - Officers
 - Toni - Thanked the conference committee members to letting her sit in their December meeting. Toni is moving forward speak to the lawyers about coming to give a presentation at the VLC. Toni contacted author Angela Palm who is giving a proceeds of her book to the VLA to do an event at the VLC, and she is willing to do readings. Met with Scholarship committee. Please let Toni know if your sections have meetings, she would like to attend. Cindy Weber will be going to her training at ALAMW15 at the end of the month. Toni would like to have a section of the website, and Cindy would like to call the group the VLA Council on Career Development. Amber suggests that it falls as an acting committee under the personnel committee.

- Virgil - update on the Koha conference application. We didn't get it, but it helped build some collaborations and the good that comes out of that. Working some on the library passport project. Virgil would like attend the regional resource sharing symposium on Feb 24 - would like \$325 to cover costs. conversation to
- VOTE to approve Virgil attending this meeting - APPROVED
- Amber - VLC updates. Theme = superheroes. Poster by Clay. And trying to book Alison Bechdel as keynote. If you have any suggestions for keynote, please contact Amber.
- Jimmy - nothing to report. Will wait for other business section.
- Sections
 - Kevin and ? (public libraries) are working on a event for public libraries. Amy will be at ALAMW14.
 - Nicole - youth libraries - will having a workshop with Sharon about teen volunteers in February in two locations. Feb 9 and Feb 23.
 - Prue - nothing to report. HIRT will be having a meeting on Feb 20 - book club.
 - Tom - TSS met this fall and talked about exciting things. Bringing back the book repair workshop at the VLC. Also discussed the NACO training - and expanding the training.
 - Howard - Trustees. New and just gathering information. Still coming up with a name for the trustees committee to include Friends. ALA calls them United for the Libraries. Very different kinds of organizations. Concerned about the unpaid time issue. Wants to set policies to guide Trustees. He really wants to support parents. How can librarians help parents support their children's participations with tech. Digital economy and business. Went to the town officer training meetings. Thinking of tabling at these events. It's \$100 to get a table. Getting a list of Trustees is difficult. Wants to work with VLA and librarians to get that list together. Wants to start thinking about the Trustee meeting - address fund-raising and library collaboration.

Technical difficulty - Williston got booted off.

- Committees
 - Awards - Amy Grasnick
 - Discussion of how to recognise scholarship awardees at the VLC. Amber expressed concern about timing at the VLC. Toni will work with Jessica, Amy and April to figure it out.
 - Conf Committee - Toni will send the written report from Jessica
 - Mara says the rate is now \$53 per night
 - Gov relations update - no updates from Selene
 - Intell Freedom - Ray sent Toni an update. Do we want to make a statement about the Charlie Hebdo attacks? Board supports that we state

we support the ALA statement. Ray should create the statement of support and send it out to the list-serv. Helen will put the statement on the IFC section website and put it on social media.

- Discussion about the right to freedom of expression but the responsibility of respectful behavior.
- Charlotte will send a copy of the ALA statement to the board before we decide what to do.
- Membership and outreach - Helen. Renewal postcards sent! We didn't send them last year, and saw a drop on our membership. Already with the renewal cards this year, we're seeing a positive response. Membership is back on track. Helen wants to know from everyone, why are we asking the "How long have you worked in Libraries" question? What are we not asking that we should be asking? Maybe there are things we can remove? Google for non-profits is moving slow, but we're working on it. Helen got a volunteer - Barbara Ball is coming back to Vermont and will take over the librarian sub pool. The next issue of the VLA news goes out at the beginning of February. We will need another co-editor for next year to help with Janette. Helen winks at Amber ;) Shara has been working on the mentorship program.
- Scholarship committee - met a couple weeks ago over google hangout. Starting with the MLIS scholarship as a test to figure out the process. Cleaned up the 2013 form, removed the proof of financial need portion, instead asking them to address financial need in their personal statement. Also asking for other financial info such as how many credits they are taking, any other scholarships, etc. What about the NELLs scholarship? Helen gives the historical report. NELA selects NELLs recipients, and depending on how many VT attendees there are, we give a portion of funding to NELLs and funding the recipients. Need to formally document this odd process. Proposal for librarians in need fund, like something that popped up during Irene. Applications went to a committee that was headed by Joe Farara - April will talk with Joe. MLIS scholarship will be announced on March 1, next will be the continuing education scholarship.
- Representatives
 - ALA - MidWinter is upon us! Charlotte sent out something to get who is attending ALAMW15. Charlotte wants to have VT librarian get together! Charlotte will be stepping down as ALA rep. Great opportunity for someone to enjoy a 3 year term - to go to ALA annual and mid-winter for 3 years.
 - NELA - will contact NELA about the NELLs issue. NELA exec board met Nov 21. NELA con will be Oct 25-27 Radisson in Manchester NH. New president wants to work to support the relationships between NE chapters and strengthen libraries in NE. NELA wants to get more mentors. Chair of NELA IFC was pleased that Sen. Leahy contacted her committee about

the IF act. NELA's vice president for the conference chair stepped down - looking for a new chair. Lots of movement on their board right now.

- VTLib - Tom. Budget issues. Virgil was present at the board of libraries meeting yesterday. VTLib is looking at probably a 24% budget cut, which will change the organization. It's pretty much a done deal, it's not the right moment for advocacy. It's an opportunity re-evaluate the org.
 - Amber asks if Selene was notified about this. Feels like a huge surprise. Tom said it was just as much as surprise to VTLib, there really wasn't anything we could have done. Suggests that we try revive the legislative breakfasts. We also need to start gathering data on what VTLib does to support libraries across the state, and then we can advocate for the services they provide.
 - VLA can help create and distribute form letters to legislators. Helen suggests that we have info packets with form letters on the VLA gov relations website with links to legislators contact info.
 - Helen asks about how can ALA help us? Charlotte will get in touch with Selene about what and how to use the ALA software.
- Other Business
 - Budgets? If people have questions for Jimmy, and vice versa
 - Suggests that we do some budgetary stuff over email. He sent out a line-item report for 2014, and 2015 budget plan. He's still learning Quicken. If people can look through the budget report for the couple lines that affect them, and make sure it looks good. We spent about \$10000 more than we budgeted for! WE need to look at levels of funding for certain lines. The plan is to at least break even.
 - Prue asks clarifying question of when budgets start and when things are approved. Prue asked for \$600 to include CSLS and HIRT.
 - Jimmy says that we're on the calendar year. Prue then suggests that we should really be doing this work in October so we would be ready for the new year.
 - Amber suggests that we have a special meeting to analyze the build the 2015 budget with the exec board and anyone else who wants to help.
 - Helen suggests that Jimmy send out a Doodle poll to the board to schedule the meeting on his time at UVM.
 - From Karson: Item to consider and provide feedback to NELA: Should the Paralibrarians Section of NELA be recreated? MA and NH had a paralibrarians meet up as a result of the last NELA conference. CT has a separate support staff conference. Currently NELA is without a RI representative. What does VLA Board think?
 - Helen suggests that Karson send something out to the VTLibraries list-serv, VALS, and Library Directors.
 - Amber brings up the point that how to do define paralibrarians in Vermont where we offer library certificates.

Helen gave motion to adjourn. Motion moved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16pm.