

**Vermont School Library Association
Annual Report, 2007-2008**

Presidential Report – 2007-08

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)

Goals for any president are not reached by flying solo. They can only be accomplished by the unified efforts of the association board and the fuller VSLA membership.

My goals for 2007-08 were:

1. To keep an active liaison with the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Libraries (DOL) for addressing professional development and licensing procedures for school librarians.

Dan Greene stepped into this role and was an active liaison with the DOE and the DOL.

2. Expanding the creative use of technology.

We expanded the use of technology in several ways:

- Asked for more offerings of technology at the state conference level
- Purchased a secretarial laptop
- Set up conference calling for -
 - January Board Meeting
 - State Librarian input meeting
- Added a new Web presence for the association.
- Made our VSLA newsletter available electronically

Presidential Report – 2007-08 (cont.)

3. Self promotion of VSLA to increase membership and involvement

We have promoted VSLA to increase membership and involvement by:

- Co-chairing a state conference
- Offering an outstanding fall conference
- Working toward a confidentiality for patron records bill
- Moving to a new listserv
- Keeping an active liaison with the DOE & DOL
- Organizing a logo contest to support our name change
- Publishing an interesting and informative VSLA Newsletter
- Co-hosting with VLA informational meetings for input into the state librarian job search
- Hosting an active listserv
- Creating an informative web site
- Sending a representative to Legislative Day in Washington, D.C.
- Hosting regional meetings
- Hosting a Green Mountain Book Award Contest
- Participating in programs offered by the Department of Libraries
- Volunteering to serve on committees

Aside from working toward set goals and responsibilities as outlined in the president's job description, collaborative work with the Vermont Library Associations has for various reasons increased this year.

A main role for both association presidents is to oversee the Vermont Library Conference which has historically and continues to be a joint conference between the Vermont Library Association and the Vermont School Library Association.

When our former conference coordinator left to take another position we came together as presidents with representatives from each association to fill that position.

When we learned that our state librarian was retiring the two associations jointly hosted input sessions around the state.

When we were approached by VLA to ask if we were interested in advocating for a stronger confidentiality statute to protect the privacy of patrons we agreed to actively support the bill.

I believe that as library associations our greatest challenge will be to create new ways to make it easier for librarians to serve on boards and committees so that they can share their areas of expertise.

I'm proud that as state associations we have established a collaborative working relationship. I believe that it will take the best of both associations to find innovative ways to fashion our response for professional development and make it easier for librarians to serve on boards and committees, and design a conference that responds to the needs of the 21st century librarian.

Submitted by,
Jean Fournier, VSLA President 2007-08

President-Elect 2007-08

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

2007-2008 was an incredible year for VSLA. In addition to the accomplishments mentioned in Jean's presidential report, VSLA actively pursued participation in a public performance movie license contract negotiated by the VT Department of Libraries.

Dan Greene and I also met with Sybil McShane to provide input for Department of Libraries' 5-year plan.

Some wonderful submissions were received for our logo contest. There is some outstanding talent in Vermont, and we look forward to presenting the winning logo at this year's annual meeting. The new logo will appear on our website and on new signage for future conferences.

As a librarian who has taken on the role technology integrationist, it has been especially rewarding for me to see an increased librarian presence at VITA-Learn meetings. These two organizations have much to gain from each other, and I hope to see more interaction between the two.

This year has seen an increase in the use of technology for distance communication with board meetings. I encourage our organization to expand this practice and to use technology tools that would also facilitate involvement in various VSLA initiatives and welcome members to participate in VSLA to whatever extent they are able.

My thanks to Jean Fournier for her support and mentoring through this past year, and I look forward to an exciting year ahead as your president.

My goals for 2008-2009:

- Continue a strong collaborative relationship between public, school, and academic libraries as well as other professional education organizations such as VITA-Learn
- Promote flexibility with involvement in VSLA
- Advocate for qualified school library media specialists throughout Vermont

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Monmaney

VSLA President-Elect 2007-08

Secretary – 2007-2008

Section 3 of the VSLA Constitution: 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 six Executive Board meetings and the fall membership meeting and recording the minutes of these meetings. These minutes were distributed to the 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, Jean Fournier, were also filed.

This year the association purchased a laptop computer to record minutes, file reports, and keep other pertinent information, and a flash drive to provide backup of this information. This system has provided a convenient and efficient way of organizing VSLA's records throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dollinda Lund
Secretary

Treasurer – 2007-2008

- Attached are the year-to-date report for 07-08, VSLA expense sheet for 07-08, and the proposed budget for 08-09 prepared by the VSLA board.
- We remain a fiscally sound organization 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 total expenses from the VSLA expense sheet for 07-08 matches the year-to-date expenses on the year-to-date report.
- The Proposed Budget 08-09 supports using monies in our savings account. Board agreed that we needed to spend down, so monies are earmarked for professional development and fall conference 08.
- Our accounts are with Citizen Bank and as of 4/30/08:
 - Money Market Savings: \$11,874.29
 - Money Market Savings: \$10,549.33
 - Checking: \$4,819.91
 - Earns no interest; no service fees

Account balances as of 11/15/07:

Both came up for renewal on 12/20/07 at the rate of 2.96% for 9 mths. New maturity date: 9/20/08.

CDs: \$2,500 @ \$2,723.39

\$4,500 @ \$4,829.10

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Smyth
Treasurer

Committee/ Region Name: Intellectual Freedom

School Year: 2007-2008

Date: May 7, 2008

Accomplishments:

This year our major initiative was working with the Vermont Library Association in support of legislation strengthening patron confidentiality. We added provisions relevant to school librarians, generated useful discussion concerning privacy concerns in school libraries and VSLA board members testified before the Senate Government Operations committee concerning the importance and effects of the legislation. Ultimately, the bill passed in both chambers and will become state law. Our collaboration with VLA was very positive and the discussion about privacy brought forth a number of questions and concerns we can further explore.

In addition, there were two book challenges that we were made aware of this school year, both at North Country Union Junior High in Derby.

Areas Needing Improvement:

The discussion around the patron confidentiality legislation raised questions about privacy policies and practices and it is clear that further guidance is needed.

Suggestions for Action:

An informational pamphlet about privacy in school libraries would be a useful guide for librarians. We could attempt to answer the most common questions and concerns, explain the new legislation, and outline the basic tenets of privacy and confidentiality that are part of the library profession's code of ethics.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Eldred
Intellectual Freedom

NESLA (formerly NEEMA) Annual Report – 2007-2008

2008 marked NESLA's 90th birthday! To help mark this special birthday, members decided at the March 2007 annual meeting to establish a Hall of Fame Award to recognize the many members of the organization who have made significant contributions to the library media field through their efforts on the state, regional and/or national level. The Hall of Fame Awards were given out at a special dinner/celebration in Boston on April 3, 2008. Of the 36 Hall of Fame recipients, three were from Vermont: Jeanne D. Battey, Merlyn Miller and Leda Shubert. We were very pleased to have AASL's president, Sara Kelly Johns, join us for our birthday dinner celebration as well as our Leadership Conference.

The annual Leadership Conference was held April 4, 2008 in Boston featuring Dr. Henry Jenkins, Director of the Comparative Media Studies Program and Professor of Literature at MIT. His keynote speech was titled *Where Soulja Boy Meets Herman Melville: What Remix Culture Can Tell Us About the New Media Literacies*. The remix culture is very much part of the lives of American college and high school students, but it has not yet had much impact on what we do in the classrooms. Dr. Jenkins made the case that schools should make their peace with remix culture, seeing it as a force which might revitalize how we teach some very traditional school content and tapping it as the focus of our efforts to talk to young people about their ethical choices as media makers and participants in online communities. Following Dr. Jenkins, Chris Harris presented *Gaming as a New Literacy* discussing what literacy means when interactions and experiences are virtual and where libraries fit on this evolving game board.

Earlier in the year, the NEEMA Board began to consider if our name continued to accurately represent who we are and what we do. A constitutional amendment was proposed to return to our original name, the New England School Library Association—NESLA. At the annual meeting April 4, 2008, the membership voted unanimously to accept the change.

The website address will soon be changing but for now please continue to use neema.org where you can check your membership status, find the latest copy of the newsletter, check conference dates, etc.

Upcoming dates:

CASL Fall Festival (Connecticut Association of School Librarians) October 15, 2008
MASL (Maine Association of School Libraries) 3rd weekend in October 2008
MSLA (Massachusetts School Library Association) November 2-3, 2008

NESLA Executive Board 2007-08

Susan D. Ballard, President, Merlyn K. Miller, President-Elect, Katrina Palazzola, Secretary,
Douglas B. Maitland, Treasurer, Jenifer Smolnik, Past-President

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller
VSLA's Representative to NESLA

AASL Annual Report – 2007-2008

- AASL's long range goals include advocacy, professionalism and alliances.
- To address advocacy, a task force was created to develop tools to outreach to parents and other community groups
- To address technology standards, a joint working group with ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) has been authorized to address revisions to the national technology standards
- Minutes from the 2007 annual meeting in Washington DC and the 2008 Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia can be found at:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslgovernance/affiliateassembly/aadocs.cfm>
- The *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* document is available for download at
<http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards>
- AASL's Fall Forum will be held October 17-19, 2008 in Chicago. The focus on assessment continues with Assessment Part II: Constructing and Interpreting Viable Tools for Effective Student Learning in the Library Media Center. To register online: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/fallforum>
- AASL Director-Elect Ann Perham has created two important tools to help Region 1 communicate and collaborate: the Region 1 listserv aaslregi@ala.org and the Region 1 Wiki
<http://aaslregion1.pbwiki.com>
- AASL is sponsoring a task force on Reading—the result will be a toolkit of reading strategies for Library Media Specialists
- New England is taking a major role in AASL—Irene Kwidzinski is the new Chair of AASL Affiliate Assembly, Sylvia Norton is AASL Representative to ALA Council, Susan Ballard is the Chair of the Task Force on the Standards and Guidelines Implementation and Merlyn Miller is Chair of the State Department Inquiry Task Force.
- Re-affiliation packets were given out at midwinter meetings—VSLA's packet has been completed, returned and received by AASL
- Region 1 delegates Merlyn Miller (VT & NEEMA); Valerie Diggs (MA); Janet Roche and David Bilmes (CT); Peggy Becksvort (ME); Sue Ballard (NEEMA) worked with Region 1 Director-Elect Ann Perham and Region 1 Director Marilyn Joyce, on formulating draft language regarding concerns/commendations from the region which will be forwarded to Affiliate when finished so that they can be discussed and voted at Annual for submission to the AASL Board.
- Concerns include: (1) assistance/strategies on how to recruit and retain members in the affiliate organizations and to encourage members to join the division; (2) the issue of teaching teachers how to use the library collaboratively via their education courses.
- One of the commendations being considered is for the Maine State Dept of Ed which includes a school library media specialist on every one of their content area standards committees

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller
VSLA's Representative to AASL

Committee/ Region Name: VSLA Newsletter

School Year: 2007-2008

Date: May 2, 2008

Accomplishments:

We have put out 3 issues so far this year – one print which was also published online and 2 online issues. We have run ads this year which paid for the print edition. We have had a variety of articles on a variety of topics by a variety of authors.

Editor: Marsha Middleton

Assistant Editor: Liv Perry

Ad Sales: Pat Mraz

Areas Needing Improvement:

Getting more VSLA members to contribute articles.

Would be great to have some creative art work or cartoons. Also humorous articles would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Middleton, VSLA Newsletter

May 2, 2008

Committee/ Region Name: Central Region

School Year: 2007-08

Date: May 9, 2008

This year's meetings, though few in number, were well-attended. Our first meeting followed the Materials Review Session on October 30th at the Brown Public Library in Northfield. We discussed some common concerns, brainstormed topics for future meetings, and shared some successful activities for teaching information literacy skills. A topic of great interest that was suggested for a future meeting was Web 2.0. The workshop on "Blogs, Wikis and Social Bookmarking" at the VSLA fall conference filled up fast and many of us missed out. Susan Hennessey agreed to lead a workshop at an after-school meeting, which was held on April 7th at Harwood. She talked about ways she has used technology in collaboration with teachers and created a wiki on the spot that we could use to share the resources discussed at the meeting.

Other events attended by some Central region members were a presentation on the Wilson databases that are part of the VOL subscription, organized by the DOL and held after the March 25th Materials Review in Northfield; and a Central Vermont VITA-Learn meeting in Waitsfield on April 15th with demonstrations of different Web 2.0 tools, and a discussion on the pros and cons of incorporating Web 2.0 into our teaching. There were quite a few library media specialists in attendance, along with the tech integrationists and tech coordinators who are the usual attendees.

Combining our efforts and resources with those of other organizations is a great trend that I hope we can continue.

Next fall's VSLA conference is in the Central Region's hands and we need to start planning it soon. There have already been some excellent ideas suggested for programming. I hope we can put together an organizing committee with a good representation of grade levels and areas of expertise so we can host a conference as fabulous as the one the Northeast Region hosted last fall!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kissel
Central Region Representative

Committee/ Region Name: Northwest Region

School Year: 2007-08

Date: May 8, 2008

Our region met four times so far this school year and another meeting is planned for end of May. At our end of year dinner we will recognize Diane Leyden from Georgia Elementary/Middle School who is retiring after many years of service. We rotate our meeting locations; thanks to the schools that have hosted the meetings and provided such great snacks.

Agenda items this year included: making the transition from older circulation systems such as Spectrum to Destiny or other systems; technology GEs and who is responsible and how is the progress reported?; electronic reference books.

Attendance is good but could always be better. More attendees would be helpful but with the distances from one end of the county to the other and with constraints of work and personal life- I think our region is doing a good job of staying connected and using each other as resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Jones
Northwest I Representative

Committee/ Region Name: Southeast Region

School Year: 2007-08

Date: May 9, 2008

This region met after the two Vermont Department of Libraries (DOL) Material Review Sessions. The fall agenda included a presentation from the DOL on services that are available through them including Vermont's Special Service Unit that provides materials for the blind. The spring meeting included an over view of the Wilson Biography Database that is a part of Vermont Online Library (VOL). The meetings offer a venue to meet other librarians to discuss a wide variety of issues and resources for school libraries in the region.

I would like to organize a meeting for the beginning of the school year (08-09) to get everyone off to a good start and promote networking with colleagues. Please feel free to contact me about any library questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Bolognani
Southeast Representative

Committee/ Region Name: Webmaster

School Year: 2007-08

Date: May 9, 2008

In July of 2007 VSLA launched a new website at vsla.info. Run on Wordpress software, it is easy to update and content on the front page changes often. Since launch, unique visitors to the site have averaged 450 per month. The site features recent school library news items, archives of the VSLA newsletter, book store events and photos from a new Vermont library Flickr pool. We hope to improve on the usefulness of the site in the coming year by adding more content in many areas, with input from the VSLA membership.

Pamela Burke
VSLA webmaster
<http://vsla.info>