

Vermont Library Association
Marlboro College Graduate Center, Brattleboro
September 9, 2015

Voting Members Present: Virgil Fuller, Margaret Woodruff, Toni Fortini Josey (virtual), Kelly Tomaseski (virtual), James Allen (virtual), Laura Crain, Kevin Unrath, Christine Porter (virtual), Rachel Gravel, Nicole Westbom, Helen Linda (virtual), Shara McCaffery, Amy Wisehart, Karson Kiesinger

Non-voting Members Present: April Shaw (virtual), Amy Howlett, Steve Spohn, Linda McSweeney, Marty Reid, Howard Burns, Nancy Mark

The meeting was called to order by Virgil at 10:15am.

MOTION: Margaret Woodruff made a motion seconded by Shara McCaffery

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD RETREAT HELD ON JUNE 10, 2015

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

OFFICER'S REPORTS

President: Virgil reported that he had worked with Deb Hoadley from the New England Library Association in order to offer a joint membership to both VLA and NELA for an additional \$20 per year. In order to make this partnership work smoothly it was recommended that either we have matching google forms or switch to Wild Apricot. NELA currently pays \$400/year for the service. Helen would like to investigate a less expensive option. Our current method is not the most efficient, but it is a big improvement over paper forms. Helen will be meeting with Jessica Summer in October to discuss dues.

MOTION: Karson Kiesinger made a motion seconded by Helen Linda

TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OFFERING A JOINT MEMBERSHIP WITH NELA FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$20/YEAR BEGINNING IN JANUARY

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

The Passport to Vermont Libraries program wrapped up on September 1st. We are waiting for participating libraries to report their statistics, due September 14th. So far there has been lots of positive feedback. Amy Howlett reported that Jessamyn West will be giving a presentation about the passport program at the next NELA conference.

Virgil reported that NELA offered to pay his registration fees in order to attend their conference. Toni recommends that his hotel cost be paid from the Executive Board expense budget line.

Vice President: Margaret has been talking with members of VT library community to find out how we can get new members actively participating in VLA. She recommended a form letter be drafted for each section that can be sent out automatically when someone volunteers via the membership form. Steve Spohn mentioned that NELA uses a form that automatically goes to him to be distributed accordingly. Toni agreed with the recommendation that committee/section chairs create a welcome message for those who volunteer/show interest.

As head of the Nominations/Election Committee, Margaret asked for a representative from each sections/committees to please contact her. Toni volunteered to serve as the representative for the Trustees section. Helen reminded everyone that she needs someone to take over Membership as she is done with her term in May.

A shadowing program for the Treasurer-elect is being created. Jimmy will assist with this. A change to the bylaws may be needed. Virgil mentioned that a former treasurer at his library may be interested in the position. Jimmy mentioned that Lisa is also interested.

Past-President: Toni has no report at this time.

Treasurer: (see the attached budget reports) Jimmy reported that we slightly overspent in a few lines. We did meet our goal for income of the conference and look to be in line to hit our membership goal. Toni thought speaker fee was the reason for the conference overage. Please submit section/committee budgets to Jimmy in the next few weeks.

Secretary: Kelly has no report at this time.

SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS

College & Special Libraries Section: Laura reported that the C&SL Conference, *What's New Under the Sun* will be held October 29th at the Vermont Technical College. Non-members are asked to make a suggested donation of \$5.00.

Public Libraries Section: Kevin reported that they are working on an advocacy workshop for the fall, that will not be limited to PLS members. They are also planning for a library snapshot day which is when libraries collect stats and stories (and pictures) for one day chronically what libraries mean to

Vermonters. Finally they are thinking of hosting a legislative breakfast over the winter.

Technical Services Section: Rachel reported that they have started to reach out to membership for professional development. They are also planning a fall meeting for late October. The section offered a very successful NACO training in June.

Friends & Trustees Section: Howard reported that Nancy Mark (nmark@brsu.org) has agreed to serve as president. Currently they have 10 institutional memberships. This year's conference, *Try Something New*, is scheduled for November 7th from 8:30am–3:30pm at the Main Street Landing in Burlington. There is no formal preconference, but there will be an informal gathering/meeting the night before. Marty wondered if the section was a member of Libraries United, as it offers several unique membership perks.

Youth Librarians Section: Nicole reported that they are planning a mid-winter (Jan/Feb) performers' showcase to assist with Summer Reading Program planning.

Awards Committee: Amy has no report at this time.

Department of Libraries: Marty reported that the law library was moved to the law school via a special appropriation. They do offer a call line for legal questions 802-831-1313, or email via reference@vermontlaw.edu. Currently VT Lib has to pay for shelving space so they are undergoing significant weeding to cut operational costs. There have been lots of special visitors to VT Lib including a representative from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicap. The budget for 2017 is due in two weeks and it does not look good. There may be more staffing cuts. Guy Page, the former editor of the Colchester Sun, is interested in working with VLA in regards to advocacy in the legislator. Marty will pass along his information, including his reduced rate, to Virgil and Selene. The resource sharing grant letters were sent out yesterday and need to be returned by September 22nd. A new standards committee will be appointed in November. Marty currently serves on the VIT (Vermont Interactive Technologies) Committee. They have no funding this year, but she would like to hear about patrons using this service.

Government Relations Committee: Selene has no report at this time.

Inclusion Committee: Margaret reported that VLA will not be participating in pride parade this year due to lack of planning. It has been put on the calendar for next year. Margaret provided the link to an audit put together by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council: <http://www.siatoolkit.com>. The committee is working on adapting the audit for use by Vermont libraries in an effort to diversify programs, staffing, offerings, and collections.

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Ray has no report at this time.

Membership & Outreach Committee: Helen reported that she been in contact with ALA concerning joint membership for students. They recommended directing students to join ALA and then we split the money 50/50.

MOTION: Virgil Fuller made a motion seconded by Amy Wisehart

TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OFFERING A JOINT STUDENT MEMBERSHIP WITH ALA FOR \$38 YEAR

YES: 14

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Megapants fun will be had at Comic Con by Hannah Tracy, Nicole, and Ian who are manning the VLA table. We currently have the highest membership in recent years with 320 members, of which 62 are new!

Personnel Committee: Shara reported the initial findings from their latest survey. See other business for more detail.

Scholarship Committee: April reported that they rolled out the continuing education grant which is very similar to the graduate scholarship. Currently the grant has a rolling deadline, but that may be changed next year. Applicants are needed!

Conference Committee: Jessica reported that she has been hunting down bids for the conference. Due to the problem with the lunch count this past year she is against returning to Champlain. Stoweflake is very interested. Jay Peak is super inexpensive, but very far away. The committee will be scheduling their first meeting soon. Jessica has also been working with Helen to update the fee structure.

American Library Association Councilor: Amy attended the chapter's council meeting. She briefly presented some legislative initiatives being discussed. Don't forget about the Midwinter Meeting in Boston, January 8-12. Amy will be sending out information about sustainable libraries to board members.

New England Library Association Representative: Karson reported that the annual conference, *Back to the Future*, will be held October 25-27 in Manchest, NH. A meeting of the VLA Southern Contingency is scheduled for October 16th in Bennington.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Vermont School Library Association: Linda McSweeney, past president of VSLA, reported that they had created a mission statement and three-year strategic plan, both of which were approved. Their next board meeting is scheduled for September 24th at Midstate. Their fall conference, *Connect with your Colleagues, Learn and Share!* is scheduled for October 17th at Thatcher Brook Primary School in Waterbury, Vermont. They are in the process of transitioning to Wild Apricot for web hosting and membership. VSLA was offered a sliding fee scale with lots of customizable options

OTHER BUSINESS

Salary & Benefit Report: Shara and Amy Howlett reported that they will be having a meeting to discuss the breakdown of benefits information. In regards to the pay scale information, of 163 respondents, 95 replied with hourly wages. The report should be ready in time for the Trustee/Friend Conference in November. All survey results will be posted online

VLA Leadership Workshop: Toni reported that she had received a concept paper from Marlboro College that could be used as a starting point (see attachment). A volunteer is needed to take over this project.

Courier Service Pilot Program: Kevin reports that GMLC is moving forward with a courier service. He would like to see VLA, VT Lib, and GMLC all working together. Steve Spohn mentioned an interstate interlibrary loan pilot program that could possibly link Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. He invited Vermont into the discussion.

Future of VT Libraries Listserv: Helen asked if there was a direct way to manage the listserv. She reported that currently new members sign up via membership. Instead she suggested just listing it as a benefit and providing instructions thereby putting the member in charge. There was a consensus to remove this from the membership form.

The meeting was adjourned by Virgil at 12:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Tomaseski
VLA Secretary