

VSLA Board Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2007  
Coolidge Hotel, White River Junction

Members in Attendance: Anna Bolognani, Pam Burke, Caroline DeMaio, Christine Eldred, Jean Fournier, Anne Gallivan, Karen Hennig, Dollinda Lund, Marsha Middleton, Merlyn Miller, Sue Monmaney, Bonnie Richardson, Donna Smyth, Shannon Walters, and guest Trina Magi.

Jean opened the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

Secretary's Report. Anne moved to accept the minutes, Marsha seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report. (See attachment.) The Fall Conference operated at a small loss which was covered by VSLA.

VSLA Logo. Sue reported that she has three entries, and more are expected. The deadline is December 15, and the winner will be chosen at the January 24<sup>th</sup> conference call meeting. Sue will try to send the images of the entries around to the board before the meeting.

Fall Conference. Caroline and her committee were commended for providing a wonderful conference. Caroline is planning to meet with her committee to discuss the conference, and she will get a packet together to pass on to the next Fall Conference Committee chair. Caroline will try to find out the site of next fall's conference.

Intellectual Freedom. (See attachment). Christine introduced Trina Magi, VLA member. Trina explained that about a year ago the Vermont Library Association began advocating for a stronger state confidentiality statute to protect the privacy of library patrons. It presently falls short of saying libraries should not share information, and there is a question as to which libraries the bill refers to. Disclosure exceptions in the draft include allowing custodial parents access to information for children under the age of 13 for the purpose of getting overdue books.

The bill is going through legislative drafting now. Lawyers from Vermont Law School are looking at the legality of the language. If VSLA wants to actively support this bill, agreement needs to be met before December. Jean noted that full membership needs to be in on this decision. Sue said that no matter what we decide to do, librarians need to be educated about confidentiality in their own schools. The bill will be introduced in January – can VSLA hitch on later? VLA has not put it out to vote from the membership, but all have been informed and have had time to weigh in. This has not been the case with VSLA. Christine wondered if VSLA could work on this regionally, and Shannon suggested the listserv. It was decided to put an article in the newsletter, and Christine will start conversation on the listserv. Karen will enter Trina into the listserv so that she can join in and answer questions. Pam will also put information on the website.

DOE/DOL. No report.

Membership. Karen reported that some memberships were renewed at the conference and some new members joined. There are still some unpaid dues out there, however.

Advertising on the Listserv. After some discussion, Shannon made the motion that local, free community activities may be posted by members in compliance with listserv guidelines. Sue seconded the motion. Shannon amended her motion to strike the word “free” from the original. The final motion read: Local community activities may be posted by members in compliance with listserv guidelines. Sue seconded the motion.

Karen also shared a thank-you to VSLA from Laurie Huse in acknowledgement of a retirement gift. Laurie is retiring from Vermont NEA, and Karen noted she had been very supportive of school librarians.

Northeast Region. Bonnie reported that wikis and blogs were the subject of the recent northeast meeting. It was proposed to have a session on how to use wikis and blogs with students, and Bonnie is going to check to see if Susan Hennessey would be available to run the session. VSLA would be asked for a stipend for Susan. It was noted that Commissioner Cate wrote a position paper about what effective teaching for student achievement looks like, and technology is part of this. However, school filters are blocking some of this technology, i.e., wikis and blogs.

NEMA/AASL Report. (See attached). Merlyn is presently housing a collection of RETN videos and DVDs. She asked if it would be appropriate for a list be put up on the VSLA website with her contact information to make them available for borrowing. It was agreed that this was a great idea. Merlyn also handed out copies of the national standards. Merlyn shared some news from other New England states and noted that New Hampshire’s School Library Conference is planned for the same time as our spring conference. She also noted that it has been past practice for each of the New England states to invite the president or president-elect of every other New England school library association to their conferences tuition free. Merlyn will get the names of the leadership of the other states to the conference committee. Congratulations to Merlyn on her election to vice president of NEEMA.

Newsletter. Marsha reported that enough sponsorship came in to pay for the cost of the newsletter. She also asked that articles for the next newsletter be submitted before Thanksgiving.

Professional Concerns. No report.

Jean recently spoke with Barbara Doyle-Wilch, VLA president, and was told that Sybil McShane will be retiring in June. Barbara spoke with Mike Smith of the Department of Libraries and asked what VLA can do to assist with the search. Former VLA president Lisa van Kann is attending the board meetings to keep her pulse on the movement of the search committee. Jean felt that VSLA should be represented at these meetings, and she and Sue agreed to cover these meetings.

Central Region. No report.

Northwest Region. No report.

Southeast Region. Anna reported that after the next Review Session DOL consultants will meet with new librarians in southern Vermont.

Technology Concerns. Shannon reported that she hadn't heard of any sessions on assistive technology yet planned for the spring conference. She will talk to Dan about this.

Technology sessions at the conference will be held onsite this year. Ongoing sessions are planned in the vender area also. After the success of Sheila Kearns' discussion group at the fall conference, Jean wondered about the possibility of an Automation Vender Forum for the association separate from the exhibits at the spring conference.

Webmaster. Pam reported that our listserv has an archive. Do we want to make this available? After some discussion it was decided not to make the archive available right now. We may revisit this at another time. Pam would like to post VSLA board meeting minutes on the website and was given the go ahead to post them after they have been approved. Pam is still looking for more content for the website.

Spring Conference. Kelly Wood. Jean reported that the programming is in place for the spring conference, but right now there is no secretary and no co-chair in training. Jean has submitted our conference dates to ALA, and they will include this information on their calendar.

Other Business. Shannon brought up Act 82, passed last May, which is a school funding bill that will take effect in 2009. Any school that spends more than the state average and has too large a percentage increase in their budget will need two votes to get their budget passed. This is an aim to compress school spending, and it could have a huge impact on school libraries.

Susan Hennessey, a media literacy specialist at Harwood Union High School, won a \$25,000 Milken Family Foundation Educator Award. Karen suggested that VSLA send her a card.

The next meeting will be on January 24, 3:00-4:00 (or 4:30), and will be done by conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dollinda Lund  
Secretary

