

**Vermont Library Association**  
Hartland Public Library, Hartland  
November 18, 2015

**Voting Members Present:** Virgil Fuller, Margaret Woodruff (virtual), Kelly Tomaseski (virtual), Bethany Dietrich, Christine Porter, Kelly McElligott (virtual), Rachel Gravel (virtual), Nancy Mark, Nicole Westbom (virtual), Amy Grasmick, Selene Colburn (virtual), Helen Linda, Jessica Summer (virtual), Amy Wisehart, Karson Kiesinger (virtual)

**Non-voting Members Present:** April Shaw (virtual), Marty Reid, Linda McSweeney (virtual)

**The meeting was called to order by Virgil at 10:08.**

**MOTION:** Virgil Fuller made a motion seconded by Helen Linda

**TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

**YES: 14**

**NO: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**OFFICER'S REPORTS**

**President:** Virgil reported that he attended the NELA Conference with more specifics available in the November newsletter (see attachment). The ALA Midwinter Conference is offering a session about hiring an executive director. Is there interest in VLA to do this? The Passport to VT Libraries has concluded, and was very successful. A list of winners in each category and their pictures are available on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vermontpassport/?fref=ts>). The passport committee is welcoming new members, just email Virgil if you are interested. Virgil also attended the Trustees & Friends Conference and heard mostly positive feedback about the event.

**ACTION ITEM:** Helen will add a link on the VLA webpage to VTLib's photos from the day.

Finally, Virgil attended the ILL delivery meeting. More information about this pilot program is available at <http://gmlc.org/index.php/delivery-service>.

**Vice President:** Margaret reminded all committee chairs that she needs nominations as soon as possible. Margaret is working on an initiative to inform non-users about the services offered by libraries. Angela Bernard from the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library has agreed to serve as VLA treasurer in the wake of Jimmy's resignation. She comes with a letter of reference from Library Director, Marti Fiske. Thank you, Jimmy for all your hard work. The Executive Board met on November 13<sup>th</sup> to make arrangements until

Angela is in place. Please send all receipts, etc can to Virgil and Margaret until the new treasurer is settled.

**Past-President:** Toni is taking a brief sabbatical during an intensive chemotherapy treatment for her son. She presented on a panel at the recent conference about building capacities in Friends and Trustee groups. Toni also met with Jessica to discuss this year's conference. Helen mentioned that proposals for conference topics are now being accepted via the website. Finally Toni asked that we adopt consent agenda format—a consent agenda is a meeting practice which packages routine committee reports, Board meeting minutes, and other non-controversial items not requiring discussion or independent action as one agenda item. Karson reported that NELA uses this and it is highly effective. Virgil will share due dates for reports, but plan for 1-2 weeks in advance of the meeting.

**Treasurer:** Jimmy resigned his position due to a new job.

**Secretary:** Kelly has no report at this time.

*Selene left at 10:58pm.*

## **SECTION & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**College & Special Libraries Section:** Beth Dietrich reported that they got a new section member via the website. A \$5 donation was requested from individuals attending the October 29<sup>th</sup> conference, with a total of \$55 collected. Ebsco gave \$500 to pay for refreshments. Only \$113.50 of the \$600 total budget was spent. On October 21, VLA College & Special Libraries President Laura Crain, Vice-President Bethany Dietrich, and VLA President Virgil Fuller drafted a letter to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE) concerning the August 2015 Draft NEASC Standards for Accreditation due to the removal of libraries and information literacy—learning commons is not a library. The complete letter is available at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/csl/>.

**Public Libraries Section:** Christine Porter reported for Kevin. They are still working on Snapshot Day in 2016. Kevin also plans to work with Selene to schedule a legislative breakfast in addition to an advocacy workshop for public librarians

**Technical Services Section:** Kelly McElligott reported that they are now accepting nominations for the first Annual Birdie MacLennan Award to be given to an outstanding technical services librarian who exceeds expectations. Please email your nomination to [kmcelligott@stowelibrary.org](mailto:kmcelligott@stowelibrary.org). Be sure to include the technical service librarian's name and brief statement supporting the nomination (no more than 250 words). They are hoping to schedule a committee meeting prior to the VLA Conference, so if you are on the committee, please contact Kelly or Rachel.

**Friends & Trustees Section:** Nancy Mark reported her impressions of the November 7<sup>th</sup> conference (available at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/fts/> ). She would like a list of emails from section members. She encouraged VLA to get the word out “what can VLA do for you.” There was a brief discussion concerning the alternating of the president role between a Friend and Trustee representative.

**ACTION ITEM:** Helen will email Nancy the section member email list.

**Youth Librarians Section:** Nicole reported that she attended the first quarter meeting of VSLA. She and Ian attended Comic Con.

**Awards Committee:** Amy reported that you can nominate someone for one of the four awards at any time during the year. A description of the awards and what is needed to nominate an individual can be found at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards/>.

**Department of Libraries:** Marty reported that three VTLib employees were approved for the State retirement incentive program. None of these three positions (or the 218 other state positions) will be filled. She is currently looking for an Executive Assistant as Brittney Wilson left to work on the Phil Scott campaign.

Consultant Bill Wilson will complete his report for VTLib restructuring in December. A Department Transition Team will work with Marty to establish priorities for the next 8-12 months, including filling 4 vacant positions. There is concern over losing federal funding that requires a 34% state match.

A business case has been submitted to the Dept of Information and Innovation for replacing the current VALS software with a more robust model. Also preparing an RFP that will go out to vendors for VTLib’s ILS and software support of a statewide resource sharing system. The pilot ILL Currier System is scheduled to start in January 2016.

Marty attended the VSLA board meeting last week where the importance of intellectual freedom was discussed. We need to make sure every public library can handle a challenge. There is currently no mechanism for collecting challenges in the state and reporting them to ALA. (See attachments for remainder of Marty’s report.)

**Government Relations Committee:** Selene reported that the committee has been fairly dormant over the summer. They will be setting up a meeting with Marty to discuss what’s happening at VTLib. They will be contacting Senator Ashe concerning his latest bill regarding privacy issues. The scope of bill originally was with law enforcement, but it has now been expanded (<http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2016/S.18>). Selene’s goal for the year is to transition out of a leadership position on the committee, though she is willing to co-chair in the coming year. The Committee is working with ALA to adopt legislative software that will assist with advocacy. Currently they are exploring

Capwiz and Engage. Selene clarified that the committee does not serve as a lobbyist, but they are mobilizers concerning legislative actions. Kelly McElligott asked if we should be looking to hire a professional lobbyist. Marty encouraged VLA to become mobile with the lobbying effort as VTLib is in need of help. Virgil reported that New Hampshire hired a lobbyist. Selene reported that John Shellenberger was hired in 2005 to advocate for public libraries as a response to a question by Amy Grasmick. Selene reiterated we need a clear and consistent message to move forward. Marty asked for a meeting the week after Thanksgiving with Virgil and the Government Relations Committee. Marty is also concerned about cuts to federal funding.

***Inclusion Committee:*** Margaret has no report at this time.

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

***Membership & Outreach Committee:*** Helen reported that last year's decline in membership has recovered—we are back up over 300 members with 62 new members. Helen reminded everyone that a new Membership Chair is needed by the conference. An email was sent out with the recommended changes to the dues structure. There has not been an increase in over a decade. The official vote will be held at the annual conference.

***Personnel Committee:*** Shara reported that they distributed handouts about their recent public library salary survey at the Trustees and Friends conference November 7th. Please contact Shara for any additional information concerning the salary survey.

***Scholarship Committee:*** April reported that they have yet to receive any applications for the continuing education grant. The grant is limited to individual members, and not institutional members.

***Conference Committee:*** Jessica met with Toni and put together the call for proposals for the 2016 conference (see website). All you need to submit at this point is a working title and basic description. The committee received the same competing bids from Stoweflake and Stowe Mountain Resort. These will be sent out to the board for feedback. Stoweflake will host for two years and two days for \$500, plus the cost of food. Conference rates haven't been increased for some time. An increase to \$65 is planned for this coming year, with a two day conference planned for 2017. Non-members will have to pay double for conferences. The committee is also looking at a way for people to donate money when registering for the conference in order to offer a conference scholarship. This would be managed by April and the Scholarship Committee. A possible conference theme is *Libraries as third place* (living room space) with the possible keynote speaker Zachary Benedict of MKM Architecture. The committee is looking at using Eventbrite for conference registration. Helen said to go forward with that plan as she does not have time to research other tools. Eventbrite

allows us to pass fees along to the people registering, instead of losing money to Paypal. It will also simplify check-in at registration.

**American Library Association Councilor:** Amy reported on the Libraries Transforming Communities initiative (<http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities>). The ALA Midwinter meeting will be in Boston this January. The next time the meeting will be held in New England will be approximately 2026.

*Rachel left at 11:53am*

**New England Library Association Representative:** Karson reported Steven Spohn attended several state meetings and suggested the sharing of VLA minutes will NELA and all states. Kelly is fine with sharing of the Draft minutes. A southern VLA meetup was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at Bennington Free Library with 12 librarians/staff members representing public, school, and academic libraries. There seemed to be an interest in continuing these types of gatherings. Karson attended the NELA October 25-27 Conference where she collected lots of great ideas. NELA's annual business meeting was held October 26<sup>th</sup> at the conference. Budgets problems are shared by all states. Deb Hoadley, NELA President, is focused on advocacy. Mary Danko (NH) was named President Elect. Amy Howlett was recognized for her service as she is leaving the board. There are plans to offer NELS2 for those professional who are mid-later in their career. These would alternate years with the original program, beginning in 2016. Mary Etter, Director of South Windsor Public Library (CT) is working on plans for a Spring 2016 full day Legislative Summit for all state organizations.

*Jessica left at 12:01pm*

## **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Vermont School Library Association:** Linda McSweeney reported that VITA-LEARN will be having their Dynamic Landscapes Conference: Ambassadors for Creativity on May 23-24 at Champlain College. There is interest in organizing a program concerning maker space with school and public librarians. Linda will be teaching a course at UVM for school librarian licensure and would love to have someone from the C&SL Section provide feedback on the syllabus she plans to use. Beth Dietrich would be happy to assist.

**The meeting was adjourned by Virgil at 12:07pm.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS (Not discussed due to time)**

**VLA Leadership Workshop:** Rachel

**Treasurer Replacement:**

***Roles of VLA, VTLIB, GMLC:***

***Membership Dues Proposal:*** Helen

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Tomaseski  
VLA Secretary