

Vermont School Library Association Board Meeting  
Main Street Middle School Library, Montpelier  
April 17, 2008

In attendance: Jean Fournier, Anne Galligan, Dan Greene, Karen Hennig, Cheryl Kissel, Dollinda Lund, Marsha Middleton, Merlyn Miller, and Sue Monmaney.

The meeting was called to order by Jean at 4:09 P.M.

Jean read a thank you note from Marj Zunder for her retirement gift.

Minutes of January Meeting. The minutes were accepted by email prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report. (See attached)

Green Mountain Book Award Grant for next year. Marsha gave an accounting of how the \$500 grant was spent this year: 1) A granite plaque given to Jodi Picoult, author of the GMBA winner, *My Sister's Keeper*. This design will be used each year. 2) The remainder of the funds was sent to the Green Mountain Library Consortium (Listen Up Vermont) to purchase additional copies of the GMBA titles. The money will be used in the same way next year.

2009 Budget.

- Printing of the first newsletter each year. Even if the postage is up, it was agreed that it is worth doing.
- Fall Conference – upped the amount from \$800 to \$1000.
- Board meetings are up because conference calls were figured into the amount. The cost is \$125 per meeting, and during the winter months it makes sense to do more of this.
- PR is up from \$100 to \$1000 because new signage is needed with the new logo.
- Professional Development. We may want to put money in for the future. It will be discussed at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Recent Expenditures (Jean).

- a Hospitality. Several gifts were bought last year including the gift for Sybil the night of her reception.
- b. Conference Call. The January conference call went well.
- c. NEEMA Conference. Jean reported that Merlyn was inducted into the NEEMA Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Merlyn. Jean spoke at the conference about the way VSLA and VLA have coordinated well this year. She noted that meetings held around the state for the new

position and the work on the new legislation were just two of the efforts where collaboration was used, and technology has made the two groups more alike than ever. Merlyn reported on gaming and literacy and U-tube and how these technologies are being used in schools. While at the conference, Jean also went to a break-out group that discussed the lack of young people going into the library field. Both Jean and Merlyn agreed that it was a wonderful conference.

### Regional Reports.

Central. Cheryl reported. At the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Harwood Union High School Library, Susan Hennessey shared some ways of collaborating with teachers using wikis. She also showed the group how she has used a Smartboard to encourage students in the research process. Several VSLA members attended a VITA-Learn meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Waitsfield Elementary School. The presentations and discussions were about using Web 2.0 in school, and this made a nice follow-up to the meeting with Sue Hennessey.

Some members of the central region attended a presentation on the Wilson databases following the Materials Review Session in Northfield in March, but there was no formal meeting.

Northeast. Bonnie was not able to attend but sent a report and wanted to state her concerns. Bonnie has gone to many meetings trying to get her school budget passed. Her librarian position as well as her technology job are both in jeopardy. She is concerned that librarians are retiring, but schools are not advertising their positions.

Jean asked for a volunteer to purchase gifts for those librarians who are retiring. Sue volunteered to do this, and she will put a message out on the listserv to get a list together of the retiring librarians. Dan will help Sue.

Northwest I (Peter). No Report.

Northwest II (Shannon & Kelly). No Report.

Anna. No Report.

VSLA Logo Contest. There were 16 entries, and the group picked out three finalists. These designs all need a few adjustments. We will revisit this at our May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

State Librarian input. Jean noted it was a good gathering at St. Johnsbury with many libraries represented including schools, publics, state colleges, the historical society, and others. Jean and Sue both noted that the state librarian needs to advocate for school libraries as well as publics. How can we tap into the expertise of all libraries? How can the state librarian facilitate that?

DOE and DOL. Dan met with the commissioner and the governor. No new position will come in for a while so there will not be a new person at this time. Dan met with a group of educators

in Montpelier and learned that the State Board of Education may be disbanded, and the commissioner would be a appointed cabinet position.

The Department of Education would like to know when non-licensed persons are hired to fill positions and would like this information reported to them. They will then investigate.

Holly Kruse is now National Board Certified.

Intellectual Freedom. Sue reported that the bill passed. Do we want to take a position on having the house raise the age from 13 to 16? Trina will be in touch, more testimony will be heard, and we will take direction from there.

NEEMA (Merlyn). NEEMA decided to go back to their original name, NESLA. (See report) AASL. Merlyn received notice that they received the re-affiliation packet she filled out and sent. The conflicting conference dates between states were discussed, and they will make sure it doesn't happen again. Merlyn contacted the Department of Education in all states to see if there are liaisons, and most states do not have them. State presidents were all contacted also. We need to be advocates for ourselves, and our organization is more important than ever.

Newsletter. Marsha had a copy of the latest newsletter. It will be on the website soon.

Technology Concerns. (Shannon). No report.

VLC. Jean reported that Kelly has worked extremely hard on this conference. There have been problems, but things are working out. A co-chair has been found for next year.

VSLA Award. Nominations need to be submitted by the next meeting. Perhaps names will be looked at from previous years.

Curriculum Document. Anne will report on it at the next meeting. She will be attending Legislative Day and took part in a webinar to prepare for this. She will be a voice for all Vermont libraries.

Slate of Officers. Marsha is the president-elect. A newsletter editor-in-training is still needed. Sue Hennessey and Cheryl will be co-representatives the Central Region next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26. Karen made the motion and Sue seconded. The next meeting is at VTC on May 1, from 4:00 to 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Dollinda Lund  
Secretary

