

VLA News

November 2021

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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](#)

Meet Your Leaders

VLA is here to help you. The people who make up the

President's Letter

by Michael D. Roy

The Vermont Library Association held a retreat in September to develop our plan of work for the upcoming year. We will provide updates on the progress we are making. For this month's column, here is the plan of work for the year.

Under what we are calling "operational goals" we've established the following:

1. **Study Financial Operations and Intersection with Membership:** We'll be looking at how we manage the VLA finances, including budget reporting, auditing, and membership tracking, with an eye towards taking advantage of the software we have available to us, and opportunities to streamline our operations.
2. **Operating Manual and Planning Calendar:** We'll be creating a VLA "operators manual" and planning calendar that will be useful for new board members to understand how we handle the day-to-day operations of keeping VLA running smoothly.
3. **Update Website:** We'll be reviewing the content on the VLA website, and also exploring new ways to organize information to make the VLA website even more helpful for our members.
4. **Google Suite Implementation:** To facilitate the work of VLA, we'll be implementing the Google Suite to allow for more effective sharing of documents among our various working groups and sections.

We are also working on a set of activities that we have filed under the category of **Membership Engagement**. These are the following:

1. **Listening Tour:** We'll be organizing a set of opportunities for us to meet with the membership to learn more about what they like about VLA, and what more we can do to be of service to libraries in Vermont.
2. **Explore partnerships:** We want to learn more about the other library organizations in Vermont and the region, and explore ways that we can work together more effectively.
3. **Recruit Board Members:** We are working on developing a better pipeline to ensure that our working groups and sections are fully staffed, and that the entire membership is aware of opportunities to contribute to our work.

The final set of activities have to do with the regular work of VLA providing

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 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:

[Michael D. Roy](#)

Vice

President/President Elect:

[Kelly McCagg](#)

Past President:

[Kevin Unrath](#)

Secretary:

[Barbara Ball](#)

Treasurer:

[Lisa Milchman](#)

Section Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section

President:

[Laura Haines](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Membership & Outreach Chair:

[Susan Larson](#)

Maintains membership roster.

Public Libraries Section President:

[Dana Hart](#)

programming for the membership. To that end, we have plans for beefing up our work in the area of advocacy and continuing our programming in sustainability, intellectual freedom, and anti-racism. In addition, we are organizing our spring conference which we have hopes of holding as an in-person event.

In the next column, I'll provide an update on where things stand on all of these. In the meantime, if you have any questions or ideas about any of the above, please feel free to reach out to me.

Michael D. Roy
VLA President
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802-443-5490

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Connect With Us:

Website: www.vermontlibraries.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation

Twitter: twitter.com/VLAlib

Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

Libraries in Vermont Working Group

by Kelly McCagg

I would like to take a moment to quickly introduce you to the members of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont (https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working_group), and to ask for your participation in providing testimony regarding programming and collections for our November and January meetings respectively.

What is the Working Group? The Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont was created by VT Legislative Act No. 66 (S.115) <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT066/ACT066%20As%20Enacted.pdf> in order to collect data about how libraries serve Vermont communities now and prior to COVID. We have been tasked with the creation of a report that is to be presented to the Vermont legislature with the "intent of strengthening and supporting libraries of all sizes and improving library services for the public."

Members include:

- **Tom McMurdo** (Chairperson) - State Librarian (acting), Vermont Department of Libraries, Barre
- **Kelly McCagg** - VLA Vice President/President Elect, Burnham Memorial Library, Colchester
- **Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup** - Executive Director, Vermont Humanities Council, Montpelier

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

VACANT

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Committees

Government

Relations Chair:

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Assists libraries with connections to legislators.

Intellectual Freedom

Chair:

[Mary Danko](#)

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

Scholarship &

Awards Chair:

VACANT

Oversees VLA awards and scholarships.

Vermont Library

Conference Chair:

VACANT

Roundtables

Inclusion Chair:

[Bridget Stone-Allard](#)

Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse populations.

Personnel Chair:

[Sarah Snow](#)

Assists librarians with questions related to personnel issues.

Technical Services

Chair:

(inactive)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

- **Jeannette Bair** - Public Library Representative, Director, Rochester Public Library
- **Susan O'Connell** - Public Library Representative, Director, Craftsbury Public Library
- **Wendy Sharkey** - Public Library Representative, Head of Circulation Department, Bennington Free Library
- **Meg Allison** - President, Vermont School Library Association, Librarian, U32 High School, Montpelier
- **Karen McCalla** - School Library Representative, Librarian, Mill River Union HS, North Clarendon
- **Maria Avery** - VLA Colleges and Universities Section Representative, Howe Library, UVM
- **Denise Hersey** - VLA Colleges and Universities Section Representative, Director, Dana Medical Library, UVM
- **Andy Kolovos** - VLA Trustees and Friends Section Representative, Vermont Folklife Center Associate Director and Archivist, Middlebury

This is a very exciting time for Vermont libraries. I encourage you to reach out to one of these group members to offer your testimony. Please be aware that your testimony cannot be anonymous. In addition, the Working Group may ask you to attend our November or January meeting to discuss your ideas in more detail.

Thank you for all you do for Vermont libraries!

Kelly L. McCagg
VLA Vice President/President-Elect
Director, [Burnham Memorial Library](#)
vicepresident@vermontlibraries.org
802-264-5661

Public Libraries

by Susan O'Connell

Don't you wish you had a graphic designer on staff, one who could transform your statistics into professional-looking infographics that highlight the amazing things you are doing in your library? Lucky you! The VLA Public Libraries Section has done just that, with five new easily customizable posters that allow you to drop in your numbers and have instant infographics. The new posters focus on reference services, circulation, movie offerings, summer programs, and active programming. You can download them from the VLA website <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/advocacy>, along with the five posters created last year. These will be especially great for Town Meeting Day promotion!

The VLA Public Libraries Section is planning another offering for librarians, designed to provide opportunities to learn from and network with one another. We will host a series of library tours, with the first one planned for the Northeast Kingdom next spring. The Jeudevine Library in Hardwick is about to break ground on an addition, the Greensboro Library is under new directorship, the Simpson Library in East Craftsbury has been renovating their unique space that houses museum and library collections, and the Craftsbury Library has recently completed an expansion project.

Touring other libraries is not only fun, it provides valuable opportunities for librarians

**Youth Librarians
President:**
VACANT
Organizes workshops
and assists youth
librarians.

Archivist:
[Paul Carnahan](#)

VLA News Editor:
[Janet Clapp](#)

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

Representatives

ALA Councilor:
[Jessamyn West](#)
Represents Vermont
in the national
organization.

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

**VT Dept. of Libraries
Representative to the
Board:**
[Tom McMurdo](#)

Jobs & Subs

For library jobs:
[VLA Job Postings](#)

For library subs:
[Vermont Library
Substitute Pool](#)

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

to glean ideas from each other and improve our own spaces. It also gives us an opportunity to build our professional network. I was accompanied on my most recent Vermont library tour by Susan S. (who I first met at a VTLIB training and befriended during ARSL 2016). We spent one hot August day visiting libraries in central Vermont.

Our first stop was at the Groton Library where we admired the shaded covered porch that offers both Wi-Fi access and a garden produce sharing shelf. At the Blake Memorial Library in East Corinth, we enjoyed the collection of original Gail Gibbons artwork. In Rochester we got a tour with Jeanette (who I first met at a VLA discussion on vocational awe). Rochester has a new circulation desk that is beautifully built, with plexiglass barriers built into the design. We made it as far as Brandon, where we learned about the planned renovations for their library from Molly. I especially admired their orchids, and have since added more plants in my own library.

Set up from the road and overlooking the river in Gaysville is the Belcher Library, with an imposing high, columned porch, and homey curtains in the window. After having driven past this enigmatic library for years, it was a treat to stop and visit. It felt like stepping back in time to the library of my childhood, from the old-fashioned wallpaper to the stacks of books on most surfaces. Our final stop of the day was the Bethel Library, which boasts the most creative book bins I have ever seen, built to look like the local railroad line!

By the end of the day I had met new people, talked libraries non-stop with my travel companion, noticed titles I have since added to my collection, and new ways to use library space. We hope our VLA-sponsored library tours will provide an opportunity for many of you to reap these same benefits. We will be providing details in the coming months on how to join the library tour.

Susan O'Connell
VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President
Director, [Craftsbury Public Library](#)
director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org
802-586-9683

Government Relations & Advocacy

by Margaret Woodruff

Following a helpful discussion at the VLA board retreat on September 16, the VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee is continuing to research guidelines and framework for a more deliberate and robust advocacy plan. Any suggestions (and new members!) welcome.

On a more specific note, the committee was asked by ALA to contact Senator Sanders's office about adding funding for library construction included in the budget reconciliation package. We are waiting to hear back from the senator's office.

Margaret Woodruff (she/her)
VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair
Director, [Charlotte Library](#)

smile.amazon.com
for more details.

margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org
802-425-3864

Friends & Trustees

by Adriene Katz

ATTN: Gmail Users

If you are viewing this using Google Mail, please note your VLA News may have been clipped by the mail service.

To finish reading the issue, scroll to the bottom of the message and click the link:

[Message Clipped] [View Entire Message](#)

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Happy autumn! Some exciting updates, and things for awareness, for Friends and trustees:

State of Vermont - Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont

The VLA Friends and Trustees Section selected Andy Kolovos to serve as its representative for the State of Vermont's Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont. Kolovos, who has a MLS, is a trustee of the Brownell Library and works as an archivist and associate director for Vermont Folklife Center. The Working Group held its first meeting (of twelve) in September 2021. The working group will meet again in November. You can see the members and follow the progress here: https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working_group. Congrats, and thank you for representing us, Andy!

State of Vermont - Board of Libraries

From the Vermont Board of Libraries Chair Bruce Post:

"The Vermont State Board of Libraries has seven members, all appointed by the Governor, and generally meets quarterly. Terms are staggered, and vacancies periodically occur. Early next year, two new board members will need to be appointed. This is a perfect opportunity for Friends and Trustees to bring their experiences and passion for libraries to another level. If you are interested, you can learn more about the responsibilities, activities, and current members of the board here: https://libraries.vermont.gov/about_us/board Stay tuned for an official announcement about applying."

Questions in the meantime? Interested in serving on the Board of Libraries?

Adriene Katz, member of Vermont Board of Libraries

Email: akatz@stjathenaeum.org

Phone: 802-748-8291

Book Recommendation

A newly published book suggestion for trustees and Friends: *Unstitched: My Journey to Understand Opioid Addiction and How People and Communities Can Heal* by Brett Ann Stanciu, former librarian for the Woodbury Community Library. How does this creative non-fiction work change how you see your library? The community you serve? Feel free to share your thoughts and comments...

Offerings from the Vermont Department of Libraries

Continuing Education

Keep your eye out for live and recorded webinars, some tailored to Friends and trustees: https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/continuing_ed

Listserv

Join the Vermont Department of Libraries listserv specifically for Friends and trustees: <https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/news/listservs>

Wishing you all the best,

Adriene Katz

Past President/Interim President, VLA Friends and Trustees Section

Librarian, [St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](#)

Friend of the Library, [Dorothy Alling Memorial Library](#)
Board Member, [State Board of Libraries](#)

Substitute Pool

by Christy Liddy

Do you need a substitute library worker at your library? The Vermont Library Association (VLA) has an easily accessible solution - the Vermont Library Substitute Pool (VLSP)! If you are looking for someone to assist, the person hiring for the substitute position needs only to send an email to subs@vermontlibraries.org and VLSP can help set you up with potential names for your position.

If you are interested in substituting in Vermont libraries, simply fill out this form: <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/vlspform>. That way, when a library is in need of a substitute in your area, they will be able to contact you.

This list is maintained by the VLA Membership & Outreach Committee. If you have any questions, please send your email to subs@vermontlibraries.org.

Christy Liddy
Student, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
subs@vermontlibraries.org

Interested in editing?

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<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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