

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES

Colchester Town Hall – Colchester

10:30 A.M.

April 28, 2005

Present: John Rosenthal, Chair
David Brown
Susan Bruce
Aline White
Joan Rahe
Nancy Graff
Sybil B. McShane, State Librarian

Also present: Marianne Kotch, Public Library Support Services Director, Marty Reid, Art Sweeney, David Clark, & Daisy Benson.

- 1. Welcome** – John brought the meeting to order at 10:55 A.M. after Board members toured the Burnham Memorial Library's bookmobile. Marty Reid, Burnham Library Director, welcomed everyone and provided handouts for the various programs sponsored by the Burnham Memorial Library and Bookmobile. She advised that circulation, through the bookmobile, has increased 256% over the last year. The cost of operating the bookmobile is approximately \$75,000 per year. Marty is seeking financial assistance by partnering with other communities.
- 2. Minutes** – Nancy would like to clarify her statement made in the February minutes regarding the VLA and BOL. (See February minutes, page 2, first complete sentence) What Nancy intended to say was that the committee would like to find ways the Board can work with VLA & VEMA and establish goals for all libraries in the 21st century. John noted that the minutes are approved with the above statement included.
- 3. State Librarian's Report** – *Teen Reading Program/Green Mountain Book Award* – This is a pilot program. John Fishman, the drummer from the Phish band, will be featured on the poster. Twenty-five (25) sets of books have been purchased. Five (5) sets will be raffled off at the library conference to VLA, and each regional library will have ten (10)

sets for loan. *Summer Reading Program* – Sybil handed out materials from the summer reading program. This year's theme is "Surf Your Library". *WebJunction* - The Gates Foundation funds will be used to cover the cost of DOL's participation in WebJunction for the first year. WebJunction provides on line discussion groups and basic on line computer courses for public and school librarians. The Department of Libraries can track who completes these courses to ensure they receive credit that will go towards their certification. *Survey* – Sybil hopes to do a survey of either librarians' expectations of services available from the DOL or the public's expectations of local libraries and their services. She hopes to find an independent group to perform the survey. *Federal LSTA Funding* – The House of Representatives is circulating a "Dear Colleague Letter" asking for support of the President's Budget for libraries. Sybil called Bernie Sanders' office to ask him to sign on to letter and by the next day he had signed on to demonstrate his support. A total of 51 representatives signed on to this site to show their support. A similar letter is circulating in the Senate. *Annual LSTA Report* – Sybil handed out copies of the department's Federal Fiscal Year 03 Report. David asked that the minutes reflect that the Board is impressed with and appreciative of this report. *National Broadcasting Company & IMLS* - Vermont Public Radio has applied for a federal grant to work with DOL to expand the Camels Hump Program from thirteen (13) shows per year to twenty-six (26) per year for two years. Amy Howlett and Grace Greene will work on this project to develop resource material, support and coordinate four reader's theater events and assist with promotion and publicity. *Public Library Foundation* – May 15th is the deadline to submit all information required for the third year Freeman Grants. All money must be expended and reported by the end of the calendar year. *Heritage Quest On Line* – The Department is providing a new on line database of town histories, census and genealogy information to public libraries. *Resource Sharing Grants* – Sybil will be sending out letters to public library directors advising them of a federally funded supplemental LSTA Resource Sharing Grant. The minimum grant will be \$25 and the maximum \$1,500. *Standards* – Marianne has prepared a report for Sybil of libraries not meeting standards

and the reason or reasons why. The Board expressed an interest in this report so Marianne will bring it to the next meeting.

- 4. Board Committee Reports** – David reported on the Town Officer meetings that he and John had attended. Marianne advised that she heard great verbal praises of both John and David. *Retreat* – Ali, Sybil and David had previously discussed, via a conference call, the upcoming Board of Libraries retreat. The retreat will replace the regular August meeting and will be on September 13th at a location to be determined with an outside facilitator to be determined. Discussion ensued regarding how one becomes a board member. Nancy reported that she and Ali are continuing to work with the VLA committee as forums are organized for June 6 in Middlebury, June 7 in Burlington, June 8 in Montpelier, June 13 in Brattleboro, June 14 in Bellows Falls and June 15 in St. Johnsbury. These meetings will explore ways libraries in Vermont can help each other. Board members are invited to attend any and all of the forums.
- 5. Public Library Statistics** – Marianne reviewed the highlights of the Output measures for Vermont public libraries, 2003-04. The statistics indicate that each Vermonter visited a library 4.72 times and checked out 6.7 books. These statistics are available on the National Center for Education Statistics web site as well as DOL's website. Discussion ensued on the use of these statistics by librarians and library trustees. Joan suggested a pat on the back for Marianne for the work she puts into this report.
- 6. Other Business** – David Clark introduced Daisy to the Board. Daisy is the new president elect of the Vermont Library Association. David advised that the VLA would like to have a member attend future BOL meetings. The next VLA meeting is scheduled for May 12th at Norwich. Nancy will attend. David provided the schedule for the VLA public forum meetings. The next Board of Libraries meeting will be June 14th at Midstate. This will be Laura's last meeting.

At 12:35 Joan made a motion to go into executive session and Nancy seconded the motion.

Sybil Brigham McShane, Secretary