

2017 VLA Candidates for Office

VP/President Elect: Todd Elliott and Clint S. Rudy

Todd D. Elliott



Candidate Statement: I'm honored to be nominated for president-elect of our Association and it would be a privilege to serve in that capacity. Like many of you, I was a career-changer, and has this work been fulfilling for me! From the time that a young radio technician was given responsibility of his unit's technical library to the work in public and academic settings as a professional in our field, this has been a passion for me and I intend to use this to drive my work with VLA. What can I say that you don't know already? We have a great thing going here in Virginia and together we can continue to aspire to greater, and this is only possible with all of us working together to communicate the mission and agenda of VLA. Thanks!

Biography: Todd Elliott joined Portsmouth Public Library in November of 2007 as the Assistant Director. In his position he directed the operations of the branches and provided assistance to the Director in strategic planning, directing, coordinating and implementing library work and services. He also assessed the library's services and analyzed data to ensure that the needs and expectations of Portsmouth residents and customers were being met. He became director in November 2009 after the retirement of Mrs. Susan Burton.

Todd served previously as a library associate at the Richland County Public Library in Columbia, SC from 1993 to 1998. He began his professional career at Norfolk Public Library, serving first as a youth and bookmobile librarian, before becoming the Park Place Branch manager. He was employed as a reference librarian for Tidewater Community College (TCC) from 2002 until 2007. He served on several college governance committees during his years at TCC, including the Student Success Committee, the President's Advisory and Planning Council, and the Faculty Senate.

A Portsmouth native, Todd is a 1983 Woodrow Wilson High School graduate. He served in the United States Air Force for six years (1987-1993) and his academic career began upon earning an Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Electronic Systems from the Community College of



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the Air Force in 1991. In 1996, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of South Carolina where he continued his graduate studies, earning his Master's in Library & Information Science in 1998.

Todd is a member of the American Library Association, Virginia Library Association, the Tidewater Area Library Directors' Council, and the Virginia Public Library Directors Association. He and his wife Jackie are the parents of Daryll, age 30, and Christopher, 24. They are active members of Point Harbor Community Church.

Clint S. Rudy



Candidate Statement: As a member of VLA for over 12 years, I have received a myriad of benefits from continuing education to networking and committee experience to presenting at conferences. Most significantly, as a graduate of the Virginia Library Leadership Academy, I was able to develop and refine my leadership skills, which helped me to gain the amazing position I currently hold as Director of the Suffolk Public Library. Now is the time for me to give back to the organization and the profession and I would be honored to serve as your Vice President/President Elect.

If chosen, I would like to begin by hearing from all members on how the organization can better serve them as well as those who are not members and determine what they would like to see us offer. Too often, we focus on the needs of others and neglect our own needs as library workers and individuals. This is especially true with compensation and benefits and I would like to lead us with more of a focus on improving these areas, which ultimately helps to better serve those who need us the most. Thank you for this opportunity to give back to the organization that has provided me with so much.

Biography: Clint S. Rudy serves as the Director of Libraries for the City of Suffolk. He has served in that position since May 2013. In his role in Suffolk, Clint's focus is on innovation and community engagement. He is proud of his creative and dedicated staff who excel at



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challenging and reshaping community perceptions of the role of the library through the Pop-Up Library, distinctive marketing, and progressive policies and procedures. These efforts have resulted in being chosen as one of ten libraries nationwide to participate in the Libraries Transforming Communities Initiative.

Clint has a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Psychology from Lebanon Valley College in south central Pennsylvania, and a Master of Library and Information Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In addition, he is a 2012 graduate of the Virginia Library Leadership Academy.

Clint began his library career in southeast Pennsylvania before becoming Branch Manager for the City of Portsmouth in 2004. He then served as the Library Systems Administrator. In addition to making libraries his career, Clint also served on the Board of Trustees for his childhood hometown library in Pennsylvania, was founder and president of the Friends of the Library for that same library, and served as a regular volunteer.

Secretary: Gregg Grunow and Jennifer Resor-Whicker

Gregg Grunow



Candidate Statement: It will be a great honor to be considered to run for the position of VLA Secretary. Since joining the library profession nearly fourteen years ago I have been impressed with the generosity and camaraderie between my colleagues in Virginia.

I believe being an active member of VLA has helped me be successful in the library field. Interacting with my colleagues in VLA has helped me to learn a great deal that is not covered in library school. Through VLA I have met and interacted with many colleagues I would not otherwise have met.

I was a member of VLA Council from 2007 to 2012 and enjoyed being a part of the inner workings of the organization. Having been on Council in the past, I am familiar with the organization of the Council meetings.



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I am an experienced organization secretary who oddly enough enjoys the work of the Secretary position. I am currently the secretary for a church Pastoral Council. In the past, I have been secretary for a club, the Board of Directors of a Child Care Center and management team groups. I find that I have a knack for distinguishing the types of information that need to be recorded from the information that is not necessary to record. I am a very succinct and to the point writer which is great for secretary work.

Biography: Greetings fellow Virginia Library Association Members. My name is Gregg Grunow and I am running for the position of Secretary of the VLA Council. I am presently the Manager of Library Systems and Support Services for the Portsmouth Public Library. My previous library positions included Main Library Manager for the Portsmouth Public Library and Virginia Room Librarian for the Newport News Public Library System. In my pre-Library career, I worked for the Department of Social Services in the State of Connecticut for fourteen years. I have been a Virginia Library Association member since 2002.

As a member of the Virginia Library Association I have been chair of the Local History, Genealogy and Oral History Forum (2007-2012). I am currently a member of the Scholarship Committee and the Ad Hoc Website Development Committee. I have enjoyed my association with VLA and believe wholeheartedly in the mission.

In my time away from libraries I serve as secretary to a council in my Church. I enjoy visiting historic places and art museums. I am also a season pass holder to Busch Gardens amusement park and still enjoy riding the roller coasters.

Jennifer Resor-Whicker



Candidate Statement: VLA has been a huge part of my growth as a librarian since I began my career in 2010. It has helped me find my passion as a librarian, and that passion is service through VLA. Once I began attending VLA sponsored events, I knew I wanted to give back in service to the wonderful librarian community that Virginia has. It is an honor to be nominated for VLA Secretary. Serving as VLA Secretary would be a great professional opportunity, and I believe that my work as Secretary/Treasurer of VLACRL, as well as my work on numerous

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campus committees, has prepared me for the position. I have learned a great deal about VLA serving in VLACRL, and on the VLA Conference Committee. I would enjoy the opportunity to record meeting minutes, handle correspondence, and establish a calendar of meetings for the Executive Committee and Council, as well as working with the Library of Virginia to maintain the Association Archives. If elected, I plan to put my strong organization and communication skills to use for the Association. Thank you for this opportunity.

Biography: Jennifer Resor-Whicker is a Reference/Instruction Librarian at Radford University's McConnell Library, where she has been employed since 2010. She holds the faculty rank of assistant professor. She is an active member of the Radford University campus community, serving on various faculty committees and search committees. She is currently serving as McConnell Library's representative to the Faculty Senate, and as the secretary of the Faculty Senate's Curriculum Committee. Her BA in English literature and MLIS are both from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a graduate of the 2012 ACRL Teacher Track Immersion Program. She has published in *Virginia Libraries*, *Communications in Information Literacy*, *Synergy* and *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*. ALA's Library Instruction Roundtable selected an article she co-authored with her RU colleagues on web evaluation as one of the top 20 articles of 2013.

Jennifer has been a member of VLA since 2008. She served as Secretary/Treasurer of VLACRL from 2013-2015. She served as co-chair to The Innovative Library Classroom conference for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 conferences. She is currently serving as a faculty member for the VLA Presentation Academy. She served as volunteer coordinator for the 2015 VLA Annual Conference, and is continuing her conference committee service as volunteer coordinator for the 2016 VLA Annual Conference.

ALA Councilor: Renee DiPilato, Barbara Ferrara and Samantha Thomason

Renee DiPilato



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Candidate Statement: It would be a privilege to represent Virginia as Chapter Councilor for the American Library Association. I am presently serving my first term as an ALA Councilor-at-Large, having been elected in 2015. It has been a rewarding experience to learn more about the pressing issues affecting our profession and to have a role in setting priorities for ALA. Since 2007, I have served on numerous ALA committees, including Membership and PLA's Leadership Development Committee. As a Councilor-at-Large, I have had an opportunity to make additional contributions by voting on key issues, such as ALA's new strategic initiatives and policies related to intellectual freedom and access. I would use my experience and knowledge of ALA and its legislative processes to promote issues of concern to libraries in Virginia. I have been fortunate to spend my career working in Virginia libraries and I have dedicated a great deal of time to service within national professional organizations. I would be honored to represent Virginia's libraries and advance our particular interests as Virginia's Chapter Councilor.

Biography: Renee DiPilato started her career in her hometown at the Virginia Beach Public Library. After obtaining her MLS from Catholic University, she worked as a reference librarian at the Norfolk Public Library. Since 2005, she has held several positions with the Alexandria Library, including Branch Manager, Central Library Manager, and currently Deputy Director. In addition to her MLS, Renee holds an MPA from George Mason University and a Ph.D. in Managerial Leadership from Simmons College. She is an active member of professional organizations and has served on several ALA and PLA committees, including the Membership and Leadership Development Committees. She was selected for ALA's Emerging Leaders program in 2008 and completed the PLA Leadership Academy in 2013. Renee currently serves on the Editorial Board for *Virginia Libraries*. In her spare time, she enjoys tennis, traveling and spending time with her pets and husband.

Barbara Ferrara



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Candidate Statement: The position of ALA Councilor is one that requires demonstrated ability to examine issues facing librarianship in Virginia and to successfully represent VLA's position to the national body. Having worked for more than 25 years in a variety of positions in public, academic, military and law libraries, my career has provided the perspective and range resulting in my success identifying trends and political issues affecting our profession and creating an effective dialogue among my colleagues when possible. I graduated from VALLA in 2014 and have presented programs and webinars for VLA, PLA and ALA. I would be honored to serve VLA in this capacity and pledge to diligently perform the duties of the office and responsibly communicate all activities and opportunities to the Board and membership.

Biography: After earning her MLIS degree from Drexel University in 1990, Barbara Ferrara began her professional career as a children's librarian and assistant branch manager at the Yucca Valley Branch of the San Bernardino County Public Library. After an academic year working in the library at the Judge Advocate General's School of the Army in Charlottesville doing original and copy cataloging, a retrospective conversion and preparing historic records for preservation microfilming, she had the opportunity to live in Okinawa, Japan for 3 years. During this time she served as the Regional Librarian for Troy State University's distance graduate degree programs at military installations throughout the Pacific and became the head of the largest Marine Corps family library on the island. Returning to Virginia in 1996, she began her career at the Chesterfield County Public Library, where she currently serves as Library Regional Manager. Barbara has been active in ALA, PLA, RUSA and VLA for more than 20 years, serving on numerous committees and presenting or contributing to programs on a variety of topics.

Samantha Thomason



Candidate Statement: After attending my first ALA Midwinter Conference as interim ALA Chapter Councilor this past January, I am looking forward to representing the Virginia Library Association again at ALA Annual in Orlando this June. Holding the office of ALA Chapter Councilor has provided me with the unique opportunity to participate in the leadership of both the Virginia Library Association and the American Library Association. It has been thrilling to be an advocate for VLA and to contribute to discussions and decisions that are vital to



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librarianship. I am no longer content to be a bystander! I plan to maintain an active role in library leadership and look forward to strengthening relationships with Virginia library professionals and with ALA leadership in order to move our profession forward locally, nationally, and internationally. I hope to continue serving as your ALA Chapter Councilor for 2017-2019, and I humbly ask for your vote.

Biography: Samantha Thomason is the Community Relations Manager at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library where she has worked for seventeen years. She received her B.A. in English Literature in 1999, from Mary Washington College and her Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland College Park in 2013. She is 2016 VALLA participant and a member of ALA, PLA, and LLAMA.