



**2016 VCAL Annual Meeting
Norwich University
Kreitzberg Library
North Instruction Room
Wednesday, 29 June 2016
10:00am-3:00pm**

Present: Terry Simpkins (Middlebury), Laura Gewissler (UVM), Greg Sauer (Norwich), Jane Kearns (Hartness-VTC), Eileen Gatti (Hartness-CCV), Doreen McCullough (St. Joseph), Clara Brunis (Goddard), Franny Ryan (Castleton), John Payne (St. Michael's), Cynthia Lewis (Vermont Law), Joe Farara (Johnson)

Guests: Martha Reid (Department of Libraries), Kathy Lawrence (VSLA), Cheryl Kissel (VSLA)

Minutes

Terry Simpkins called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. He noted we haven't followed the nomination procedures outlined in our by-laws, and recommended revising them to reflect current practice. The group agreed.

Doreen McCullough presented the organization's financial statement. She is preparing to file our non-exempt paperwork. Terry noted our large balance, and suggested we should use it to fund initiatives, such as sponsoring an information literacy conference, providing some defined budgetary relief for a year, or reducing dues. Jane Kearns recommended sponsoring an event at a professional conference.

The Executive Board election resulted in Doreen McCullough and Cynthia Lewis being voted in as the representatives for the independent colleges, Sam Boss (Lyndon) as the at-large member, Maura Saule as the UVM representative, and Joe Farara as the representative from the Vermont State Colleges. In the coming year, Joe Farara will serve as President, Doreen McCullough as Treasurer, and Cynthia Lewis as Secretary.

The group discussed reciprocal borrowing. Use among faculty is minimal, but remains an effective gesture of good will. There was no broad support for expanding reciprocal borrowing to students.

There was a general discussion of information literacy assessment practices. Even with a variety of approaches in place, there is no consensus view of best practices.

Marty Reid summarized the past year at the Department of Libraries. After a significant reduction in force, the department is preparing to post two Assistant State Librarian positions. The department is moving towards appointment-only and/or virtual services for the public. The replacement system for VALS has been selected, but won't be announced until a state review process has been completed. The courier pilot project was a success, and an RFP for expanded services will be out in January 2017. Marty plans to convene the Vermont Online Library selection committee this fall, and says that member libraries will see a reduction in dues in January. Marty reminded the group that SCOOP discounts apply to academic libraries, as well as public and school ones. She wondered if Lyris would make a good partner for a mass digitization project.

Our VSLA guests joined us for a discussion on information literacy initiatives. Terry summarized VCAL's thinking on how we might better promote information literacy across the state. Given the alarming trends in staffing public school librarians, whose ranks are being reduced despite the centrality of information literacy assessment in a number of state and federal frameworks, the group agreed that an alliance between VCAL and VSLA is a critical first step in addressing school staffing issues. The group discussed how to best begin this work (conference, in-service day presentations, K-16 Council presentation) and decided the most achievable first step was a working group of 6 members, three from VCAL, three from VSLA, who would draft a letter for Vermont school committees in time for National Information Literacy Month in October. The group's hope is each school committee would have the letter read publicly and entered into the relevant meeting minutes. John Payne recommended the letter balance data with a strong narrative. Once this work has been completed, the group will receive a charge from the executive committee to determine a marketing campaign centered upon information literacy. This could include radio and television spots, a video letter featuring a diverse group of speakers, an information literacy website, and similar initiatives. Potential presentation venues include October 2017's NELA conference in Burlington and an event to coincide with the president of the School Library Association's Vermont visit in May 2017.

The Information Literacy Working Group will confirm its membership by 15 July 2016, receive its charge by the same date, and have its draft letter before the VCAL membership by 15 August 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.