

VLA News

August 2017

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Back Issues

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

President's Letter

by Joy Worland

The library world has been busy lately, in Vermont and nationally. VLA kicked off spring (such as it was weather-wise) with the "Unconference" in May (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/conference2017/programs>). This featured some good discussions and, as always, the chance to talk with other Vermont librarians. Shortly after that the VLA Board held its annual retreat, a day to welcome new board members and share ideas about the year ahead.

This year's Passport to Vermont Libraries program continues through August. Visitors to the 122 participating libraries are enjoying unique giveaways, quirky stories, beautiful architecture, and sharing stories and photos. Check out the [passport Facebook](#) page to see some of these. Stay tuned for news on end of season festivities to recognize passport enthusiasts.

VLA is proud to be sending three Vermont librarians to the New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) in August: Sarah Costa from the Aldrich Library, Amanda Merk from Norman Williams Library, and Amy McMullen from the Hartland Library. We congratulate them on being accepted into the program and look forward to them bringing back new ideas and skills that will benefit the larger Vermont library world as well as their individual libraries. Related to the NELLS agenda, the summer issue of the YALSA journal has some great articles on leadership and mentoring. Reinvigorating the VLA mentoring program was discussed at the June retreat. If you've been thinking about getting involved and/or if you get inspired reading YALSA, get in touch and we can help set you up on either side of the mentoring equation.

Looking ahead, there will be a VLA presence at Vermont Comic Con in August (<http://vtcomiccon.com>). VLA members receive a discount on admission, so take advantage of that! Thanks to Ian Gauthier from the Aldrich Library for leading the library crew at this event. The VLA Inclusion Committee is once again making plans to participate in the Pride Parade on September 10th in Burlington. Let us know if you're interested in being involved as we celebrate diversity and highlight the roles libraries play in education and promoting inclusiveness and safe spaces. And of course coming up in October, the NELA conference will be held in Burlington this year. This is a chance to share what's going on in Vermont with other New England librarians and learn from our neighbor colleagues. Early bird pricing until September 1st. (<http://conference2017.nelib.org>)

Library advocacy on a national scale has never been as active as in recent months and that seems to have been effective. The House Appropriations Committee approved direct library funding with no cuts in IMLS, LSTA or IAL funding relative to last year's levels. ALA and other advocates will keep the pressure on until the votes have occurred, and there is still potential for cuts that affect literacy efforts and libraries, but this seems to be turning out to be an example of "this could have been a lot worse." ALA also continues to fight fiercely for net neutrality, as it exemplifies one of the core principles of libraries: equal and unbiased access to information. Comments can be made to the FCC through August 16th. Details here:

the VLA website!

[VLA News back issues](#)

Substitute Pool

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

Employers: 32
Substitutes: 53

Types of Employers:

Public: 28
Community: 1
Academic: 1
School: 1

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

Addison: 13
Bennington: 7
Caledonia: 9
Chittenden: 29
Essex: 5
Franklin: 12
Grand Isle: 6
Lamoille: 15
Orange: 9
Orleans: 6
Rutland: 11
Washington: 16
Windham: 11
Windsor: 12

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

<https://techcrunch.com/2017/04/27/how-to-comment-on-the-fccs-proposal-to-revoke-net-neutrality/>

Please keep in touch with VLA leadership if you have ideas, issues, or questions we might be able to help with. We are always eager to hear from and support members, not just at conference time, but throughout the year.

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Vermont Library Association
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Burlington, VT 05402

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-5172256

Vice President's Letter

by Cindy Weber

ALA Governance and Advocacy

I attended the American Library Association Annual Conference 2017 as a substitute ALA Chapter Councilor for the Vermont Library Association. Attending this national conference in the "Windy City" (Chicago) was thrilling. It was a valuable experience for me as it was an honor to represent VLA in this capacity, and I learned much about ALA's governing body and the extent of library advocacy throughout our great nation.

The ALA governing body is comprised of the Officers of the Council, the Executive Board members, division and round table councilors, at-large councilors, and chapter councilors. Conference councilor meetings are held in a big auditorium arranged with the officers in front and facing the audience. The councilors are arranged in semi-circular seating facing the officers, and behind them the audience is arranged in rows of chairs. There is a formal agenda allowing for discussion (with strict presentation rules) throughout the meeting. The organizational structure and the interaction and knowledge of the participants were impressive.

Advocacy efforts were revealed when ALA's Washington Office representatives reported on the Fight for Libraries Campaign, ALA's effort to reverse the proposed cut of IMLS/LSTA funds (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/fight-for-libraries>). Librarians and other library advocates responded with 42,000 individual email messages sent to U.S. House representatives. The appearance of many at the National Library Legislative Day was influential in swaying Senate opinions. A coalition of 26 library vendors led by Gale and Penguin Random House formed the Corporate Committee for Library Investment and created a website for giving at Fundlibraries.com. The District Dispatch blog was effective in getting the word out, and ALA encouraged libraries and library users to tell their stories of how LSTA funds have been used. ALA issued an Advocacy Challenge encouraging others to take action.

At this time, the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee passed a spending bill without cuts to libraries and with a \$20 million increase to the National Library of Medicine. The entire House will make a decision on the spending bill at the session in the fall, so ALA continues to encourage library leaders and users to write their local editors regarding the usefulness of

more contact information, see the [VLA Leadership Directory](#). Let them know if you would like to be involved in VLA, too!

Executive Board

President:

[Joy Worland](#)

Vice

President/President Elect:

[Cindy Weber](#)

Past President:

[Margaret Woodruff](#)

Secretary:

[Kelly McCagg](#)

Treasurer:

[Shara McCaffrey](#)

Section

Representatives

College & Special Libraries Section

President:

[Alana Verminski](#)

Organizes workshops and assists college and special librarians.

Public Libraries

Section President:

[Jennifer Lee Murray](#)

Organizes workshops and assists public librarians.

Technical Services

Section President:

[Stacey Knight](#)

Organizes workshops & assists technical services librarians.

Trustees & Friends

President:

[Nancy Mark](#)

Organizes workshops and assists library trustees.

Youth Librarians

President:

[Adele West-Fisher](#)

Organizes workshops and

LSTA funds, to contact their representatives and senators, and sign up for District Dispatch alerts (<http://www.districtdispatch.org>). Take advantage of this well-run advocacy campaign and do your part today! Check out <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/federallegislation/fight-for-libraries>.

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VLA Vice President
Library Director, [Stowe Free Library](#)
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802-253-6145

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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VTLibraryAssociation>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VLALib>
Instagram: <http://instagram.com/vlplib>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5172256/profile>

NELA/VLA Conference

Recharge 2017

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery - air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, this is what it is to be happy."

- Sylvia Plath

In today's world, we are asked to do so much, be so many places (sometimes at the same time!), and wear so many different hats. We rarely get time for ourselves, to take a breath and reflect. Come join NELA, in partnership with VLA, this October at the Sheraton Burlington for our [2017 Annual Conference](#) (<http://conference2017.nelib.org>). Take some time to recharge and learn with your colleagues with our amazing program schedule (<http://nela2017.shdlr.com/grid>), including a wellness track! Visit our Exhibit Hall (<http://conference2017.nelib.org/exhibitor-showcase>) to support your favorite vendor, or meet someone new! It is sure to be a great time, full of new ideas and inclusive collaboration that you won't want to miss! Return to your library feeling reinvigorated and ready to take on the world!



Megan Bishop
NELA Events & Communications Coordinator
<http://nelib.org>
NELA Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/nelibraries>
NELA Twitter - [@NELALibraries](https://twitter.com/NELALibraries)

Passport to Vermont Libraries

by Nancy Tusinski

The Vermont Library Association is proud to sponsor the third Passport to Vermont Libraries program which runs from June 1-September 1, 2017 at participating Vermont libraries. People pick up a library passport from a participating library and try to visit as many libraries as possible

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 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:

[Jane Ramos](#)

VLA News Editor:

[Janet Clapp](#)

Webmasters:

[Sarah Costa](#)

during the summer. There's a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/vermontpassport>), prizes for the winners, and great stories about our Vermont libraries.

Check the VLA website for information and resources. (<http://www.vermontlibraries.org/passport>)

If you would like more information or if you have any questions, please feel free to email any of these folks:

Virgil Fuller: virgilfuller27@gmail.com, Amanda Perry: aperry@winooski.vt.gov, Sarah Snow: williamstownvtlibrarian@gmail.com, Nancy Tusinski: nancytusinski33@gmail.com, Jessamyn West: jessamyn@gmail.com, Joy Worland: joyworland@gmail.com

Nancy Tusinski, Library Director

[Hartland Public Library](#)

[802-436-2473](tel:802-436-2473)

director@hartlandlibraryvt.org

Public Libraries Section

by Debbie Landauer

Jennifer Murray and I, (chair and new vice chair respectively of the VLA Public Libraries Section), hope to bring you some useful and stimulating things in 2017-2018 and we welcome your input. For those who don't know me, I am the public library director at the Fairfax Community Library. I've been there for seven years, and was at two other Franklin county libraries for three years prior to that. I hold a master's degree in education and the Vermont Certificate of Public Librarianship. I was previously co-editor of this newsletter, and truly value what VLA provides to Vermont librarians! Other than all things library, I like cats and wildflowers, the outdoors, theater, and local food. My two grown sons are in graduate school. I currently live in Burlington (after eons in the Enosburg area).

Our goals for this year include:

- Host informal meet-ups in several locations around the state
- Offer a mid-winter lecture or workshop
- Collect and disseminate multiple copy holdings for Vermont librarians to access

Regarding that last item, we have begun this project by collecting lists of titles and other relevant information from 14 libraries and have created a spreadsheet. Currently the process is on hold as the new ILL sharing system gets up and running. The hope is that eventually the multiple title information can be cataloged, accessed, and requested there. If that is not in the cards, we will expand the spreadsheet to include as many libraries' collections of multiples as possible and then share the data with everyone. In the meantime, you can use the spreadsheet we have created. Find it [here](#).

As the vice chair, I will also be helping plan and run the May 2018 VLA conference. I am interested in your needs and ideas, so please reach out to me at the email address below. You can also contact Jennifer in South Burlington at jmurray@sbschools.net or [802-652-7076](tel:802-652-7076).

Debbie Landauer

VLA Public Libraries Section Vice Chair

[Fairfax Community Library](#)

fairfaxlibrarian@gmail.com

[802-849-2420](tel:802-849-2420)

College & Special Libraries Section

by Alana Verminski

[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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Save the Date

Let's Get Together: Projects, Strategies, and New Approaches That Worked (Or Didn't!)

2017 VLA College & Special Libraries Section
Fall Program

Friday, November 17, 2017
St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT

We invite you to join us for the day and engage with colleagues from within the state and across the region!

With a greater emphasis on learning from one another and exchanging ideas, this year's fall program will feature presentations, lightning talks, and opportunities for discussion and networking.

The call for proposals will open early in August so stay tuned!

Alana Verminski
VLA Colleges & Special Libraries Section President
[University of Vermont Libraries](#)
alana.verminski@uvm.edu

Friends & Trustees Section

by Adam Bortz

Library trustees' responsibilities are great, although they may vary somewhat from library to library. Being aware of those responsibilities is basic to your functioning as a trustee. The primary charge to this section is making you aware so you can serve your library well. Toward that end we hold a conference in the fall ("save the date" information to follow). Each library should make sure that at least one trustee attends in order to report back. Our charge is to make sure that attendance is worth your while. Look for the date, soon to be followed by a description of the featured speaker and the workshops. Looking forward to seeing you this fall.

Friends of your library need to get together to learn about creative ways to help with the needs of your own library. This fall's conference is where you may not only learn, but have the opportunity to proudly share your successes with others. Plan on attending.

Adam Bortz
VLA Friends & Trustees Section Vice President

Youth Services Section

by Adele West-Fisher

Summer reading has been in full swing in most libraries across the state. With the theme "Build a Better World," our kids have been involved in a variety of related activities. From tower building, to bridge building, to projects to improve our world, it has been non-stop! Check out the VELI-STEM page (<http://veli-stem.weebly.com>) for exciting STEM information in libraries around the state!

As we head into the next few months, I am starting to look at gatherings in different regions of the state for youth services librarians, starting with a get-together here up in the north. More details to follow, so make sure you are on the email list for youth services.

If you have not taken the VLA Youth Services Quickie Survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8S3QZMM>. The survey is a great place to indicate your

suggestions and opinions, or you can contact me directly.

Adele West-Fisher
VLA Youth Services Section President
[St. Johnsbury Athenaeum](http://stjohnsburyathenaeum.org)
awestfisher@stjathenaeum.org
[802-745-1391](tel:802-745-1391)

Inclusion Committee

by Jes Mattera

The Inclusion Committee will be representing VLA on September 10th by marching in the Burlington Pride Parade (<http://pridecentervt.org/parade-festival>). Whether you're LGBTQIA or an ally, all are welcome to join in. The parade and festival are sure to be a fun time for all!

Besides having a presence at the Pride Parade, I am hoping to work with the Inclusion Committee to provide resources for Vermont librarians to help them serve the diverse populations in their communities. If you're interested in marching in the parade or just in joining the Inclusion Committee, please contact me. Born and raised in Rhode Island, I moved to Vermont last year. I graduated with my MLS in 2015 and worked as a youth services librarian before moving to Vermont.

Jes Mattera
VLA Inclusion Committee Chair
Technology Librarian, Champlain College
jmatters@champlain.edu
[802-383-6643](tel:802-383-6643)

Intellectual Freedom Committee

by Angele Mott Nickerson

Hello, everyone! My name is Angele Mott Nickerson and I am the new chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. While I currently work at the Pierson Library in Shelburne, am the community rep for the [Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](http://Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)) for Vermont, and spend time in the archives at the Shelburne Museum, I was sure I had more time to work on the VLA board. Or at least Joy convinced me I had the time.

The committee has been a bit quiet for a while so I'm hoping to have some modest events over the next year to get it back up to speed. First off, I am currently working with a UVM graduate student to create discussion guides for a few recently banned books. With her help and the assistance of others, by Banned Books Week in September the VLA website will be updated to have six discussion guides available to libraries and the public for their use in book clubs. I hope to promote the idea that book banning is a practice which continues today and impacts everyone's access to knowledge and literature. As we move closer to Banned Books Week, I hope to create some other ways libraries can highlight the freedom to read, and I welcome any thoughts or ideas other librarians in the state might have.

Angele Mott Nickerson
VLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair
Librarian
a.mott.nickerson@gmail.com

New England Library Association

by Steve Picazio

Registration has opened for the NELA & VLA joint 2017 Annual Conference: <http://conference2017.nelib.org/registration-2>. Reduced early bird pricing is available until September 1st. The conference will be held October 22-24 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel. Full details on the program schedule, hotel accommodations, and exhibitor showcase can be found here: <http://conference2017.nelib.org>.

The NELA 2017 Diversity Summit was held on Wednesday, July 26 at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, Massachusetts. The event brought together librarians from around New England to discuss diversity in libraries and librarianship and featured a range of speakers, including ALA President-elect Loida Garcia-Febo.

The New England Library Leadership Symposium (NELLS) will take place August 14-18. The symposium prepares mid-career librarians with the tools and knowledge that they will need to take on leadership positions. While registration for this year's symposium has closed, this is a recurring opportunity offered by NELA to both NELA and VLA members. Further information can be found here: <http://nelib.org/connect/committees/new-england-library-leadership-symposium-nells>.

Steve Picazio
VLA Representative to NELA
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Something New

by Janet Clapp

VLA is a network and in that spirit, I would like to try a new feature, suggested by former VLA President Toni Josey. *VLA News* will list library staff changes: hires, promotions, moves, retirements. Whenever you or someone you know gets or leaves a library job here in Vermont, please drop me a brief line at vermontlibrariesnews@gmail.com and I will put it in our next *VLA News*!

Janet Clapp
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