

# VLA News

## May 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:**  
[Michael D. Roy](#)

## President's Letter

*by Michael D. Roy*

### Better Together

The big news this month is that we are holding our annual conference in person this year. We are meeting on **June 1st** on the campus of Castleton University. We'll be using a participant-driven conference format. The theme is **Better Together**, which embodies two defining principles for the day: the chance for us to see each other in person after a long time apart, and the idea that sharing our knowledge helps us all improve ourselves and our libraries.

#### What is a participant-driven conference?

Have you attended a traditional conference recently? Then you probably sat in room after room with dozens of other attendees listening to experts talk about topics that weren't quite what you were interested in. You were sure there were some interesting people to talk to, people who had the same problems you did (and maybe even some answers) — but how could you find who they were and meet them among the swirling crowds? Did you come away frustrated, feeling that only a small portion of the time you attended was valuable to you?

The VLA 2022 conference will be different. It will be small, responsive, and peer-centered. Small, because the conference is limited to 150 attendees. Responsive, because most of the conference is spent discussing topics chosen by attendees through a careful short pre-conference online process. Peer-centered, because we believe that, collectively, we are the experts.

Our conference facilitator is Adrian Segar, creator of the Conferences That Work structure. Adrian is a well-known conference designer and facilitator, who has been creating participant-driven, participation-rich meetings for thirty years.

VLA 2022 is designed to make it easy for attendees to share what they want to discuss, the problems they need help with, and the answers they have found from their own experience. The conference provides a supportive environment for a learning and teaching experience that is tailored by and for the individual attendees. Does this sound like the kind of conference you'd like to attend? If so, we'd love to see you.

You can learn more about the conference including our COVID protocols and register at the conference website <https://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference>. Please note that due

**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 database and communications.

**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](#)  
Supports libraries in providing better service to diverse

to the participant cap of 150, you may want to register sooner to guarantee a spot.

## **Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 8th, 10 am**

We will hold the VLA annual meeting on June 8th from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. We will send an agenda, and information about how to register in the coming weeks.

## **Last Call for Nominations**

We have a nearly full slate of candidates for leadership roles in VLA for the upcoming year. We are still in need of candidates to step forward for the Friends & Trustees and for the College and Special Libraries sections. Please consider putting your name forward!

Michael D. Roy  
VLA President  
Dean of the Library, [Middlebury College](#)  
[president@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:president@vermontlibraries.org)  
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LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Vermont-Library-Association)

# Membership & Outreach

*by Susan Larson*

Happy spring, everyone!

I recently sent an email to those in our membership database (WildApricot) whose memberships have lapsed. Thank you to everyone who responded by renewing!

If you decide not to renew your membership, please email me at [members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org). I will make a note and move your membership record to the archives. Thank you for your help with this.

Please join me in welcoming Erica Shott as incoming chair of the VLA Membership and Outreach Committee. Erica is director of Dorset Village Library in Dorset. She begins this month, and also can be reached at [members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org).

It's been an honor to serve as chair this past year. I will continue as a VLA web team volunteer, posting to VLA's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

If you have any questions about VLA membership, please visit our membership pages on VLA's website:

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

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

populations.

**Personnel Chair:**

VACANT

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:**

[Catherine Delneo](#)

**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 [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) for more details.

Thank you!

Susan Larson, MLIS

VLA Membership and Outreach Committee Chair, 2021-22

[members@vermontlibraries.org](mailto:members@vermontlibraries.org)

VLA Web Team Volunteer ([susanularson@gmail.com](mailto:susanularson@gmail.com))

# Sustainable Libraries Working Group

*by Margaret Woodruff*

The Vermont Library Association announces the formation of the Sustainable Libraries Working Group. Nine libraries make up the initial cohort: Brownell Library, Carpenter-Carse Library, Charlotte Library, Lincoln Library, Norman Williams Public Library, Pettee Memorial Library, Quechee Public Library, Richmond Free Library, and Windsor Public Library. These libraries have made the commitment to work toward embedding the concepts of triple bottom-line sustainability into their libraries' policies and practices. The in-depth focus on environmentally sound practices, economic feasibility, and social equity that this program entails will require each of these libraries to demonstrate sustainable thinking in all of their decision-making. Sustainable Libraries Initiative (<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org>) co-founder, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich states:

"We are pleased to partner with the Vermont Library Association and have these libraries supported by the Sustainable Future Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation to help Vermont's libraries continue to expand their leadership on the topic of sustainability. This investment is a clear indication that others recognize the acceleration influence of libraries in every village, town, and city stepping up to serve as exemplars for sustainable thinking to help lead communities forward in the face of the impact of climate change."

Each library will be working towards their individual certifications with the guidance of an experienced mentor and the support of an expanding network of libraries nationwide who are members of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. The Sustainable Library Certification Program is flexible so that libraries of all sizes and locations whether urban, rural, or suburban can benefit from the step-by-step actions that will lead to a more environmentally sound, socially equitable, and financially resilient organization.

Margaret Woodruff (she/her)

VLA Government Relations & Advocacy Committee Chair

Director, [Charlotte Library](#)

[margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org](mailto:margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org)

802-425-3864

# VLA Library Tour

*by Susan O'Connell*

After two years of online meetings, workshops, and coursework, the Northeast Kingdom VLA library tour was an opportunity to reconnect in person with colleagues across the state and to meet

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others who have only appeared as listserv correspondents or small squares on a Zoom call. Wow, it was great to see everyone again!

The tour comprised visits to four geographically close libraries in Hardwick, Greensboro, and Craftsbury. We began at the Jeudevine Library, where 23 of us crowded into the small space and learned from Lisa Sammet about the much needed plans for an addition to their library space. We then had a few minutes to explore the library from the beautiful mezzanine to the gloomy basement.

Just up the road is the Greensboro Free Library, which has generous space and lots of nooks for spreading out, a feature especially appreciated during COVID. Paula Davidson took over as director just before the pandemic and talked about how they have made adjustments to use the space both indoors and outside. We had time to look around the library, visit with other librarians, and gape enviously at the makerspace set up in one of the back rooms.

Craftsbury boasts two public libraries in separate villages of town. The Simpson Memorial Library is a unique and quirky building with strong historical ties. The collection reflects the influence of the Simpson family whose interests included the arts and history, and who collected artifacts from around the world. Thus, one can find ornate editions of Russian literature, museum cases with shells and old coins from around the world, stuffed armadillos, and historical documents. Kristin Urie has recently taken over leadership at this library, and she spoke about her ongoing discoveries and work organizing and preserving the documents the library houses.

The Craftsbury Public Library is a newer building, with a small addition built during the pandemic to provide quiet space and remote working space that patrons can reserve to work, take calls, have a telehealth appointment, or study. These two libraries, with nearby Albany, are collaborating to create the LOCAL (Libraries Of Craftsbury and ALbany) library card, allowing access to physical and digital resources to be shared among users at all three libraries.

It is always interesting and inspiring to see different libraries and get ideas that might be useful in our own settings. Most importantly for this event, however, was the chance to forge or renew connections with each other. Visiting with others while wandering the libraries; waiting in line at the general store to pick up lunch; sharing a picnic lunch under the tent; it was during these moments that so much was exchanged. Some was useful professionally (I am stealing the live lambs at story time idea and know just the board member to help with it); others were interesting personally (you'll have to guess who made her own fur-kini for a swim competition). As one participant said, "What an inspiring day. I got some great new ideas and feel rejuvenated."

If you weren't able to attend this time, watch for future VLA library tours in other parts of the state in the coming months. We hope to be able to host several others so more of us can get together for networking and fun.



*Photo credit to Diane Grenkow*

Susan O'Connell  
VLA Public Libraries Section Vice President  
Director, [Craftsbury Public Library](https://www.craftsburypubliclibrary.org/)  
[director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org](mailto:director@craftsburypubliclibrary.org)

## Libraries in Vermont Working Group

On Friday, May 20th the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont will meet to discuss the topic of technology. In May 2021, the Vermont State Legislature passed S.115 (Act 66), an act that 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. Information about the group, including testimony and recordings of past meetings, can be found at

[https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working\\_group](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](mailto:vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com).



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<http://www.vermontlibraries.org>

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