

VLA News

February 2022

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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 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's Letter

by Michael D. Roy

VLA Wants You!

The Vermont Library Association is an all-volunteer organization. With no staff, we rely entirely on the time and talent of the individuals who make up VLA to do our important work. And we are fortunate to have so many members who are willing to serve.

This work that we do on behalf of VLA is rewarding to us. It provides a chance to meet and get to know fellow Vermont library workers and to connect with others in the New England Library Association and the American Library Association. It provides a chance to learn about the pressing library issues of the day — diversity, equity, and inclusion, intellectual freedom, digital trends — by creating and organizing programming for our fellow Vermonters. It also provides an opportunity to develop and hone new skills by participating in the governance of a nonprofit, in communications and social media, in advocacy and planning, web development, and more.

We have a number of open or soon to be open opportunities for people who wish to contribute to VLA as a board member, or as a member or chair of one of our roundtables or working groups. These include:

- Executive Board Vice President
- College and Special Libraries President and Vice President
- Friends & Trustees Section President and Vice President
- Public Libraries Section Vice President
- Scholarships & Awards Committee Chair
- Vermont Library Conference Chair
- Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair

Descriptions of each of these positions can be found at <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/board-position-descriptions>

I can personally attest to how meaningful and valuable this work is to me, as it provides an opportunity to learn and grow, and to contribute to the ongoing work of making sure Vermont's libraries

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](#)
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](#)

continue to play a vital role in the life of our communities, our state, and our democracy. During this challenging moment when it may feel hard to know how to make a difference in our world, service on a VLA committee is a concrete way to act collectively to better our world. Please consider serving!

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please let me know!

Michael D. Roy
VLA President
Dean of the Library, [Middlebury College](#)
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Connect With Us:
Website: www.vermontlibraries.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation
Twitter: [twitter.com/@VLALib](https://twitter.com/VLALib)
Instagram: [instagram.com/vlalib](https://www.instagram.com/vlalib)
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association

Membership & Outreach

by Susan Larson

The Vermont Library Association (VLA) is an all-volunteer organization, with more than 300 members. Membership is open to everyone. We couldn't operate without your support. Join VLA or renew your membership today by **completing the application at** <https://vermontlibraries.wildapricot.org>.

VLA membership is rolling, which means renewal occurs annually on the date of your payment (versus the first of the year). Dues currently range from \$25 to \$50 for individual memberships, and from \$50 to \$100 for organizational "bundle" memberships. VLA members qualify for extended membership at a reduced rate in the New England Library Association (NELA): <https://www.nelib.org>. Library students qualify for ALA/VLA joint membership: <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/joint-membership-program>.

For more information, visit our membership pages on VLA's website:

Membership Information
<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership>

Membership FAQ
<https://www.vermontlibraries.org/membership/membership-faq>

Thank you!

Susan Larson, MLIS
VLA Membership and Outreach Committee Chair
members@vermontlibraries.org

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.

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 McMullen](#)

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

Public Libraries

by Dana Hart

At Ilsley Public Library, we are approaching the end of our year-end reporting bonanza. Every year, we pull together our statistics for the annual report to the Department of Libraries. Then, I write a long narrative report for the town of Middlebury, detailing the library's activity over the past year. Finally, I cherry-pick the best statistics and anecdotes from both reports and condense them into the library's annual impact report. This impact report is shared far and wide, all in an effort to communicate the library's story in a positive light. (While I haven't quite finished this year's impact report, you can see last year's at <https://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Ilsley-Library-2020-Impact-Report-2.pdf>.)

This year, we're adding one more component to our year-end reporting (or as I think of it, our year-end excuse to celebrate the library and shout our good news from the rooftops). This year, in the two weeks leading up to town meeting day, we will be displaying advocacy posters around Middlebury. Many of you might recall that last year the VLA Public Libraries Section announced an advocacy campaign in the form of five customizable posters. The goal of this campaign is to communicate what Vermont public libraries, collectively, achieve for Vermonters, as well as to highlight specific contributions from public libraries at the local level. Each poster is designed to be easily editable, so public libraries can personalize the poster by inserting their own statistics. (You can access the posters at <http://www.vermontlibraries.org/advocacy>.)

This year, we added another five posters. That's right: you now have ten professional, eye-catching, customizable posters at your disposal, all for the very reasonable price of free! We spend so much time gathering statistics and searching for the words to communicate our value to our communities. This year, I encourage you to take those statistics and plug them into a few posters -- you've already done the hard work, now you just need to do some minimal data entry. Save the posters as a .jpg or .pdf to display on your website, or print them out to display around your library or downtown area.

I'm not using every poster available this year, because they don't all make sense (or seem particularly impressive) with our pandemic numbers (you can see which ones I chose to use at <https://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Posters-Series-FY-21.pdf>). But despite the many challenges and setbacks of the pandemic, 2021 was a transformative year for Ilsley Public Library. On July 1st, we went fine free. We unveiled a new (and vastly improved) website. Searching for library materials is easier for our patrons now that we have Aspen Discovery, and we have faster Wi-Fi thanks to the VCF Technology Grant. We might not have broken any records for in-person programming last year, but we distributed 3,635 Take-and-Make projects. These are the stories I am eager to share with the Middlebury community, and I hope these posters make your own advocacy efforts in 2022 a little easier!

Dana Hart
VLA Public Libraries Section President

eligible purchases. Visit smile.amazon.com for more details.

ATTN: Gmail Users

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

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

Other mail clients should receive *VLA News* in its entirety, but if not, please [let us know](#).

Director, [Isley Public Library](https://ilsleypubliclibrary.org)
dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org

ALA

by Jessamyn West

ALA Vermont Chapter Councilor Report

Hello from your local Chapter Councilor to the American Library Association. This past week I attended Council Forums and Council meetings virtually, and this is my report.

Want to be a Councilor?

A brief note that my Chapter Councilor term is up in May. While I am more than happy to serve a second three-year term, I would also be happy to pass the privilege and responsibility on to someone else. Feel free to contact me directly, and I can discuss what is involved. I was lucky to follow in the footsteps of Marti Fiske (with some gap coverage also by Virgil Fuller, thanks Virgil) who did a terrific job for us.

ALA Conferences Overview

The January professional development conference (with speakers and activities and vendors) is becoming known as LibLearnX, and all the committee meetings which happen at ALA in January are ... still kind of called Midwinter. It's a little confusing, and I asked specifically if this lack of clarity was intentional and was told by the ALA Conference Committee that they are really trying to spin up LibLearnX as a "whole new thing" and so they don't use any of the Midwinter verbiage which, to my mind, leaves people to figure it out on their own. LibLearnX does look pretty interesting, and now all of the speakers and activities are at "no conflict" times (they don't have programming at the same time as committee meetings), in case you were thinking about attending in the future. Next LibLearnX is in New Orleans, always a great conference location.

The next big conference for ALA is in Washington DC June 23-28. It is still somewhat up in the air whether this will be in person, virtual, or hybrid. I have been advocating for a hybrid conference as I think it allows for better accessibility and access for Councilors from far-flung states as well as some serious cost savings for people from smaller chapters, but there has been some pushback on this, so stay tuned. The remainder of my report which gets into all the specifics can be read on my website here.

<https://www.librarian.net/stax/5297/ala-midwinter-report-2022/>

Jessamyn West
VLA Chapter Councilor
[Vermont Mutual Aid Society](https://www.vermontmutualaid.org)
jessamyn@gmail.com
[@jessamyn](https://twitter.com/jessamyn)

Libraries in Vermont

Working Group

In May 2021, the Vermont State Legislature passed S.115 (Act 66), an act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws, which was signed by the Governor on June 7, 2021. This act created the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont and charges that group with submitting a report on their studies by November 1, 2023.

https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working_group

Interested in editing?

Try your hand at newsletter design or editing! VLA's membership software comes with newsletter possibilities. If you would like to volunteer for the *VLA News*, please contact

vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com.

Visit Us on the Web!

<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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