

VLA News

August 2018

President's Letter

by Cindy Weber

In the May/June issue of *Public Libraries*, PLA's official magazine, Pam Smith, PLA president and director of Anythink Libraries in Colorado, wrote "Telling Our Story," a summarization of the changing world of libraries and the current role of librarians. This one-page overview was powerful. Librarians today are adaptable, engaging civically, building relationships, developing partnerships, making people comfortable and welcomed, being intuitive, thinking critically, connecting, and being the catalyst for change. We provide umpteen services AND provide the physical and digital resources our patrons need. All of this, we know because we live it. To me, the most powerful thing that Ms. Smith said was "From my view of our world, books are just one of our products – our real brand is connecting people with possibility."

As your VLA president, this is my dream -- connecting you, as VLA members, with the possibility of ... true access for everyone; a strong library message for advocacy; collaboration between library entities; a strong, adaptable, and welcoming association; and increased opportunities for professional advancement. These are the five aspirations that were verbalized by the attendees at the VLA Summit in April, and these matters have subsequently been established as the focus of VLA's next strategic plan.

Workgroups have been recognized for the above issues, and there will be a callout for additional volunteers to meet and discuss these varied topics. Watch for an email from VLA secretary Kelley McCagg for further information on workgroup activities. The VLA board also plans to conduct a membership survey before finalizing the strategic plan. We want this association to be responsive to its members' needs, to build better relationships within the Vermont library community, and to actively advocate for Vermont libraries and librarians.

In the meantime, if you have great ideas about the future of VLA and/or you have time to assist in the process, reach out to your VLA leadership. We are also looking for a new conference committee chair and a new VLA treasurer. Let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Thank you to Jeanette Bair and her committee for a fantastic conference! We received many compliments about the breakout sessions and the venue. Beaucoup thanks for your hard work!

Thank you to Shara McCaffrey, VLA treasurer! You will be missed! Shara will be embarking on some new and exciting adventures further north! ;) Good luck!

Yours truly,

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Consider using the Amazon Smile program and select the Vermont Library Association to receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. Visit smile.amazon.com for more details.

Back Issues

Did you miss previous issues of the *VLA News*? Don't despair! You can read them on the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

Check out what's happening with the [Vermont Library Substitute Pool!](#)

Employers: 38
Substitutes: 80

Types of Employers:

Public: 37
Community: 1
Academic: 1
School: 1

Volunteers may be able to work in more than one county.
Availability in pool by county:

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Connect With Us:
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Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Public Libraries Section

by Loona Brogan

Introduction

Hello from Loona Brogan, library director at the Cutler Memorial in Plainfield. I'm honored to be asked to serve my colleagues and the public library realm in particular as vice president of the VLA Public Libraries Section, and I am excited to work with the section's president, Debbie Landauer. We have a number of projects and initiatives we hope to work on in the coming months. Some of these were suggested by members at the annual meeting in May.

We will be reaching out to some of the interlibrary loan (ILL) staff at the bigger libraries to talk about their engagement with the Multiple Copy Sharing list (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXhQ8VBS1eRlqHe9S0fujF28NkY8hf7L8P7C9ZEuxV4cBMuQ/viewform?c=0&w=1>). I am also organizing at least four regional gatherings of public librarians between now and next summer. I'm aiming for Manchester or Ludlow area, Randolph or Montpelier area, Newport or Lyndon area, and Milton or Hinesburg area. Are you interested in hosting at your library? Please let me know, loona.brogan@cutlerlibrary.org.

What Counts

Many people don't understand WHY people use libraries, or why communities need them. As I write this, our 1000-square-foot library has people in almost every chair in the building, and none of them are here to borrow from the collection. They're here to use the space. As Albert Einstein said, "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." We know how many people come through the door...and we know how many books circulate each year, and how many program attendees we've had, but what do people independently DO at the library? Has that changed over time? How can we measure this aspect of library use? Categorizing and tracking HOW people use the library has become a pet project of mine. I am experimenting with a flip chart by the desk. Most people are happy to help! I've made a chart of categories for the flip chart so people can tick off which ones apply to them.

The categories I am using are...

Addison: 25
Bennington: 9
Caledonia: 14
Chittenden: 50
Essex: 8
Franklin: 20
Grand Isle: 12
Lamoille: 21
Orange: 15
Orleans: 6
Rutland: 12
Washington: 26
Windham: 15
Windsor: 18

Check out the
[VLA Job Postings](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the Executive Board, Section & Committee leaders and Representatives volunteer their time for VLA because they feel that it is important to be involved in an organization that benefits their fellow Vermont librarians and their profession as a whole. Below is a list of your VLA Leaders (for more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

How many people this month:

- ...used the space for more than an hour
- ...used the space for more than two hours
- ...brought children for a short visit
- ...brought children for a longer visit
- ...only used the space to access the Internet
- How many youth came or stayed independently

How many times this month were people:

- studying
- working
- reading
- writing
- knitting
- playing
- informally meeting

I'd be interested to hear what other folks are doing. What would work in a very small library won't necessarily work at larger libraries, after all.

For types of computer use, a volunteer (briefed on confidentiality) is looking at the browser history of our public computers, and creating a report on general categories of Internet use:

- email
- job search/apply
- social media
- news
- research
- school
- games/amusement
- health
- legal
- business
- creativity
- access to digital library materials

Information is power. If we can report even an estimate on the percentage of people who use the library that are ONLY using the space, we will have another tool in our advocacy toolkit that would be useful in many ways to inform budget planning, space management, and programming decisions.

As we emphasize how "[LIBRARIES TRANSFORM](#)," we can respond effectively to challenges to our budget, and in many cases identify additional funding needs (and perhaps opportunities too). The "easy" things to count, how many books we lend out and how many people walk through the door, etc., do not paint a complete or accurate picture of how libraries are leveraging public resources in the interests of our community. I'd like to invite you to have a conversation on this topic on any listserv you use for communication with your colleagues. What are your thoughts on the subject? Do you have any tools or techniques to share? I'll report in a later newsletter article how our experiment turned out in Plainfield.

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**Past
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[Margaret
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[Kelly McCagg](#)

Treasurer:
[Shara McCaffrey](#)

**Section
Representativ
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**College &
Special
Libraries
Section
President:**
[Emily Crist](#)
Organizes
workshops and
assists college
and special
librarians.

**Public
Libraries
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President:**
[Debbie
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Organizes
workshops and
assists public
librarians.

**Technical
Services
Section
President:**
[Dennise Post](#)
Organizes
workshops &
assists technical
services

Go Vermont: A resource for libraries and patrons

by Ross MacDonald

The lack of reliable transportation is consistently cited as a major barrier to employment, social activities, child care, addiction/recovery services, etc. When asked about transportation options in your region, please refer patrons to the Go Vermont program www.connectingcommuters.org, a statewide "one-call/one-click" resource for transportation services. This program provides a trip planner, carpool and vanpool services, and links to all public transit service. In addition, a call center is available to discuss specific issues and will ensure all options are being considered. The site also offers outreach materials (like regional resource printouts), and we invite you to check these out and post as appropriate. We will all benefit from understanding the full range of transportation services in our areas and this resource can be a useful tool.



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Friends & Trustees Section

by Nancy Mark

The VLA board welcomes Dana Rozycki as the new vice president of the VLA Friends and Trustees Section. Dana is a member of the Friends of the John G. McCullough Free Library in North Bennington, a resident of the town, and a former member of the Friends of the Larchmont Public Library in Larchmont, New York. Growing up on a dirt road in Vermont, and a graduate of the University of Vermont, Dana credits his library for providing an essential "information pipeline" that led him to his educational and career opportunities.

Dana was elected to his board position in May at the Vermont Library Conference held at Lake Morey. He is committed to serve VLA and its members with the following goals: "to encourage awareness within Vermont communities of the need for effective governance and support of libraries, and to encourage trustee and friends groups to network and adapt best practices from their peers."

As president of the VLA Friends and Trustees Section, I look forward to working with Dana in a shared commitment to contribute to the support and sustainability of

librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth

Librarians

President:

[Adele West-Fisher](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees

Archivist:

[Paul Carnahan](#)

Awards Chair:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

VT Dept. of

Libraries

Representative

to the

Board:

[Tom McMurdo](#)

Government

Relations

Chair:

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion

Chair:

[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual

Freedom

Chair:

[Angele Mott](#)

Vermont's libraries.

Nancy Mark

VLA Friends and Trustees Section President

Trustee, [Castleton Free Library](#)

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College & Special Libraries Section

by Emily Crist

Save the Date

Friday, November 9th, 2018

People at the Center: User-Focused Librarianship

2018 VLA College & Special Libraries Section Fall Program

Vermont Technical College

Randolph Center, VT

Continually evolving landscapes and limited resources reveal new opportunities and inform new approaches. Let's take a fresh look at who we serve and how we can meet them where they are. Who are our stakeholders? How do we get to know them? How can our services, programs, collections, and systems reflect their identities and respond to their needs?

Stay tuned for the call for proposals!

Emily Crist

VLA College & Special Libraries Section President

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Technical Services Section

by Dennise Post

My name is Dennise, and I'm the new president of the VLA Technical Services Section. I've worked in libraries since 2000, starting in a high school library, moving a few years later to the Hartland Public Library. I started as a circulation assistant, and over time have migrated to the more technical aspects of the library world, ending up doing mostly cataloging for many years. Last year, I began a new position as head of circulation, and so along with cataloging, have branched out into interlibrary loan, collection development, and circulation.

I'm not sure yet of the direction this section will take. I'd really like to hear from other technical services librarians, or those who do cataloging, to find out what your thoughts are in regards to what you'd like to see made available to you in the next

[Nickerson](#)

Assists librarians with challenges to library materials and issues related to patron privacy.

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Christine Porter](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Personnel

Chair:

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship

Chair:

[Jami Yazdani](#)

Oversees VLA scholarships.

Vermont

Library

Conference

Chair:

Vacant

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ALA

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[Marti Fiske](#)

Represents Vermont in the national organization.

year. Webinars? On-site training? What do you think would help you feel better prepared for the complicated, detail-oriented job of catalogers? What do you think has worked in the past, and what hasn't?

I'm excited to be a part of the VLA community! Thanks, and I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Dennise Post

VLA Technical Services Section President

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Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

The following 2018 VLA awards were presented at the Vermont Library Conference on May 18.

Jane Ramos, director of the Sherburne Memorial Library, received the **Sarah C. Hagar Award**, which recognizes outstanding service in and significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont. Jane was recognized as both a paragon of excellence in library service and an outstanding and vocal advocacy leader. Her nominators made particular note of her achievement in the past year in the development of the Vermont Fairy Tale Festival, an event which offered an unprecedented opportunity to showcase the creativity and diversity of Vermont public libraries.

Mara Siegel was acknowledged with the **Green Mountain Award**. This award is given as the opportunity arises, for distinguished service, support, or unusual contributions to a Vermont library or libraries. As was made clear by the letters in her nominating packet, Mara has had a profound influence over the lives and practices of many Vermont librarians, and she embodies and models the qualities of outstanding service and leadership. Especial note was made of her efforts on behalf of interlibrary loan service, both through VALS/Web2 and in shepherding in the aptly named CLOVER system, and through her work in continuing education, which provided numerous Vermont librarians over many years, the opportunity to be certified in Public Librarianship.

We want to hear from you! We rely on VLA's membership to let us know about all of the good work you and your colleagues are doing. Although the committee puts out calls for nominations in the months leading up to the Vermont Library Conference, we are happy to receive nomination packets at any time. Guidelines for nominations are available at the VLA website: <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards>.

Lisa Milchman

VLA Awards Committee Chair

Assistant Director, [Norwich Public Library](#)

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NELA
Representative:

[Steve Picazio](#)

Represents
Vermont in the
New England
Library Assoc.

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Users**

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Scholarship Committee

by Jami Yazdani

New Name, Same Great Opportunity!

To better reflect the scope of possible activities covered, the VLA Scholarship Committee has changed the name of the Continuing Education Grant to the Professional Development Grant. This grant is awarded twice a year (with deadlines of March 1st and August 1st) and provides the recipient with up to \$250 towards a professional development program – these professional development opportunities could be a workshop, webinar, conference, or continuing education course. Applying is as simple as completing a form. Learn more about VLA's scholarship and professional development funding opportunities at www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee.

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Continuing Education Grant Winner

Cataloging for Non-Catalogers

by Billie Walsh Langlois

ALA's Advanced eCourse "Cataloging for Non-Catalogers" was a beneficial course that enhanced my cataloging knowledge and abilities. The course covered the history of cataloging and gave me a stronger understanding of MARC records, Library of Congress (LC), and OCLC. Two useful things that I learned were the three new MARC fields – the 3xx fields – and that RDA records the title exactly as it appears. My library uses Dewey, but it was informative to learn more about LC and the useful areas of the website. Cataloging trends were a focus of the course, with the most recent trend being that MARC will eventually be replaced by BIBFRAME. The course made me realize that the evolution of cataloging is ongoing.

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Graduate Student Scholarship Winner

Library Studies: a Lifelong Learning Perspective

by Susan O'Connell

Last winter I was honored to receive the Vermont Library Association graduate student scholarship, which helped to cover the tuition of the graduate classes I am taking. I am pursuing a master's degree in library science through the University of North Texas, which runs a local cohort of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont students. Why am I pursuing a graduate degree when I already have a directorship position in a wonderful and supportive library? While there are numerous answers to that, my addiction to lifelong learning is a key reason.

I began my library career in school libraries, and took a number of courses to gain my school library/media certification. Concurrently, I was pursuing my Certificate of Public Librarianship through Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB). While I paid much more for the college courses that supported my school certification, some of my best learning came from the classes taught by the staff at VTLIB. The most important aspect of those classes for me was getting to know other librarians and learning from others in similar situations to my own.

Fast-forward five years to the [Association of Rural and Small Libraries](#) (ARSL) conference, a continuing education opportunity supported through VTLIB. While my education and experience had trained me well to understand the Vermont library landscape, ARSL opened my eyes to an astonishing array of new ideas and different library structures. Learning from and talking to librarians from county libraries, cooperative systems, and consortia has led me to want to delve deeply into what is working well in Vermont libraries and what we might adopt or adapt from other systems. In the fall, I will be conducting an independent study comparing the library systems of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom to Ireland's County Kerry library system; these two geographic areas share many similarities but have vastly different library systems.

While the classes through VTLIB provided a strong basis for my work in Vermont libraries, the master's level classes I have been able to take have allowed me to delve deeper into library topics. An excellent example of this is the class I took recently on collection development. I took the week-long collection development class offered by VTLIB in 2010, and through that class and years of experience I feel confident in my ability to curate a strong collection for my patrons. The semester-long collection development class I recently completed allowed a deeper consideration of the topic, and as a result of the work I did through the class, I convened a group of Northeast Kingdom librarians to discuss diversity in children's literature. Librarians from ten libraries in the Northeast Kingdom discussed what our unusually homogeneous populations need and are looking for in diverse book topics. We learned more about everyday diversity, urban versus rural depictions of poverty and multiculturalism, and the demands of the publishing industry.

Librarianship is advancing and changing so quickly I sometimes feel like I am swimming in an ocean of new ideas. I feel fortunate to be able to take a deep dive into library and information concepts through this master's program, in part through VLA and ALA scholarship support. Like a baleen whale feeding in that ocean of information, my goal is to filter out the useful and appetizing ideas for use within my own library system and feed my hunger for developing the best libraries for our communities throughout Vermont.

Susan O'Connell
Library Director, [Craftsbury Public Library](#)
MLIS student, University of North Texas

American Library Association

by Marti Fiske

ALA Councilor's Report-Annual Conference 2018

Remarks by President Jim Neal at ALA Council orientation

Major issues this year for ALA have been working on federal funding, network neutrality, copyright, and privacy. Policy Corps (www.ala.org/advocacy/ala-policy-corps) is in its second year of training people in skills needed for library advocacy. The national advocacy network is being developed to cooperate with state associations to handle local issues as well as national issues. Work on the financial health of ALA and its reorganization has started with the appointment of a steering committee. The steering committee is studying membership models, communications and marketing, and considering how Midwinter should look in the future. A business development group is looking into how ALA can increase income, including fundraising. The ALA headquarters building is old and dysfunctional for current use. They are looking at how the building can be better used (sold, refurbished, etc.). ALA is also working on advocacy for school libraries, directing donated funds for libraries damaged by natural disasters, seeking to make the librarian workforce more diverse, including encouraging young people to consider librarianship as a career choice, and doing better analysis of library data to help with advocacy. Past President Neal will continue to work on ALA's reorganization in the coming year.

ALA budget: Susan Hildreth, ALA Treasurer

The ALA budget for FY2018 is expected to be in the black for the first time in the last couple years. Final numbers depend on annual conference results. Total ALA budget for FY19 is \$46.7M. They expect the next three years to be investment years, so it will be in the red again to enhance fundraising, advocacy, and IT infrastructure. Divisions are also planning negative budgets for investments. The three-year plan of investments is for \$8,841,000 total (FY19 \$1.9M, FY20 \$2.2M, FY21 \$4.6M) with positive revenue for four years from now.

The executive board is considering bank loan/financing for IT and other capital investments. They could leverage the headquarters building. The building is currently listed in ALA assets at the 1976 acquisition value, so it is really much higher but its true value is not yet known. Options are currently being organized in a report by a real estate firm.

In FY19

- \$177K to be used for improving fundraising (2.5 additional FTE by reallocating existing staff, new software for tracking donations)
- \$410K for advocacy (in outreach, donation tracking software, advocacy training and support, bringing people to DC early in federal budget season)
- \$1.36M for technology over three years (capital and operating)

In FY20 & 21: Rest of monies will be for IT investments, for a total of \$6.8M over 3-year increments.

For the first time, include ALL assets including building, not just unexpended balance of ALA, divisions and committees. FY19 net assets: \$37,643,998 (with 1976 valuation of headquarters building, needs to be updated) Revenue: \$46,660,636, total (assets & revenue): \$84,304,634

Council approved request of FY19 annual estimate of income at \$84,304,634.

Plans for new ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo (Term began at end of annual conference)

Advocacy: Support the redesign of the Advocacy University website (www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy-university) already underway and support the advocacy activities started by the Washington Office related to storytelling to impact library advocacy by developing a video series to teach library advocates how to effectively use storytelling to impact library advocacy.

Diversity: Promote a social media video campaign to raise the visibility of a diverse representation of library workers, champions, and patrons, and to help deepen the understanding of the principles of ALA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion strategic initiative.

International Relations: Introduce new feature to highlight international ALA members to encourage engagement and retention of membership, and increase membership. Coordinate online programs related to international issues such as the sustainable development goals and the [IFLA Library Map of the World](#).

Wellness: Revamping of the design and content of the ALA-APA Wellness website (ala-apa.org/wellness). Enhancing of the current conference wellness programming, and introduce new online wellness programs.

National Library Tour

Each year the ALA president visits libraries across the country. This year's tour will formally include and expand these visits in a national library tour, "Libraries = Strong Communities," with the goals of raising the profile of libraries, engaging our communities, and encouraging support for libraries in our country. Visits will be made to academic, public, school libraries, and state library associations in these efforts.

General Membership Meeting

A resolution that ALA Council reinstate the language to say that "An ALA-accredited Master's Degree or a CAEP-accredited Master's Degree with a specialty in school library media is a required qualification for the ALA Executive Director" was voted down by members. Backstory: Executive board could not find an appropriate candidate and requested Council to open the candidate pool by making the degree preferred, not required. Council voted to make the degree preferred. A petition was brought to override the Council vote by bringing it to a vote of the membership. Requirements for the membership vote are that it be a majority of the vote and at least 25% of members must vote. The membership vote did not meet the 25% requirement but a majority of those voters did want the degree requirements. This resolution was for yet another vote on the Council floor.

A resolution that ALA endowment trustees increase endowment funds invested in socially responsible portfolios every year for the foreseeable future and exclude all fossil fuel investments, notwithstanding any social responsible designations by any company or organization was voted down by members. Backstory: This resolution was brought to Council at Midwinter 2018. It was sent to the Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) for review before a vote. The original resolution had not been brought to the Council yet. It is expected to be (and was) brought to Council floor at Annual this year. BARC found they cannot totally divest because they hold mutual funds which include mixes of holdings. They are looking at increase socially responsible investments as they are able. Currently 25.3% of holdings are with environmentally responsible funds. ALA already holds less than the gold standard of 4.6% in energy funds, some of which are considered socially responsible energy like solar.

Council Actions/Resolutions

A resolution to honor African Americans who fought library segregation passed unanimously. The resolution apologizes to African Americans for wrongs committed against them in segregated public libraries, commends those who stood up for integration, encourages libraries to defend equitable access in their policies and actions, and set reviews in motion at ALA to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion principles.

The Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Members Information Group (MIG) request to convert to a Round Table was approved. This allows the group to collect dues, have a budget, programs, and elect officers.

A resolution for total divestment in fossil fuels was not passed. The resolution was originally brought to Council at Midwinter 2018 and referred to budget review. Budget review found ALA doesn't own fossil fuel funds individually but they may be included in some mutual funds. 25.3% of funds are marked as socially responsible. ALA has 4.2% of holdings in energy (solar, etc. not just fossil fuels), less than the minimum of 4.6% which is considered the gold standard for socially responsible holdings. BARC does not believe that ALA can totally divest because we are using mutual funds and that to stop using mutual funds would harm the economic health of the endowment. This resolution was defeated at membership meeting before Council. The budget review committee recommended that Council not approve the vote.

A resolution was passed to recognize those involved in the Government Publishing Office Access Act twenty-five years ago and calls for further modernization of government information services to improve the public's access to government information by enactment of the FDLP Modernization Act. H.R. 5305.

The "Resolution to Reunite Detained Migrant Children with their Parents" was passed. It reaffirms former resolutions in support of immigrant rights, access to Spanish, bilingual and books in various languages for children in detention centers, calls for sufficient documentation to reunify families, that the U.S. honor U.N. resolutions on legal status of refugees, and urges ALA members to contact their elected officials.

A resolution to provide a sufficient mix of gender-inclusive and gender-specific bathrooms and requiring convention center staff to honor ALA policies regarding them was passed. At Annual a conference center security guard was sometimes posted at some of the gender-inclusive bathrooms and refused to allow anyone to enter. There was extensive debate on the original resolution which was worded as 100% gender-inclusive. There were concerns about survivors of sexual assault, those facilities which do not allow for privacy of individuals (urinals) and safe spaces for those trying to retreat from unwanted attention of those of the opposite sex. Vote passed with amendment changed wording from 100% to "sufficient mix."

Other News from Annual

The Intellectual Freedom Committee is reviewing three policies for the 10th edition of the *Intellectual Freedom Manual* by Trina Magi of UVM: Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/meetingrooms); Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programs); and Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of *Library Bill of Rights* (www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/servicespeopledisabilities)

Former ALA President Maureen O'Sullivan is working with the executive board on

organizational effectiveness for the restructuring of ALA. The following questions were asked of the Council and attending members: What one thing is most important for ALA to do to improve its effectiveness? If ALA did not exist today, what would we create?

Total attendance at New Orleans 17,599, compared to 16,454 in Orlando & 22,702 in Chicago.

Marti Fiske, M.L.I.S.
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New England Library Association

by Steve Picazio

Registration has opened for the NELA 2018 Annual Conference:

<http://conference2018.nelib.org/general-attendee-registration>.

Reduced early bird pricing is available until September 7th. The conference will be held October 21-23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI. Full details on the program schedule, hotel accommodations, and exhibitor showcase can be found here: <http://conference2018.nelib.org>.

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Sharing Shelf

This issue's question was contributed by Amy Williams, assistant director at Rutland Free Library: "**What inexpensive and easy things does your library do to foster delight?**"

Answer from Debbie Landauer, Public Library Director, Fairfax Community Library:

In Fairfax we find patrons delighted when we do interactive displays. For example, we recently put out a display of spring-themed books along with colorful scrap paper and pens with a poster asking "What signs of Spring have you seen"? As the answers piled up, people had fun reading through them - especially the ones obviously from kids. Lots of smiles!

- Other interactive displays we've done include:
What do you love about your library?
- Making a "quilt" on a board using sticky notes with individual designs drawn on them

- How tall are you? with a big height chart on a floor-to-ceiling post (or wall) and some Harry Potter and other book "celebrities" etc. heights already marked. Kids loved this one!

Answer from Tiaunna Bevins, Circulation Assistant, Rutland Free Library:

Book displays are our number one! They can be colorful, creative, and interactive. They can be silly (these are best), they can be current topics, or just subjects that you see a high amount circulating. I've gotten the best responses when we do awareness month displays – minority heritages, disease awareness, etc. Signs and decorations can be bought at a dollar store or made with card stock so they last (we keep ours in a file cabinet). When appropriate, we also do handouts. For example, April was stress awareness month so we made handouts on how to make your own stress ball.

We also have a mascot. We keep a stuffed dog named Karl on our front desk, and he has a variety of costumes to dress up in – and he loves to dress up. The little ones that come in love him, and the adults always give a smile. It takes a little storage space for his expansive wardrobe, but we'd have a mutiny if we ever got rid of Karl.



And the coloring table! We have a coloring table set up by the checkout counter. Kids can color while their parents check out. We use old faded paper and photocopy from donated coloring books. The kids love it! They're always looking for specific characters, and the parents get a moment to breathe.

What question would you like to ask VLA membership? Email vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com, and your question may be featured in a future newsletter.

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Libraries as community resources

by Janet Clapp

At the VLA conference, on library-related discussion lists, and in professional literature, one repeated refrain is the value of libraries as community centers and resources. So when someone from Vermont Department of Transportation suggested information for the *VLA News* that would be useful to Vermont library staff and library users, it seemed an opportunity for a helpful article. It also served as a reminder to tell

you, the readers, that we welcome contributions to our newsletter from VLA members and from non-VLA members who have something to share with those who work in Vermont libraries. Submission guidelines are at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/vlanewsguide>. Send ideas, questions, or articles to vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com anytime!

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The People of Vermont Libraries

Vermont Technical College & Community College of Vermont

Jeff Metzler joined the Hartness team as a reference librarian based in Randolph. Jeff has an MLS from University of Rhode Island. He comes to Hartness most recently from GOBI Library Solutions where he worked as an account support specialist helping clients with technical services workflows and support. Prior to that, he worked in technical services at Providence Athenaeum Library in Providence, RI.

Susan Currier has changed roles at Hartness and is now the faculty librarian based at Vermont Technical College.

St. Michael's College

Saint Michael's College Durick Library has had four recent retirements: **Sandra Roy**, cataloging specialist, in December; and then **Michele McCaffrey**, research and instruction librarian; **Mark McAteer**, associate director for circulation services; and **Rob Jacobs**, senior circulation specialist, all retired in June.

Anthony Bassignani is now research and instruction/circulation librarian. **Pembroke King** was hired as senior circulation specialist, with an expected start date in the middle of August.

Champlain College

Alan Carbery, associate director of Miller Information Commons, returned to Ireland at the end of April to a new position as head of academic technologies & communications at University College Cork.

Several current team members have changed roles as a result. **Emily Crist** is now an assistant director, overseeing the library's information literacy program and designing, implementing, promoting, and assessing library user experiences. **Jessica Allard** is now an interim assistant director, overseeing faculty outreach, collection development, collection management, and internal systems. **Sophie Friedman** has accepted a visiting librarian position with a focus on instruction, reference, and faculty outreach. She is completing her Master of Science in Library and Information Science at Simmons College and will begin her new role in early August. **Sarah Camille Wilson** will be assuming a new title of senior circulation coordinator.

Waterbury Public Library

Mary Kasamatsu is retiring from her position as director of Waterbury Public Library.

If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) send this information to vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com and we'll put it in the next issue of the VLA News.

Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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