

VLA News

August 2019

President's Letter

by Amy Olsen

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Hello VLA members,

I hope this letter finds you all well and busy with summer activity.

I'm having fun meeting Passport to Vermont Libraries participants from all over the state when they visit the Lanpher Memorial Library. As I write this letter, a 10-year-old girl and her mother are sitting at their laptop, plotting their route to visit libraries on their way to their vacation destination. They're even using the VLA website to access the list of Vermont library websites for hours and directions (<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/vermonts-public-libraries>). One of the Lanpher Memorial Library trustees is taking part in the program and a few weeks ago visited 11 libraries in one day! Our trustees are adding a "Passport Report" to the September meeting agenda, so she can share pictures and ideas she has picked up.

During the annual meeting at the Vermont Library Conference in May, the membership voted on an organizational chart for VLA leadership. This chart is now posted on our website (<https://www.vermontlibraries.org>). The structure is already proving helpful as we continue to update and outline job descriptions for board members, sections, and interest groups. Moving forward, we are setting up a subcommittee to revise our bylaws to reflect these changes. I'm grateful to all of you for your patience as we continue to navigate the changes in roles and responsibilities.

Sincerely,
Amy Olsen
VLA President
Director, [Lanpher Memorial Library](#)
vermontlibrariespresident@gmail.com

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803
Burlington, VT 05402

Connect With Us:
Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: [twitter.com/@VLALib](https://twitter.com/VLALib)
Instagram: [instagram.com/vlplib](https://www.instagram.com/vlplib)
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

Planning a purchase on Amazon.com? 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: 43
Substitutes: 82

Libraries with access to pool:

Addison 2
Bennington 1
Caledonia 1
Chittenden 11
Essex 0
Franklin 3
Grand Isle 1
Lamoille 2
Orange 2
Orleans 1
Rutland 1
Washington 7
Windham 2
Windsor 9

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

Addison 27
Bennington 8
Caledonia 16
Chittenden 57
Essex 10
Franklin 22
Grand Isle 14
Lamoille 26
Orange 18
Orleans 7
Rutland 11
Washington 30
Windham 14
Windsor 14

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

College & Special Libraries Section

by Christie Silkotch

Please join me in welcoming our new VLA College & Special Libraries Section Vice President, Chenfang Yang. She is the electronic resources and technology librarian at Vermont Law School. Thanks for your time, Chenfang!

Our main section update is the upcoming fall workshop. Registration will open in September. Please note that this workshop is in lieu of our traditional annual fall program, which will resume in 2020.

We hope you can take advantage of this exceptional professional development opportunity so close to home. Thank you to the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries (VCAL) for making this workshop possible and accessible with its generous funding:

Save the Date
Friday, November 8th, 2019

**Engaging with the ACRL Framework:
A Catalyst for Exploring and Expanding Our Teaching Practices**

Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries (VCAL) and
VLA College & Special Libraries Section
Judd Hall at Vermont Technical College
Randolph Center, VT

This fall, the VLA College & Special Libraries Section, in collaboration with the Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries, is excited to present an all-day intensive workshop for Vermont librarians about the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. This workshop supports librarians in engaging more deeply with the Framework and exploring ways that it can enrich your individual teaching practices, as well as your local instruction programs and institutions.

Participants will explore concepts and pedagogical approaches outlined in the Framework and the significance to their own instructional work. Attendees will apply their learning and reflection to create instruction plans for their own local contexts and consider possibilities for growing teaching partnerships.

This workshop will be led by two expert presenters:

- Brittney Johnson, Digital Literacy Program Coordinator, Texas State University
- Lindsay Matts-Benson, Instructional Designer, University of Minnesota

More information about workshop curriculum, presenters, and a sample schedule can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows/frameworkroadshow>

Registration will open in September.

Christie Silkotch
VLA College & Special Libraries Section President
Science and Data Librarian
[David W. Howe Memorial Library, University of Vermont](mailto:csilkotc@uvm.edu)
csilkotc@uvm.edu
802-656-8130

benefits 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

President:

[Amy Olsen](#)

Vice

President/President

Elect:

[Amanda Merk](#)

Past President:

[Cindy Weber](#)

Secretary:

Marie Schmukal

Treasurer:

[Susan Smolinsky](#)

Section

Representatives

College & Special

Libraries Section

President:

[Christie Silkotch](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries

Section President:

[Loona Brogan](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services

Section President:

(section inactive)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

[Dana Rozycki](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

Public Libraries

by Loona Brogan

Incorporated, Very Small & Very Small Incorporated Libraries

Greetings. As a way of introducing myself as president of the VLA Public Libraries Section, I offer some data relevant to conversations going on in the Vermont library world. There have been some very unhappy Vermonters around the issue of forced merging of public schools, and given that our little town libraries are not dissimilar from our little town schools, we might steer the conversation ourselves by considering a variety of models of consolidation to innovate something that will work for Vermont's public libraries. We are one of the few states in the country whose libraries are not part of regional systems, and/or whose cities are small enough that very few operate branches (so are not part of a "system" that way either). And we have a much higher percentage of incorporated libraries: private non-profit organizations not overseen or managed by their town's government. Almost half of the 10% incorporated public libraries reported nationwide (in an academic article in 1996, https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/publications/documents/publiclibrarystructureorg3-1996_0.pdf) were listed in New York state. So our neighbor to the west has a higher-than-average percentage of incorporated libraries, too. Maybe we could learn from them what has worked or not worked when it comes to addressing the unique needs of privately run public libraries.

Here are some measurements, from the 2018 public libraries statistics for Vermont (https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/news/public_statistics):

- Vermont has 55 incorporated libraries and 91 municipal libraries.
- Five incorporated libraries are in some of our largest towns, and one is the Franklin-Grand Isle Bookmobile. The other 15 largest towns have municipal libraries.
- 18 of the incorporated libraries in Vermont are in very small towns (less than 2000 people).
- 29 of the 191 libraries did not report on their status (incorporated or municipal) last year; 24 of those are in very small towns.
- Eight of Vermont's libraries are community libraries; three of these are in very small towns.
- 110,600 Vermonters are served by libraries in very small towns.
- 285,000 Vermonters are served by incorporated libraries.
- 344,000 Vermonters are served by municipal libraries.

These just seemed important facts to consider, so in a recent meeting with Joy Worland at the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB), we spent a little time together looking at what the ratio is between incorporated and municipal libraries and what size populations each serves. We were meeting because I, as a (part-time) director of a very small incorporated library, want to meaningfully contribute to the conversations (and plans) happening around the future of Vermont's very small libraries. We discussed a variety of ways VTLIB and VLA (represented in this case by me) could partner to offer opportunities for very small library directors and incorporated library directors to gather and discuss how we might collaborate or in some cases even (gasp!!) consolidate. Please don't misunderstand: I know our little libraries are precious, in part because they are so autonomous. I'm not saying we should throw the baby out with the bathwater. But I would like to be able to serve my community better.

We have several successful consortia in the state; Green Mountain Library Consortium (GMLC) (<http://www.gmlc.org>), Catamount Library Network (<https://www.catamountlibraries.org>), Libraries of the Upper Valley (LUV), and the Chittenden County area Home Card system come to mind. The Franklin-Grand Isle Bookmobile (<http://fnwsu.org/bookmobile>) is a model we could look at. We may host a panel discussion of representatives from some of these systems to explore what might be useful to us as we innovate to not only sustain our beloved small libraries, but also to afford and deliver "21st Century Library Services" in every public library in Vermont

President:[Caitlin Corless](#)

Organizes workshops and assists youth librarians.

Committees**Archivist:**[Paul Carnahan](#)**VT Dept. of Libraries****Representative to the Board:**[Jason Broughton](#)**Government****Relations Chair:**

Vacant

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Inclusion Chair:[Jessica Mattera](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations

Intellectual**Freedom Chair:**[Mary Danko](#)

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

Membership & Outreach Chair:[Amy McMullen](#)

Maintains membership roster.

VLA Sub Pool Coordinator[Nancy Tusinski](#)**Personnel Chair:**[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Scholarship & Awards Chair:[Lisa Milchman](#)

Oversees VLA awards and scholarships.

Vermont Library Conference Chair:[Cory Stephenson](#)

regardless of the size of the town or the local budget. Perhaps we could figure out a way to join forces with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, for example. Stay tuned for more on those plans soon, via the Vermont libraries listservs. In the meantime, it would be so helpful to hear from as many of you as possible, regardless of the type of library you are affiliated with. Can you take 10 minutes out of your busy day and give us information and your perspective? Here's the link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/PUVH3vCjeLU6YJqL9>

Loona Brogan

VLA Public Libraries Section President

Director, [Cutler Memorial Library](#)

loona.brogan@cutlerlibrary.org

Friends & Trustees Section

by Dana Rozycki

In late May, the 2019 Trustees and Friends Conference was held at UVM the day before the main Vermont Library Association conference. The main goal of holding the two events so close together was to encourage cross-pollination of ideas between library staff members, Friends, and trustees. Between the two events, over 30 sessions were available for attendees, covering a wide range of topics.

I had the opportunity to present a brief overview of how libraries can use eBay to sell older and more valuable books they receive as donations for their book sales. Few people go to library book sales with sufficient cash or motivation to pay top dollar for antiquarian books, but there is a steady demand on eBay. Judging by the interest I received, many Vermont libraries may have antiquarian books that are not of local interest sitting in back rooms. These could be sold to collectors to generate revenue for the library. However, setting up charity selling accounts at eBay and PayPal can be difficult, requiring multiple registrations and submission of lots of backup documentation. If you'd like a copy of my one-page handout with tips on navigating this process, just email me directly at drozycki@rocketmail.com.

Some of the other PowerPoint slides from the May 21 Trustees and Friends Conference are available online at <https://libraries.vermont.gov/2019TFC>. Presentation materials from the May 22 VLA conference are at <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2019/programs>.

The Trustees and Friends Conference is run by the Vermont Department of Libraries (VTLIB), with extensive input from VLA members. It is not too early to start planning for the 2020 conference. If you have ideas about topics you would like to see addressed at the conference, or if you'd like to be a presenter yourself, please let me know and I'll pass the information on to the conference committee.

This leads me to a larger call for feedback. What can the Vermont Library Association do for trustees and Friends groups? What extra value can VLA provide to help support your specific mission? Our section has historically focused on working with the state to put on the conference for Friends and trustees, but we'd like to determine what other roles we can play in the whole Vermont library ecosystem. Please feel free to email me directly with any feedback or suggestions.

Finally, I encourage everyone to subscribe to the Friends and trustees email listserv. This is an email list run by VTLIB specifically for Friends and trustees. This is not the type of email list that will flood your inbox, and only high-quality tips and news specifically for Friends and trustees are sent out. To join the many Friends and trustees already on the list, just go to <https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/news/listservs>.

Dana Rozycki

VLA Friends and Trustees Section President

Friend, [John G. McCullough Free Library](#)

drozycki@rocketmail.com 802-468-5479

VLA News Editor:
[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:
[Tessa Johnson](#)
[Jessamyn West](#)

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
Marti Fiske
Represents Vermont in
the national
organization.

**NELA
Representative:**
[Steve Picazio](#)
Represents Vermont in
the New England
Library Assoc.

ATTN: Gmail Users

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Intellectual Freedom Committee

by Mary Danko

I'm excited to be the new chair for the VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. I have been chatting with VLA members who have been involved with the committee at different times and have been learning about past successes, plus ideas for the future. A few things to report on at this time:

1. Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) has been in the news these last few months. Lots of info can be found on the DQSH website (<https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org>). From the website: *"Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models. In spaces like this, kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real."*

ALA has a great resource page if you are thinking of having a Drag Queen Story Hour: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/libraries-respond-drag-queen-story-hour>. If anyone has further questions, please let me know, and I will connect you with a Vermont librarian who has put on this event.

2. You may have been following the controversy on Lynda.com becoming acquired by LinkedIn Learning and the privacy concerns that have evolved (<https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-07-23-as-linkedin-learning-subsumes-lynda-com-library-groups-raise-privacy-concerns>). This is a good opportunity for all libraries to be reminded of potential privacy issues with any third-party vendor. ALA has a great page on considerations in this area: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/privacy/guidelines/ebook-digital-content>

3. I am in the process of working on two projects for the VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. The first project is planning the next John Swan Intellectual Freedom Lecture. Please let me know if you have any ideas. The other project is to consider our state's current library confidentiality statute: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/22/004/00172>. One area of focus is the consideration of lowering the age of 16 for library privacy. There are other states in our country that have more robust laws, and the committee will consider those as well.

If you are interested in serving on the committee in any capacity, please let me know. We may divide up the project work by subcommittees if possible.

Mary Danko
VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair
Director, [Fletcher Free Library](#)
mdanko@burlingtonvt.gov

Scholarship & Awards Committee

by Lisa Milchman

Two become one!

As part of VLA's reorganization, the two committees previously charged with separately recognizing and rewarding VLA members who promote, support, and acknowledge Vermont libraries and professional librarianship, have combined to become one – appropriately titled the **VLA Scholarship and Awards Committee**. It, therefore, seems an appropriate time to provide a calendar of the opportunities available through membership in VLA, to both apply for grant monies, and to acknowledge colleagues and supporters who champion the efforts to advance Vermont libraries.

The **Vermont Library Association** grants up to five different awards

(<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/awards>) at our yearly May conference to acknowledge outstanding service to and support of the state's libraries, as well as to honor retirees with ten years or more of service. Nominations are accepted at any time of the year but are due by March 15th of that year's conference.

The VLA Professional Development Grant

(<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/scholarship-committee/vla-professional-development-grant>) provides recipients with up to \$250 for a professional development program such as a workshop, conference, or continuing education course. Two are provided each year – in spring and fall. Deadlines for applications are **March 7th** (with winners notified on April 1st), and **August 7th** (with winners notified on September 1st).

The VLA Graduate Student Scholarship (<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/vla-graduate-student-scholarship>) awards up to \$1500 to a selected, qualified applicant pursuing an MLS or MLIS degree. The deadline for application is **November 15th** with the scholarship sent to the student's institution for the spring semester. The winner will be notified on December 15th.

Reminders to apply or nominate are sent through the various listservs serving our library communities. We hope that more VLA members will utilize these fantastic opportunities. We are YOUR professional organization!

Questions, comments, and suggestions are always welcome.

Lisa Milchman
VLA Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Director, [Norwich Public Library](#)
lisa.milchman@norwichlibrary.org
802-649-1184

New England Library Association

by Steve Picazio

Registration has opened for the NELA 2019 Annual Conference: <http://conference2019.nelib.org/general-attendee-registration-info>. Reduced early bird pricing is available until September 2nd. The conference will be held October 20-22 at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Connecticut. Full details on the program schedule, hotel accommodations, and exhibitor showcase can be found here: <http://conference2019.nelib.org>.

Steve Picazio
VLA Representative to NELA
Head Circulation Librarian, [Kellogg-Hubbard Library](#)
spicazio@nelib.org
802-223-3338

American Library Association

by Marti Fiske

ALA Councilor's Report: ALA Annual at Washington DC, June 2019

This is my last report as the Vermont ALA Councilor and the last you will likely hear from me as a Vermont librarian. As of August 2, I left my position as director of the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library (Williston). I will be starting as the new director at Keene Public

Library (Keene, NH) on August 22.

My work as ALA Councilor was enlightening, sometimes difficult, and always felt appreciated by the members of VLA. It was especially great to talk with several people at this spring's Vermont Library Conference.

I give my best wishes to the Vermont Library Association and to each of you.

ALA Membership Meeting Actions

RESOLUTIONS:

PASSED: 63 Yes, 62 No: In Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights

FAILED: Resolution in Support of the Right to Publish Leaked Documents and for the Dismissal of Charges Against Julian Assange

FAILED: Resolution on CIA Recruitment at ALA Meetings

PASSED: Resolution on Renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal

All ALA 2019 conference reports and documents may be found at

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/midwinter-and-annual-2019>

ALA Council I Actions

FACILITATED DISCUSSION: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through a Social Justice Lens: The role of the ALA Council.

REPORT: The search for a new ALA executive director is reopened. Interviews will start in September; decision is hoped to be made by the end of October. The new director should be on board by January 2020. Mary Ghikas stays on through annual conference 2020 to assist in transition.

RESOLUTIONS:

REFERRED: Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights (was approved by membership in previous day's meeting): Referred to Committee on Legislation, Committee on Intellectual Freedom & International Relations.

PASSED: Resolution on Renaming the Melvil Dewey Medal.

ALA Council II Actions

Committee on Organization (COO), document #27.1

PASSED: added two members to the Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds Committee.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee, document #25.1

PASSED: Changes to bylaws to clarify and delete repetitive language regarding representation on the Council while a round table is going through the process of discontinuance or organization.

PASSED: Insert "by electronic means" into methods of communication and voting by Council.

PASSED: Change votes to majority membership shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those voting shall be required to carry, instead of by 2/3 vote.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (Part 1): Revisions to *Intellectual Freedom Manual* for updated edition to be published.

PASSED: document #19.7 "Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.8 "Diverse Collections: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.9 "Minors and Online Activity: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.10 "Privacy: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.11 "User-Generated Content in Library Discovery Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

ALA Council III Actions

Intellectual Freedom Committee (Part 2): Will be working on "Resolution in Defense of the Free Speech of Supporters of the Movement for Palestinian Rights" for report at

Midwinter.

PASSED: document #19.13 "Education and Information Literacy: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.14 "Economic Barriers to Information Access: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.15 "User-Initiated Exhibits, Displays, and Bulletin Boards: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.16 "Access to Digital Resources and Services: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.17 "Evaluating Library Collections: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.18 "Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.19 "Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*."

PASSED: document #19.20/CD 24.3 "Intellectual Freedom Advocacy and Education."

Task Force on Online Deliberation and Voting for ALA Council document #42

PASSED: motion to extend task force to December 2020.

Eliminating Library Fines as a Form of Social Equity Working Group

PASSED: document #43 Request for extension of deadline for task force to August 31, 2019. Will create resources for libraries to work toward elimination of fines.

PASSED: document #52 "Resolution on Library Service for Children in Detention at Migrant Detention Centers."

PASSED: document #53 "Resolution on eBook Pricing for Libraries." Amended to rename "Resolution on Digital Content Pricing."

FAILED: Request to refer to ALA Committee on Legislation and Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee by Midwinter 2020. Concerns with current conditions require a quick statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DC attendance: 14,633. Exhibitors 6,827. Total 21,460.

Marti Fiske, M.L.I.S.

Vermont Chapter Councilor to American Library Association
(formerly) Director, [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library](#)

The People of Vermont Libraries

As of August 2, **Marti Fiske** left the position of director of Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston, Vermont to take the position of director at Keene Public Library, Keene, New Hampshire.

Jessica George joins the staff of Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston on August 5 as the youth services librarian. George was formerly head children's librarian at East Greenwich Free Library, Rhode Island.

Sharon Ellingwood White is the new director of Alice M. Ward Memorial Library, Canaan.

Jessica Shurlow is the new teen services librarian at Rutland Free Library.

If there are staffing changes in your library (hires, retires, etc.) or personnel news, 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>

Vermont Library Association
PO Box 803, Burlington, VT 05402

