

**Vermont School Library Association  
Annual Report, 2008-2009**

**Presidential Report – 2008-09**

Section 1 of the VSLA Constitution

The PRESIDENT shall

- a. preside at all Executive Board and general meetings
- b. serve as *ex officio* member of all committees
- c. appoint all committee chairs with the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Board
- d. serve on the NESLA Executive Board as VSLA President
- e. be responsible for the Vermont Library Conference in May (shared with VLA President)

As the VSLA president and VITA-Learn regional meeting coordinator, I was pleased to see much more collaboration in our region with meeting planning and attendance.

Board meeting attendance remained strong, due in large part to the possibility to attend virtually via conference calls or Skype.

Much of this year's attention centered on the determining future of the Vermont Library Conference, and a joint VLA/VSLA committee was formed to carry out this task. This is a great opportunity for us to critically evaluate our separate and collective needs in order to provide meaningful professional development and networking opportunities.

Respecttfully submitted,

Susan Monmaney, VSLA President 2008-09

**President-Elect 2008-09**

Section 2: The PRESIDENT-ELECT/VICE-PRESIDENT shall:

- a. preside at any meeting in the absence of the president
- b. be responsible for any duties that the president may designate

For me this year was mostly a year of observing. Sue Monmaney has been a wonderful role model in how a VSLA president conducts meetings, stays in contact with the board, and handles challenges that come along the way.

My goals for 2009-2010:

- Assist in the planning and promotion of the VSLA Conference in October.
- Ensure that school librarians across the state have the opportunity to become familiar with AASL's Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner via Learning 4 Life training.
- Produce a document aligning the above mentioned standards with Vermont's standards and GLEs relevant to the work of school librarians.
- Plan an end of the year celebration of Vermont school libraries to be held in conjunction with our semi-annual spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Middleton

VSLA President-Elect 2008-09

**Secretary – 2008-2009**

Section 3: The SECRETARY shall:

- a. keep accurate minutes of all Executive Board meetings
- b. keep accurate minutes of all membership meetings and shall publish those minutes in the next Association newsletter
- c. distribute accurate minutes of meetings to the Executive Board prior to the next duly called meeting
- d. receive and file copies of the annual reports of all committee chairs
- e. be responsible for all correspondence as directed by the President, the Executive Board or the Association

This year the job of VSLA secretary involved attending the fall membership meeting and the Executive Board meetings either in person or via conference call and recording the minutes of these meetings. The minutes were distributed to members of the board by email prior to the next meeting and, once approved, were posted in the next VSLA newsletter. Copies of reports of all committee chairs and any other correspondence directed by the president, Sue Monmaney, were also filed. All reports were filed in print form as well as on the VSLA laptop and flashdrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Dollinda Lund  
Secretary

**Treasurer – 2008-2009**

Section 4: The TREASURER shall:

- a. perform the usual duties assigned to this office including records, receipts, expenditures and financial reports
- b. be responsible for the preparation of an annual budget to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting
- c. have the responsibility for the payment of all bills against the organization
- d. arrange for an annual audit of the books

Attached are the year-to-date budget report for 08-09, VSLA expense sheet for 08-09, and the proposed budget for 09-10 prepared by the VSLA board.

We are still fiscally sound as noted below in our Citizen Bank accounts. At this time, there remain a few small outstanding bills, but nothing that is going to have an adverse affect on the organization.

The fall conference was a major expense (\$2,482.00) for the organization in 08-09, but certainly was well worth it according to attendees.

The total expenses from the VSLA expense sheet for 08-09 matches the year-to-date expenses on the year-to-date budget report.

The proposed budget for 09-10 once again supports using monies in our savings accounts. The board agrees to earmark additional funding mostly for professional development, possibly for the fall conference, additional funds for GMBA for the upcoming year, and for advocacy if needed.

We also had a nice increase in memberships this year and would like to see membership continue to grow for the upcoming year.

Our accounts are with Citizen Bank and as of 4/30/09:

Checking: \$2,181.59

Earns no interest; no service fees

Money Market Savings (705-5): \$10,637.23

Money Market Savings (115-2): \$12,625.00

CDs: \$2,500 @ \$2,613.38 (renewal 6/17/09)

\$4,500 @ \$4,618.60 (renewal 6/20/09)

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Smyth  
Treasurer

**Committee/ Region Name:** Intellectual Freedom

**School Year:** 2008-2009

**Accomplishments:**

This year, we created a pamphlet providing guidance for school librarians on the state confidentiality legislation that was passed into law last Spring. The pamphlet provides school library media specialists with an overview of some best practices, advice on dealing with overdue notices, a copy of the text of the law and points them to additional resources for more information on intellectual freedom issues. One thousand color copies have been printed and the pamphlet is to be initially distributed at the Vermont Library Conference. A .pdf version has also been posted on the VSLA web site.

We were made aware of seven book challenges during this school year. Those in the 2008 calendar year have already been reported to the American Library Association. All were resolved positively, to our knowledge.

**Areas Needing Improvement:**

Board members have had discussion about selection policies and the need for helping librarians update their policies. We have learned that the Vermont School Board Association has a selection policy template that a number of school boards are adopting, sometimes without input from or the involvement of their librarians. The VSBA selection policy is not as comprehensive as we might like, nor does it have the orientation to intellectual freedom that a librarian should have.

In a related matter, privacy policies are another area that need attention. There are few model privacy policies for schools, while models are more abundant for other types of libraries.

**Suggestions for Action:**

We have discussed sponsoring a workshop on selection policies and we should move forward with this proposal. Perhaps privacy policies could part of that, or perhaps developing a privacy policy needs to be separate.

It would also be worthwhile developing standard collections of intellectual freedom resources for the VSLA web site, such as those for Banned Book Week, for dealing with challenges, for privacy and confidentiality, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Eldred  
Intellectual Freedom

**Committee/ Region Name:** Membership

**School Year:** 2008-2009

**Accomplishments**

- members
- NEEMA (NESLA) members
- 31 new and/or free memberships (the free ones offered to first year certified librarians working in a school or certified out-of-state librarians working in a Vermont school for the first time)
- Provided mentors to members who requested one
- Removed none renewing members from listserv at beginning of November

**Areas Needing Improvement**

- Need to send welcome letter or email to new members
- Need to send letter with return postcard to lifetime members to see if they want to continue receiving the VSLA News

Respectfully submitted,

Submitted by Karen Hennig  
Membership

## **NESLA (New England School Library Association) Annual Report – 2008-2009**

NESLA's annual Leadership Conference was held Saturday, March 28 in Bedford, NH. Implementing the new standards was our theme featuring Kathy Lowe, Chair, AASL Learning Standards Indicators and Assessment Task Force and Susan Ballard, Chair, AASL Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force. Holding the conference on a Saturday was an idea that came out of the previous year's leadership conference evaluations. Attendance was high, and evaluations extremely positive about the program as well as the choice of a Saturday meeting date. Surprisingly, many attendees remarked that because the conference was held on a Saturday was the only reason they were able to attend. We will certainly consider holding the conference on a Saturday again at some point in the future.

The next leadership conference will precede the ALA Midwinter Conference in Boston: January 15, 2010 at the Moakley Courthouse ... with the theme Knowledge/Learning Commons: The Future School Library (or similar title) - all is still in preliminary stages. We plan to have opening sessions at the Moakley (a gorgeous site on the harbor) and then bus to the Chelmsford High School Learning Commons for the afternoon program, and bus back to the conference hotels in Boston for ALA Midwinter Exhibits etc. Dave Loertscher, Ross Todd, Rolf Erikson, and Valerie Diggs are already on board. We are thinking of having someone from the MIT MediaLab speak on technologies of the future.

The NESLA website address has changed to <http://www.neschoolibraries.org> where you can check your membership status, check conference dates, conference materials, etc.

Upcoming dates:

MSLA Conference in Sturbridge, MA

When: Sun Oct 4, 2009 to Mon Oct 5, 2009 Where: Sturbridge, MA Event Status: confirmed

CASL Joint Conference with CECA-CT Convention Center in Hartford, CT

When: Mon Oct 26, 2009 Where: Hartford, CT Event Status: confirmed

NESLA Executive Board 2008-2010

Merlyn K. Miller, President

Katrina Palazzola, Secretary

Douglas B. Maitland, Treasurer

Susan Ballard, Past-President

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller, VSLA's Representative to NESLA

## **AASL Annual Report – 2008-2009**

2009 Election Results include: President Elect --Nancy Everhart. Division Councilor -- Sylvia Norton and Director-Elect Region I--Valerie Diggs. Go to the AASL webpage for complete election results.

Minutes from the Affiliate Assembly Meetings held at the 2008 annual meeting in Anaheim, CA and the 2009 Midwinter meeting in Denver can be found at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aboutaasl/affils/minutes.cfm>

AASL's Toolkits, including the new Crisis Toolkit and the new School Library Program Health and Wellness Toolkit, can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/toolkits/toolkits.cfm>

New Englanders chairing national committees or holding offices in AASL currently include: Irene Kwidzinski (CT) -- Chair of AASL Affiliate Assembly, Sylvia Norton (ME) -- Division Councilor, Susan Ballard (NH) -- Chair of the Task Force on the Standards and Guidelines Implementation, Kathy Lowe (MA) --Chair of the Learning Standards Indicators and Assessment Task Force and Merlyn Miller (VT) -- Chair of the State Department Inquiry Task Force and Chair of the Appointments Committee.

At the Affiliate Assembly in Denver: Stephanie Vance <http://www.advocacyguru.com> presented a fantastic workshop called How to Talk to Your Legislator which included 4 sections: Why advocate?...But wait! I can't advocate!...The tools: Four strategies...The Actions: Five steps you can take today and Deb Logan presented a second workshop called Leading Your State Advocacy: Saving School Libraries

Concerns from ALA Affiliate Assembly in Anaheim were presented in Denver along with the actions that went forward. They are listed below.

Concern 1: National Board Certification for library teachers. Submitted by the Massachusetts School Library Association. AASL was asked to form a task force to promote attainment of National Board

Certification through increased publicity, online sources, and coordination and dissemination of information plus recognition for National Board Certified Teachers. Ann says AASL didn't do a good job of communicating what is already out there. Significant work has already been done in regards to National Board Certification. There is a current presence on the website for National Boards. Letters get sent to all National Board Certified librarians who are AASL members. Recognition is given at conference with ribbons. Ann Martin stated that she hoped a group would form on ALA Connect, an interactive community, that will launch this spring. Candidates can participate along with certified people as well.

National Board is revising the standards for the Library Media certificate. There has been a delay in looking at this but it will be started this year and AASL is part of this process. Each certification area has to have enough candidates in a field to make it financially viable and the statistics for librarians are good. We have more than the number needed to continue looking at it as a viable area. When National Boards went to make the original press release, the misperception of who librarians are was discussed and National Board said they could promote what we do. They had members of AASL write the press release and they released that with the names this year.

Concern 2: Task force to investigate ways to partnership with ASCD and other leadership organizations.

Submitted by Region II. AASL recently launched the Learning 4 Life plan for implementing standards and guidelines. Part of the plan is to reach administrators and different groups and this resource is available online and in book form. The plan has directives that directly target this concern. Ann Martin suggested letting the plan work its way through and then evaluate where we are again later.

Concern 3: The need to pursue collaboration between AASL and ISTE. Create a task force to research standards for common ground. Approach ISTE to create a bridge between standards. No formal plans to develop a crosswalk with standards since our standards are different. Our standards go beyond ISTE standards. Ours are learning standards and they have technology standards. The Executive Council feels that what is happening informally in the field will help with this issue. Doug Johnson is one of the people doing work in this area. Possibly the AASL communities will help with this issue as well.

Concern 4: Revolves around diversity. Appoint AASL task force to explore participation in groups listed in the ALA's directory of diversity organizations. Specifically asked to analyze the make up of the ALA directory, identify strategies for development of leaders and members between these groups and report findings. Ann stated that there is a task force that was created at end of last year, which is called the diversity in the organization task force, and they will be addressing all of these issues.

Concern 5: Request to establish a task force to develop a rapid response process for addressing program cuts, develop sample communication tools, develop a proactive procedure to support and sustainability after the crisis, leverage AASL leadership in 21st century partnership, collaboration with state superintendents and collect and disseminate on the affiliate assembly website information on individual affiliate's strategies for legislative advocacy. At the end of the annual conference in Anaheim, Ann Martin went to Deb Logan and said we cannot wait for an advocacy toolkit – we need it now. Most school budgets come about October first. Deb Logan said her group would do it. She and her committee worked all summer on the toolkits you will be trained on. AASL was the first division of ALA to come out with any kind of initiative advocacy issue. Other divisions in ALA are going to the AASL website to get our toolkits. That is how this concern is being addressed. Go to [www.aasl.org](http://www.aasl.org), under professional tools, toolkits to find the resources.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merlyn Miller  
VSLA's Representative to AASL

**Committee/Region Name: VSLA Newsletter**

**School Year: 2008-2009**

**Accomplishments:**

Marsha Middleton and Liv Perry put together the fall issue of the VSLA News. The fall issue was printed and mailed to all Vermont Schools, and posted on our website by our webmaster Pamela Burke. I took over as editor for the winter and spring issues, which were published on our website only. We have continued to run ads in the online issues, per our agreement with the vendors who paid for advertising.

We have had an interesting assortment of high-quality articles. We were contacted by the American Library Association about putting two of our articles on one of their websites. The authors of the articles have given their enthusiastic permission, and the first of the two articles is scheduled to be posted on May 15.

**Areas Needing Improvement:**

We had hoped to produce the fall print edition in color, but the cost appears to be too high. We plan to put all future editions of the newsletter on our website in a format that will make for easy searching of the backfiles by topic.

We would like to encourage article contributions from more VSLA members.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Peterson

**Committee/ Region Name:** Central Region

**School Year:** 2008-09

The Central Region had another year of meetings that were few in number but well attended. Both meetings followed Materials Review Sessions at the Brown Public Library in Northfield. The fall meeting was actually a presentation by the Department of Libraries on what the DOL can do for school libraries. At our April 1st meeting we shared lessons and activities and discussed how to use our regional wiki <http://vslacentral.pbworks.com> to share curriculum and keep in touch online when face-to-face meetings are hard to arrange. We'll be scheduling a hands-on meeting in a school computer lab to get people up to speed on wikis in general and how to contribute to ours. The end of the year is upon us so that may be our kick-off meeting for the fall if we can't fit it in before this school year is over.

Our region's big "thing" this year was the VSLA fall conference. Our small organizing committee managed to put together a good roster of programs and we had a great turnout. The theme was "Making Connections" and the sessions were on topics such as copyright in the digital age, audiobooks from ListenUp Vermont, and using blogs, wikis, and other web 2.0 tools in your library. Our keynote speaker, Susan Ballard, talked about advocacy for your library – a great preview of the VLC theme!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kissel & Susan Hennessey  
Central Region Representatives

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**Committee/ Region Name:** Northeast Region

**School Year:** 2008-09

Our region met formally three times this year. We met at the Northeast Regional Library after the fall DOL Material Review session, when we had the honor of hosting Grace Greene, who shared with us the news from Department of Libraries. In early spring we were hosted by Beth Mallon at the St. Johnsbury School for a meeting focused on the concerns and questions of the new librarians in our region. We met again after the spring Material Review session, when a number of topics were discussed. Of particular concern was the possible closing of the Northeast Regional Library, which is an essential resource us. Topics of less gravity were also discussed, and our two retiring librarians were recognized.

The Northeast was well represented at the dynamic Fall VSLA conference, conveniently located for us at U-32 Middle High School. At all four of these gatherings one of the most valued elements was the casual but vital networking that we find so helpful and energizing. We are hoping to extend personal invitations to all of our region's librarians for our first fall meeting next year, to ensure that they are aware of the value of this resource.

Respectfully submitted.

Kate Davie  
Northeast Region Representative

**Committee/ Region Name:** Northwest I Region

**School Year:** 2008-09

**Date:** May 5, 2009

The group met 3 times this school year including two dinners- one in December and one at the end of May to celebrate getting through another school year. At the April meeting Teresa Faust was a guest presenter. We heard about the Special Services division of the Vermont Department of Libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jones  
Northwest I Region Representative

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**Committee/ Region Name:** Northwest II Region

**School Year:** 2008-09

This region met after the Vermont Department of Libraries (DOL) Material Review Session in the fall. The fall agenda included a presentation from the DOL on services they provide, including Vermont's Special Service Unit which provides materials for the blind. We met again in February to network and share ideas.

One area of concern that was discussed at the February meeting was that of advocacy. With many area positions either being reduced from full time to part time, or library staffing being cut, we feel that this issue is one that VSLA, as an organization, could address further. We are pleased that this years Vermont Library Conference is focusing on this topic, and we hope that this topic will continue to be addressed by our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Wood  
Northwest II Region Representative

**Committee/ Region Name:** Southeast Region

**School Year:** 2008-09

Members met two times during the year. Both meetings were held after the DOL Material Review Sessions at Kurn Hattin. At the fall gathering members were able to learn about services provided by the Department of Libraries including the Special Services Unit. The spring meeting gave everyone a chance to share some resources and ideas from their libraries.

Our region is hosting the VSLA Conference on Thursday, October 22, 2009. I am forming a planning committee to work on the details. I will also need volunteers to help out on that day. Please contact me if you would like to help. This is a great way to earn professional development.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Bolognani  
Southeast Region Representative